

The Parish Overview

Parish of St Mary & St Joseph
Orange

Parish of the Sacred Heart & St Lawrence
O'Toole Molong

St Mary's (Orange), St Joseph's (Orange), Sacred Heart & St Lawrence O'Toole (Molong), St Michael's (Manildra),
St Brendan's (Mullion Creek), St Patrick's (Cargo), St Columbanus' (Cudal)

First Sunday of Advent - 2nd December 2018

PARISH CLERGY TEAM

Fr Greg Bellamy Parish Priest
Fr Pius Khaoya Assistant Priest

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Sr Helen Saunders rsj Pastoral Assistant Orange
Sr Frances McAleer rsj Resident in Molong
Ms Shannon Cain Sacramental Coordinator
Ms Elizabeth Bowmer Youth Minister
Ms Jemarnie Orge Youth Minister

PARISH ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Mr Michael O'Mara Business Manager
Ms Harriette Williams Executive Assistant
Ms Sandy Livermore Parish Secretary

PARISH SCHOOL TEAM

Mr Peter Meers James Sheahan Catholic High School
Mr Michael Croke Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School
Mrs Kerrie Basha & Mrs Kerry Maher St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Co-principal)
Mr Matthew French St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Molong
Ms Jacky Parmeter St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Manildra

PARISH OFFICE

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Office Hours: **Mon:** 10.00am - 4.30pm
Tues-Fri: 8.45am - 4.30pm
Closed - Lunch: 12.30 - 1.30pm

Today's Scripture

Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thess 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Response to the Psalm

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Reflection

Every Advent, the Liturgy of the Word gives our sense of time a reorientation. There's a deliberate tension in the next four weeks' readings—between promise and fulfilment, expectation and deliverance, between looking forward and looking back.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David, some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfil this promise by raising up a "just shoot," a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice (see **2 Samuel 7:16; Jeremiah 33:17; Psalm 89:4-5; 27-38**).

Today's Psalm, too, sounds the theme of Israel's ancient expectation: "Guide me in Your truth and teach Me. For You are God my Saviour and for You I will wait all day."

We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His only Son into the world. Jesus is the "just shoot," the God and Saviour for Whom Israel was waiting.

Knowing that He is a God who keeps His promises lends grave urgency to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel.

Urging us to keep watch for His return in glory, He draws on Old Testament images of chaos and instability—turmoil in the heavens (see **Isaiah 13:11,13; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Joel 2:10**); roaring seas (see **Isaiah 5:30; 17:12**); distress among the nations (see **Isaiah 8:22/14:25**) and terrified people (see **Isaiah 13:6-11**).

He evokes the prophet Daniel's image of the Son of Man coming on a cloud of glory to describe His return as a "theophany," a manifestation of God (see **Daniel 7:13-14**).

Many will cower and be literally scared to death. But Jesus says we should greet the end-times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our "redemption is at hand," that "the kingdom of God is near" (see **Luke 21:31**).

Next Week's Scripture

Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

We recognise the Wiradjuri, Gamilaraay and Wailwan peoples as the original custodians of the land on which our Parishes stand.

THE PARISH OVERVIEW



DAY BY DAY

Monday 3rd December St Francis Xavier

- 9.00am Liturgy of the Word at Molong
- 5.00pm Exposition at St Mary's
- 5.45pm Mass at St Mary's

Tuesday 4th December First Week of Advent

- 9.10am Rosary at St Mary's
- 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
- 9.00am Liturgy of the Word at Molong

Wednesday 5th December First Week of Advent

- 9.15am Mass at Molong
- 3.00pm Mass at St Francis
- 5.00pm Exposition at St Joseph's
- 5.45pm Mass at St Joseph's

Thursday 6th December First Week of Advent

- 9.10am Rosary at St Joseph's
- 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's
- 6.00pm Holy Hour at St Joseph's

Friday 7th December St Ambrose

- 9.00am Liturgy of the Word at Molong
- 5.00pm Reconciliation & Exposition at St Joseph's
- 5.45pm Mass at St Joseph's - **Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Saturday 8th December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 10.15 Baptisms at St Mary's
- 5.15pm Reconciliation at St Mary's
- 5.40pm Reconciliation at Manildra
- 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's
- 6.00pm Vigil Mass at Manildra

Sunday 9th December Second Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am Mass at St Joseph's
- 8.00am Mass at Cudal
- 9.30am Mass at St Mary's
- 9.30am Mass at Molong
- 11.15am Baptisms at St Joseph's
- 6.00pm Mass at St Joseph's

Coming up ...

- Anointing Mass at Molong 9.15am Wed 19/12
- Penitential Evening (including sacrament of Reconciliation) at St Joseph's 7.30pm Thurs 20/12
- Penitential Evening (including sacrament of Reconciliation) at Molong 7pm Fri 21/12



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saturday 8th December is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will celebrate the Solemnity with a Vigil Mass at 5.45pm Friday 7th December in St Joseph's.

