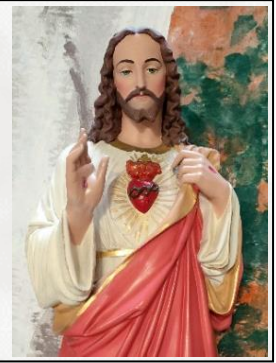




Sacred Heart Parish Preston



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 Officer: Robert Dullard

Safeguarding Committee: Members:

Mary Harb, Teresa Dang, Pauline O'Day

Parish Council Members:

Gerard Grant (chairperson), Mark Tierney,

Ben Fortuna, Natalie Baran, Judeline

Wadhvani and Joanne Verga

Liturgy Committee:

Chair – Judeline Wadhvani

Secretary – (To Be Announced)

Coordinators:

Lectors and Audio Visual – Jessy Thambiraj

Music – Carolina Constable

Ministers of Communion – Tony Eley

Hospitality, Altar & Environment – Jessica

Stanley and Teresa Bernardini

Safeguarding – Pauline O'Day

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 7 Feb. 2025

Devotional Practices:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Thursday at 7:30pm for 1 hour.

(Excluding last Thursday of the month)



Holy Rosary: Thurs after the 9:10am Mass

Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 5:15pm

Baptisms & Weddings: By appointment only

Breakfast with Fr Aloysius

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

Monday 6 February in the presbytery after

9:10am Mass. All welcome

Bulletin printed: 13/12/2024

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



Third Sunday of Advent (year C)
Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday
Sunday 15 December 2024

What Must We Do?

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday (be joyful). The invitation to be joyful is particularly reflected in the first two readings. ‘God is in our midst. ‘Renewing us by His love’ (Zephaniah): ‘there is no need to worry, the Lord is near!’ (Philippians). It is also in the Gospel reading – though not as obvious at first. But gradually, a sense of expectancy grows amongst the people as John the Baptist’s recognition of injustices in their society and admonition to people to change their ways of living, moves towards his announcement of the ‘Good News’ of the Holy One of God who is soon to come.

Messages of hope and promise to people living under the conquerors’ yoke would awaken new fervour amongst the hearers – leading to questions like, “Then, what must we do?” to be part of this new way of being? For John, ‘**Do**’ was the operative word. The Baptist was very clear: salvation was about responding to the ways of God by removing the obstacles from one’s own life that prevented one and others from living justly and in right relationship with one’s fellow human beings – thus treating others with the same respect and compassion that would be expected for oneself. The justice of God would be evident where those who had more, shared with those who had nothing; where people were treated fairly by those in positions of authority or power - no extortion, intimidation or violence.

John was inviting his hearers to form a new society by making the pathways straight towards achieving it. The people began to assume that John was the Messiah. But he was adamant that one more powerful than he was yet to come. In Jesus’ case, (and ‘Jesus’ means God saves) His power was not of an earthly conqueror but the humanisation of the Mercy of God offered to all people.

Jesus in His teaching and ministry encouraged people to overcome narrowness of mind, old prejudices and protocols: to accept not condemn differences: to open our hearts and respect our common human-ness as children of one merciful and loving God. Jesus called all not to be blinded by suspicion, self or group interests or agenda but to be welcomers and bearers of God’s Mercy.

The feast of Christmas will soon be here. Today’s celebration gives us the opportunity to look beyond the hectic demands that December makes of us. It invites us to find a deeper source of joy than that offered by all our end of the year activities, the buying and selling, the tinsel, lights and baubles that distract us from focusing on the poor displaced family who found rest in a rough but simple animal stable and welcomed into our world a tiny innocent infant – “God still with us” now. This is truly the gift of Joy God sends to us to celebrate with our families and friends.

So, let’s ask ourselves: What must we do to channel this on to others - and particularly to those socially isolated or for whom life is a day to day struggle? For at the heart of our faith exemplified in the person of Jesus lies the sharing and proclaiming through our actions and living God’s Love for all without exception.

“May the peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, guard your hearts and your thoughts” (Paul to Philippians 4)

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.

