



# Sacred Heart Parish Preston



322 Bell St, Preston 3072  
Phone (03) 9480 3398 or (03) 9484 2124  
Email: preston@cam.org.au  
Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au

## Office Hours:

Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -3pm

## Parish Priest

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

## Italian Community Chaplain:

Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD

0478 963 248

**Parish Office:** Rachel Costa

**School Principal:** Mark Tierney

**School Phone:** 9487 1001

**Sacrament Coordinator:** TBA

## Safeguarding Committee:

**Safeguarding Officers:**

Robert Dullard

**Safeguarding Committee: Members:**

Mary Harb, Teresa Dang, Pauline O'Day

## Parish Council Members:

Gerard Grant (chairperson), Ophelia Swai,

Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau, Mark

Tierney, Ben Fortuna, Natalie Baran,

Judeline Wadhvani and Joanne Verga

## Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

## St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Stephen Costello (President)

## Parish Mass Schedule

### Weekend Masses:

**Saturday:** 6:00pm

**Sunday:** 9:00am (*Italian*), 10:30 am, 6:00 pm

### Weekday Masses:

**Monday to Friday:** 9:10am

**Healing Mass: 1st Friday** of February, May,

August & November at 1:30pm

**Next Healing Mass: Friday 2 February 2024**

### Devotional Practices:

#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Thursday at 7:30pm for 1 hour.

(Excluding last Thursday of the month)



**NO adoration** on Thursday 28 December

**Holy Rosary:** Thursday (English) after the

9:10am Mass

#### Reconciliation:

30 minutes before Mass or by appointment

**Baptisms & Weddings:** By appointment only

### Breakfast with Fr Aloysius

1st Monday of the month, the next one is on

**Monday 5 February** in the presbytery after

9:10am Mass.

Bulletin printed 8/12/2023

*Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*



## Second Sunday of Advent (year B)

### Sunday 10 December 2023

#### A Voice from the Wilderness –

#### “Make Straight the Path of the Lord”

Advent has always been a much-needed time to draw back from the busyness, challenges and demands of everyday life and as we look towards commemorating the coming of the Child Jesus into the world, we need to take another look at our priorities, values and how or if we proclaim the Gospel mission of hope in our living and interactions with others. This has always been the Hope of Advent- the embedding of the mercy, justice and peace of God into creation and human living. True hope is not a passive emotion; it provokes active commitment to removing obstructions to making the path straight for the entry of God’s mercy and love into our lives and the lives of all God’s children.

As in tragic and overwhelming times over the ages the people of the prophet Isaiah’s time needed to hear words of hope and comfort. They, like peoples in our present times were in a wilderness of exile or resettlement –deprived of security and peaceful existence through political oppression, wars, poverty or social status, security or communal support. What path could they follow? In the first reading today, God gives directions to the Comforters. Firstly, speak tenderly. They have already suffered and don’t need to be reminded of wrong doing of the past. Second, proclaim that their sins are forgiven and God’s mercy will be poured out in abundance. Thirdly, what must they do? They must transform and reshape the landscape of their hearts.

Like many of the prophets who went before him John the Baptist came out of a wilderness world preaching - not a political revolution but a revolution of the heart. His baptism was not about initiation or belonging, but conversion. It was a sign of God’s call, ‘Come back to me with all your heart’. Change your perceptions and way of living to be true proclaimers and examples of My kingdom present among you.

Advent for us is also a time of renewal as we look forward to celebrating with family and church the coming of God into the world in the form of a child born into poor circumstances – a reminder that the presence of God is already with us calling us to be welcomers, comforters, and protectors in His name. When we read of people who use their talents, social positions and possessions to bring hope and comfort to those who are poor – physically, emotionally and communally -we begin to know what ‘God with us’ means.

A Rabbi once asked a group of learned men: “Where is the dwelling place of God?” They laughed at him. “What a thing to ask” they said. “Is not the the whole world full of God’s glory?” Then the Rabbi answered his own question. “God dwells wherever people let God in”.

May the peace of Advent be with us all.



## Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

*Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.*

	<b>Saturday 6:00PM Mass - Readers</b>	<b>Saturday 6:00PM Mass - Ministers of Communion</b>
02-Dec-23	Celia Lemos Teresa Dang	Mary Harb
09-Dec-23	Terry Murphy Marlene Vergou	Charlotte Bainy
16-Dec-23	Mary Harb Marlene Vergou	Terry Murphy

	<b>Sunday 10:30AM Mass - Readers</b>	<b>Sunday 10:30AM Mass Ministers of Communion</b>
03-Dec-23	Jessica Suppiah Ophelia Swai	Giovanna D'Intino
10-Dec-23	Jessy Thambiraj Hannah Lopez	Eileen Stevens
17-Dec-23	Judeline Wadhvani Albert D'Souza	Tony Eley

	<b>Sunday 6:00PM Mass - Readers</b>	<b>Sunday 6:00PM Mass Ministers of Communion</b>
03-Dec-23	Joanne Verga Natalie Baran	Robert Dullard
10-Dec-23	Michelle Totawatte Tim Rankin	Robert Dullard
17-Dec-23	Joanne Verga Tim Rankin	Damian Casamento

### **WE PRAY FOR:**

#### The elderly and the sick

Sandra Bishop, John Storrie  
Our Sacred Heart School student Samantha Corsi  
*Our parishioners, family members and friends*, that they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect.