ANOINTING DURING DECEMBER

During December, the Sacrament of Anointing will be celebrated at each Nursing Home Mass. It will also be celebrated at Molong at the 9.15am Mass on Wednesday 19th December.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the parishioners who have supported me and my family over the last 4 months of my father's illness and his recent death. Thank you for your prayers and messages of support. They are greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped make the celebration of First Reconciliation such a prayerful experience for the children. I'm sorry I was not able to be there.

I had planned to have made announcements regarding the retaining wall at St Joseph's and the formation of our St Joseph's Restoration Committees by now, but my recent absence has caused some delays. We play to make some announcements in the next week or so. Thank you for your patience. - Fr Greg

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Catherine McAuley Catholic Primary School will be staging a Christmas Concert from Monday-Wednesday 3/12 4/12 5/12 commencing at 12.30. We would like to extend an invitation to parishioners to attend one or all of the performances.

ARE YOU IN HOSPITAL?

Because of privacy requirements, the hospital no longer informs us when there are Catholic patients, even if they indicate they are happy for a minister to visit. If you or a family member are in hospital and would like a visit, please let the parish office know.



FAREWELL TO THE SISTERS

As most people would be aware, Sr Merylin Browne sjcs has been unwell for some time. Sr Merylin has been resident in Sydney for medical care. This week, the Sisters of St Joseph have let us know that Sr Helen Saunders sjcs will be returning to Sydney in the new year to take another position in ministry. This sad news means Sr Helen's 8 years of service in our parish will conclude at the end of January. We pray, however, that it will bring exciting new possibilities for Sr Helen. In the coming weeks we will announce details of a farewell in 2019. - Fr Greg

RCIA RITE OF WELCOME

Please pray for Nicole Bray, Wanda Moore, Kaila Tilston as they are welcomed to our Church community this weekend. They have been meeting weekly since the end of July and are now ready to take this step towards full initiation at the Easter Vigil

THANK YOU ST MARY'S CLEANERS

After many years of service a number of our elderly members have retired. We are in need of at least 10 new volunteers for St Mary's. Please see volunteer nomination worksheet at rear of St Mary's. If you have any enquiries, please contact Parish office on 6362 2378. Thank you to for your support of our Parish.

PARISH MUSICIAN(S) REQUIRED

The 9.30am Sunday Mass is in need of a musician to accompany the singers and congregation for one or two Sundays per month. Mentoring and support will be offered. If you think you might be able to help, but don't feel confident, please make contact anyway - we will work with you, or pair you up with other musicians to make this a comfortable transition from being a lounge room musician to Church musician! Solo instruments and more singers always welcome. Please contact Jen 0425203999 to discuss.

MOLONG ADVENT GROUP

Advent Group starts on Tuesday 27/11 and again on Tuesday 4/12, 11/12 & 18/12. The group will meet in the Jubilee Room at 9.30am & 6pm. Advent booklets can be obtained from Sr Frances.

THE PARISH OVERVIEW



SYNOD ON 'YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT'

This year the *Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment* was held in Rome during October, with a number of Australian representatives attending, including Archbishops Fisher and Comensoli and Bishop Mark Edwards; as well as youth ambassador Sebastian Duhau from the La Sallian youth ministry team also taking part in the month-long deliberations.

As you could imagine, there was much discussed and lots of data collected, and so it is important to gain some wisdom of how the processes of the synod may affect our youth and in particular the impact it may have on our parishes, schools and agencies.

Bishop Mark Edwards (Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne) will be in the diocese on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of December. This is an opportunity to hear from someone on the ground as it were: someone who can give our religious leaders some insights on the current thinking by our Church on its young people.

Members of our Diocesan Pastoral Council and all parishioners are invited to attend an evening with Bishop Mark on **Monday 3rd December at the Cathedral Parish Centre, Bathurst.**

The evening will commence with Mass at the Cathedral for those who wish and then a time with Bishop Mark concluding with a simple meal.

- * 5.45pm: Mass
- * 6.15pm: Session with Bishop Mark
- * 7.45pm: BBQ meal supplied for all attendees.

There is no cost to attend. To RSVP, we ask you to click on this link to enable catering:

<https://goo.gl/forms/RW1NMmyfUEoRyCRk2>

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Josh Clayton or Sr Alice Sullivan on 0428741342.

If you would like to read more about the Synod proceedings, go to the official webpage:

<http://www.synod2018.va/content/synod2018/en.html>



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The season of Advent is a time of preparation and reflection, hope and anticipation. The coming of the eternal Son of God is celebrated in the three ways we experience time: past, present and future. He came for us in our flesh through the Incarnation; he comes to us in the Church through grace; he will come at the end of time to judge us, living or dead.

The first part of Advent focuses on the expected second coming of Jesus and is a time in which we reflect on the 'last things': death, judgement, heaven and hell.

The second part of Advent begins on 17th December, when we reflect on the waiting and expectation of the first coming of Jesus 2,000 years ago. This is the traditional day for the crib to be set-up, though without the child Jesus who arrives at the Christmas Vigil.

ADVENT GIFTS

Please take an envelope from the Advent Board this weekend and purchase a gift for the needy in our community.