Sat 6pm Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers
14-Dec-	Terry Murphy Marlene Vergou	Charlotte Bainy	
21-Dec-	Marlene Vergou Mary Harb	Terry Murphy	
28-Dec-	Marlene Vergou Terry Murphy	Mary Harb	

Sun 10:30am Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion	Slide Projection	Altar Servers
15-Dec-	Jessy Thambiraj Jessica Suppiah	Tony Eley	Jessy	Azariah Natalie
22-Dec-	Ophelia Swai Eileen Stevens	Gerard Grant	Judeline	
29-Dec-	Judeline Wadhvani Marilene Fortuna	Giovanna D'Intino	Judeline	

Sun 6pm Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion
15-Dec-	Snehita Antony Susan Bakani	Damian Casamento
22-Dec-	Jenifer Cahapay John Gaffney	Judith Pimentel
29-Dec-	John Gaffney Jenifer Cahapay	Natalie Baran

♥ Heartfelt Thanks to All Our Volunteers
✠ ✠ ✠

WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

Charlene Apollos, Sandra Bishop, John Storrie, Joan Bonwick, 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:

We Commemorate:

Vittorio Ilardi, Sun 15/12 at 9am Italian
James Wesley Christoffelsz, 12th Anniv - Sun 15/12 at 6pm
O Lord may perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.



Advent Reconciliation

Advent Reconciliation
Saturday 14 December
At 4:00pm
All welcome

Last Week's Collection: 8.12.2024

1st Collection for our Church: \$1,289
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$651
Thank you for your kind generosity!



Sacrificial giving via QR code

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



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✠ Solemnities / Feasts / Memorials of the Week ✠

Saturday 21 December Saint Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor

✠ ✠ ✠



THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS

Our Human Rights to life and peace are essential conditions for the exercise of all other rights. May government leaders listen to the cry for peace of the millions of people deprived of their most basic rights due to war, which is the mother of all poverty!

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✠ Baptism Congratulations ✠

The community of Sacred Heart Parish congratulates

Leo Marchi,

for his Baptism on Sunday 15 December.



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Advent Candles:

hope, peace, joy, love

During the **third week in Advent**, we spend time thinking about **joy**.

“But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for **joy**.”

Two purple candles and one pink candle are lit.

Too often, we think **joy** is something big, O God. Just as easily and far more often, we can feel **joy** in a hug or the squeeze of hand, we can see **joy** in a smile or hear it in laughter. Help us to not overlook the simple **joys** that peak into our lives daily. This week in our Advent journey, open our eyes to the **joy** that surrounds us. Amen.

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URGENT REQUEST FOR HELP

Sacred Heart Parish requires the generosity of volunteers to assist with THE setting up of the Nativity Scene and the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary on Saturday 21 December from 10 am. Please spare an hour or two so that many hands make light work for everyone. Thank you.

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Please note:

There is **NO** morning Mass on Friday 27 December. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. There will be Mass on this day at St Luke's church in Lalor at 9am.

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2024 Christmas Mass times **at Sacred Heart Church**

Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve

6:00pm Family Mass
9:30pm Carols before 10pm Mass
10:00pm (in lieu of midnight) Mass

Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day

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

UNDERSTANDING JUBILEE 2025

The most striking part of the logo is the cross. It bends towards humanity and forms an anchor. It depicts the cross as something to cling to, especially in rough seas. It is a contemporary 'riff' on an old biblical image. The epistle to the Hebrews describes the hope we have in Christ as 'an anchor of the soul, as sure as it is firm' (6:19)

The cross is not a dead symbol from the past. It is a living sign of God's unfathomable love and one that carries us together in the pilgrimage towards heaven.



Sacred Heart

Christmas Gift Appeal 2024

Advent begins this week and the Giving Tree will once again appear in the Church foyer.