#### Those who have died recently:

*Ylenia Useli (RIP30/11. Rosary - Wed 20/12 at 7pm.  
Funeral - Thus 21/12 at 11am)*

#### We Commemorate:

*Salem  
Julie Hakim, Zakiye Mardini, Sr Monique Fakhry  
Khalili Mardini, Fr Paul Boulos  
Wadih and Georgette Hakim, Signora Albina  
Paula Kairouz (birthday 9/12)  
Giovanni, Bruno, Giovanna, Rosaria Butera,  
Tomasso, Natale, Giovanni Raso,  
Catarina, Nicola Nicolazzo,  
Dino-Biagio and Nunziata D'Intino  
O Lord may perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

#### Last Week's Collection: 3/12/23

1st Collection for our Church: \$956  
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$826  
Thank you for your kind generosity!



#### **Thanksgiving Envelopes**

The next batch of thanksgiving envelopes are in the foyer ready for collection.

Please commence using these envelopes on the weekend of 16 & 17 December 2023.

Thank you for your continued support to our Parish.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS**

Sacred Heart Community Preston acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this Sacred land on which our Church stands.



We acknowledge their unique wisdom and ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



### **† Solemnities / Feasts / Memorials of the Week †**

*Monday 11 December* St Damasus I, Pope  
*Tuesday 12 December* Our Lady of Guadalupe  
*Wednesday 13 December* St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr  
*Thursday 14 December* St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor



### **THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS**

*Contemplative prayer places us before God who looks upon us with love. The light of that gaze illuminates our spirit, giving it eyes of mercy to contemplate the world.*



### **Advent Program (Thursdays) 7:30 – 8:30 pm**

You are warmly invited to enter into the spirit of Advent when we prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Weekly Advent-themed reflections will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:



- Thursday 30 November Stay Awake
- Thursday 7 December Make Straight the Path of the Lord
- Thursday 14 December There Stands among you the One who is coming after me.
- Thursday 21 December You will conceive and bear a Son.
- Tuesday 19 December 7.00 to 8.30 pm Penitential Service



### **Advent Candles:**

**hope, peace, joy, love**



For the **second week in Advent**, we focus on **peace**. In John 14:27, Jesus said, "**Peace** I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

*Two purple candles are lit.*

**Prince of Peace**, reveal yourself to us today. We need **peace** in our lives, our homes, our families, our church, and our whole world. Help us to slow down and seek out the **peace** you provide, so we may become peacemakers for ourselves and others. In your name, **Prince of Peace**, we pray. Amen.



### **Bambinelli Sunday - 17 December**

You may bring the Baby Jesus statues from your Nativity sets for a special blessing at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 17 December. This tradition was started by Pope St John Paul II and is celebrated on Gaudete Sunday, third Sunday of Advent.



### **Sacrificial giving via QR code**

To support our parish and priest, you can make a donation by scanning this QR code which is unique to Sacred Heart Church, Preston.

It will give you direct access to the CDF pay webpage by following a few easy steps. The QR code is also displayed in the Church foyer.

Kindly consider donating to both the Church and Presbytery accounts.

Many thanks for your continued generosity and support to Sacred Heart parish.



## **Please take the bulletin home**

## Volunteer End of Year Function

All parish volunteers and staff are invited to our **End of Year "Thank You" BBQ** Friday 15 December from 6:30 pm onwards in the Parish presbytery. Barbecue meats will be provided by the parish However, BYO drinks and plate to share E.g.: starters, salad, side dishes, bread, desert, fruit etc. Kindly RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the foyer or email Rachel at [preston@cam.org.au](mailto:preston@cam.org.au)



## Wedding Congratulations



We congratulate  
*Isabella & Luke*



for their Wedding  
to be celebrated here at Sacred Heart Church  
on Saturday 16 December

May God grant a happy and prosperous life to you both as you embark on your journey together as husband and wife.



## 2023 Christmas Mass times at Sacred Heart Church

### Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve

6:00pm Family Mass  
9:00pm Carols before 10pm Mass  
10:00pm (in lieu of midnight) Mass

### Monday 25 December Christmas Day

9:00am Italian Mass - Nativity  
10:30am Parish Mass – Nativity



## Volunteers Needed

**Readers, Ministers of Eucharist, Overhead Projectionists, Ushers/Welcomers, Collectors, Candle Lighter, Singers are needed for all Christmas Masses.**

A sign up sheet is available in the foyer today for our parish volunteers who would like to participate at one of the Masses. Please write your name, role and contact details clearly or email Rachel at: [preston@cam.org.au](mailto:preston@cam.org.au) by 2pm Friday 15/12  
Thank you



## Sacred Heart Giving Tree



**Advent** begins this week. Once again, we are asking for donations of Gift cards:

- \* Gift Cards of \$10 or more from Coles or Woolworths.
- \* Donations of a Kmart or other Gift Card are a second option.

Kindly take a token from the Giving Tree, purchase a gift card or place cash in the envelope and return it to the church (box is on the organ) by the third Sunday of Advent (17 Dec).

If you require a receipt, place the donation in an envelope labelled "Christmas gift appeal" with your contact details OR if you require us to collect your donation, Phone Pauline O'Day 9484 2445.  
Thank you for your remarkable ongoing care for our neighbours in these difficult times.



## Advent Appeal for Ukraine

In response to the continued conflict in Ukraine, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli is launching a special Advent appeal, the proceeds of which will go towards providing aid and practical assistance to those who have been displaced and are without basic supplies, especially as winter approaches.

A collection will take place after all Sunday Masses on 9/10 Dec and 16/17 Dec or you may wish to use the special cards and envelopes in the Church foyer.

Please give generously.



## Piety Shop

**Columban calendars** are now available in the Piety shop - \$10

The piety shop stocks small gifts and cards for all **Sacraments** as well as various religious items at reasonable prices. Please take the time to have a look after any of the weekend Masses.

Thank you.



## Come for a Cuppa after 10:30am Mass



Please join us after the 10:30am Mass for a cup of tea or coffee at **Sacred Heart School**.

All are welcome

## Christmas Craft Competition

Judging and award ceremony of our 2023 Christmas Craft competition will be at the Cuppa after the 10:30am Mass at the Sacred Heart Primary School Multi-purpose room. Let us have fun together preparing for Christmas!



## Children's activity pages

Please find in the foyer of the Church activity pages and pencils for young children to use quietly during Mass.



## Joke Corner

An elderly man in Sydney calls his son in Perth and says, "I hate to ruin your day son, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are getting a divorce; 45 years of marriage...and I can only take so much of this misery!"

"Dad, what are you talking about?" the son yells.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old bloke explains. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Adelaide and tell her!"

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who shouts. "Absolute rubbish!

They're not getting divorced. I'll take care of this." She calls her elderly father immediately, and screams at him, "You are not getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be in Sydney by the end of the week. Until then, don't do a thing, you hear me?" she yells and hangs up abruptly.

The old man puts the phone down, smiles, and turns to his wife.

"Okay," he says. "It's all settled. They're both coming for Christmas and paying their own air-fare."

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his  
voice heard

in the joy of your heart.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my  
brothers and sisters, that I have greatly  
sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have  
failed to do,

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore, I ask blessed Mary Ever-  
Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11*

‘Console my people, console them’  
says your God.

‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of  
the Lord

double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the  
wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,

every mountain and hill be laid low.

Let every cliff become a plain,

and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be  
revealed and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,

his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother  
ewes.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 84(85):9-14**

*The Response Is:*

**Lord, let us see your kindness, and  
grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to  
say,

a voice that speaks of peace,  
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

**Lord, let us see your kindness, and  
grant us your salvation.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;

justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven.

**Lord, let us see your kindness, and  
grant us your salvation.**

The Lord will make us prosper

and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him

and peace shall follow his steps.

**Lord, let us see your kindness, and  
grant us your salvation.**

## SECOND READING

*2 Peter 3:8-14*

There is one thing, my friends, that you  
must never forget: that with the Lord,  
‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and  
a thousand years is like a day. The Lord  
is not being slow to carry out his  
promises, as anybody else might be  
called slow; but he is being patient with

you all, wanting nobody to be lost and  
everybody to be brought to change his  
ways. The Day of the Lord will come  
like a thief, and then with a roar the sky  
will vanish, the elements will catch fire  
and fall apart, the earth and all that it  
contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end  
like this, you should be living holy and  
saintly lives while you wait and long  
for the Day of God to come, when the  
sky will dissolve in flames and the  
elements melt in the heat. What we are  
waiting for is what he promised: the  
new heavens and new earth, the place  
where righteousness will be at home.  
So then, my friends, while you are  
waiting, do your best to live lives  
without spot or stain so that he will find  
you at peace.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel  
Acclamation.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make  
straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of  
God.

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

*Mark 1:1-8*

The beginning of the Good News about  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is  
written in the book of the prophet  
Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger  
before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his  
paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist  
appeared in the wilderness,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea  
and all the people of Jerusalem made  
their way to him, and as they were  
baptised by him in the river Jordan they  
confessed their sins. John wore a  
garment of camel-skin, and he lived on  
locusts and wild honey. In the course of  
his preaching he said, ‘Someone is  
following me, someone who is more  
powerful than I am, and I am not fit to  
kneel down and undo the strap of his  
sandals. I have baptised you with  
water, but he will baptise you with the  
Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, / the Father almighty,  
/ Creator of heaven and earth, / and in  
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our lord, /  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
/ born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified,  
died and was buried; / he descended  
into hell; / on the third day he rose  
again from the dead; / he ascended into  
heaven, / and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty; / from  
there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead. / I believe in the Holy  
Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the  
communion of saints, / the forgiveness  
of sins, / the resurrection of the body, /  
and life everlasting. Amen.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the  
heights,

and behold the joy which comes to you  
from God.