This year once again parishioners are invited to:

- * **Take a labelled gift token** from the giving tree to:
- * **Donate a food gift card** of \$10 or more (Coles Woolworths or Aldi) for a family to purchase Christmas food items or
- * **A Kmart, Toys R Us or other Card** as a gift for a family member to purchase for another or
- * **Give a cash donation** for us purchase a gift card on your behalf. If so, please place your donation in an envelope labelled "Christmas Gift Appeal" with your contact details if you require a receipt. You may either:
- * Return the envelope to the Church and place in a secure labelled box by the third Sunday of Advent (15th December) or
- * Deliver your gift to the Presbytery or
- * Contact Moira McMahon 0439 619 623 or Pauline O'Day 0497 935 593 to arrange collection of your donation.
- * We are not specifying gifts of toys or items. But if you or members of the family would like to donate a small gift for a child or young person, please feel free to leave it in the large box by the giving tree and we will deliver it. Thank you.



A SEASON OF HOPE

"Hope is the foundation of all Christian life and the strength that enables us to face the challenges of every day."

~ Pope Francis ~

The end of the year offers a chance to reflect on what we have experienced and the things we have accomplished. Looking back allows us to recognise the progress we have made, no matter how big or small and to be grateful for the moments that have shaped us. The new year is a fresh start, a time to try new things, make better choices and work toward goals. It is an opportunity to improve and strengthen our relationships, creating bonds that inspire us to be better. During the Advent season we are reminded that despite challenges or setbacks, there is always hope for renewal and growth. Many find peace in traditions, the quiet moments of reflection and the shared experiences with others. This season helps us realise that no matter what has happened in the past, the future holds the promise of new beginnings and happiness, encouraging us to cherish what we have and look ahead with gratitude and faith.

Dear God, fill us with hope as we face each day. Help us to trust in Your goodness, to face challenges with courage and to embrace the future with faith. May Your love guide us in all that we do. Amen.

Sourced from www.majellan.media



Christmas Eve Family Mass 6pm 24 December

Families are very welcome to participate in this Mass in various ways. Children may come dressed as Nativity Characters and help present the Gospel Story.

A practice for this will held following 10.30 Morning Sunday Mass on 22nd December. Parents also will be welcome to assist. Other ways to participate might include procession of Offertory gifts, ringing of bells etc. Please contact the parish office or Pauline O'Day on 9484 2445 or 0497 935 593 if you wish to participate or for more information on how our children and families will be included this year.



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.



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 ☺

I saw a friend who had a black eye. I asked him how he got it. He said he was standing in church last week and he noticed that the lady in front had her dress accidentally tucked into her underwear. He thought he'd do her a favour and leant forward and pulled the dress out, and she turned around and hit him in the eye.

I saw him again the following week, and he had two black eyes.

I asked him how he got another black eye.

He said he went to church with his brother, and the same lady was in front of them, and once more, had her dress accidentally tucked into her underwear. He was horrified when his brother leant forward and pulled the dress out.

He said, "I knew she was really upset when I did that last week, so I quickly tucked the dress back in again!"

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

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, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;

you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,

do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,

he will renew you by his love;

he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Isaiah 12

The Response Is:

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation,

I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name.

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds;

make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel

Acclamation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there

were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE NICENE CREED.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

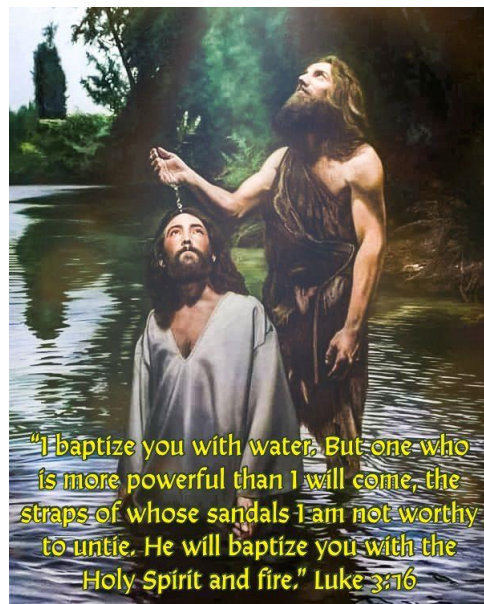
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



"I baptize you with water, But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Luke 3:16