When you take the envelope, enter your name and contact details into the book provided. Please attach the label to the Gift.

We are also providing gifts for the residents at St Francis Aged Care. If your gift is coded 'SF', please follow instructions on the front of the envelope.

Please return all gifts to the Parish Office by 3.00pm on Wednesday 12th December.

PREPARING THE WAY

During Advent the priests will be reflecting each Sunday on the theme *Preparing the Way*. Jesus came to us in the Incarnation and Jesus will come again at the end of time, but between these two, in the present moment, Jesus comes to us through grace. How do we prepare for his daily coming to us? How do we allow Jesus himself prepare our hearts? One of the most precious gifts Jesus has given us to prepare our hearts is the Sacrament of Penance. We look to re-discover the richness of this gift during this Advent season.



OUR PRAYERS & MASSES

POPE'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

OUR PARISH INTENTIONS

For the spiritual and cultural renewal of our parish so we may be a community of intentional missionary disciples; that the Holy Spirit will guide the Plenary Council 2020 process.

RECENTLY BAPTISED

Laykn Byrne, Isabella Piper, Loata Qumivutia

RECENTLY MARRIED

Ambah Schmich & Scott Vardanega, Katie Haigh & Craig Miskell

RECENTLY DECEASED

Joyce Fitzgerald, Mary Madden, Joyce Marshall, Rita Moroney, Leigh Richards

ANNIVERSARIES

Maria Brouwers, Catherine Powell. Arthur Shields

OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES

Adrian Berney, Mena Christopherson, Dolores Connaughton, William Crayford & William Crayford Snr, Anthony Cunich, Damian d'Arbon, Chris Duff, Ray Fitzgerald, David Hanrahan, Mary Johnston, Brian Keegan, Bernie & Josie Livermore, Ian Livermore, Geoffrey Middleton, Elva Ryan, Reg, Eric & Gerard Paul, Harry & Rita Taylor, Anton, Erich, Erika & Michael Twomey, John & Jean Walker, Jack & Mavis Whitehouse, John Williams, Santo LoFaro (Italy), Gaetano Torrisi, Salvatore & Venera Torrisi, Mario & Alfio Lizzio, Pietra Faro, Alfina Cosentino, Venera Maccarone, Santo & Alfia LoFaro (Orange). Deceased members of the Fardell, Lee, Paul families

THE SICK AND INFIRM

Doug & Tori Punch, David Ward, Kyle Wickham, Celestina Vardanega, Patricia Crich, Katherine Twomey, Pat Frecklington, Thelma Walters, Dr Steve Peterson, Michael Gersbach, James Burgess, Ruth Pope, Christine Burke, Beth Moxham, Den Smith, Ray Dickson, Norma Wright, Ralph Harvey

A FRANK QUOTE

We must walk united with our differences; there is no other way to become one. This is the way of Jesus. - Pope Francis

Who we are called to be: surrender, discipleship, mission

Who does God call us to be? What is the ideal of our Catholic community here in Orange District? Over months of discussion, discernment and preaching, it seems to me that three themes have emerged that are at the heart of who God is calling us to be: surrender, discipleship, and mission.

Surrender

Before Jesus gave the great commission to the Church at his ascension, he first instructed them to do nothing: to not leave Jerusalem. Instead they were to wait for the Holy Spirit to be poured onto them at Pentecost (Acts 1:4-8). When the Apostles gathered together for the Ascension and reception of the Great Commission, they first worshipped Jesus together (Matt 28:17). In other words, the giving of the mission was in the context of prayer and worship and the giving of the Holy Spirit to empower them. Before the Apostles can do anything, they are to pray and worship, listen to Jesus, and receive the Holy Spirit. They cannot be Jesus' witnesses to the entire world unless they totally surrender themselves to Jesus, to his will and call for them, and to his Holy Spirit.

A spirit of total surrender to the will and power of God should be at the heart of our parish community as the precondition for our community being able to fulfil the great commission and be fruitful. In practice, this means:

- A transformational personal encounter with Jesus through an experience of the Holy Spirit
- Letting go of the delusion that our community and mission is independent of Jesus and accepting the primacy of vocation and grace
- Constantly and explicitly asking Jesus to direct our mission and the life of our community and imploring him to pour out his Holy Spirit on us
- Subjecting every meeting, plan and initiative to the Will of God through genuine heartfelt prayer
- Happily abandoning everything we discern to not be according to Jesus' will for us
- Trusting expectation that we will be blessed by God with health and fruit if we totally surrender to him, because this is what he has promised

Discipleship

At the core of our parish life should be a commitment to discipleship, which means that every member of our community is:

- Committed to a life of personally knowing and following Jesus
- Committed to a life-long formation in the Catholic faith through spiritual and intellectual growth in small faith communities

- Committed to communion with the local Church and the Universal Church through the Pastor, Bishop and Pope
- Worships God privately in the family home and communally through the Church's liturgy, particularly the sacraments of Eucharist and Penance
- Intentionally committed to walking the path of conversion and so a disciple may not be perfect now, but is on the way to becoming a saint.
- Constantly discerning what Jesus' call to mission and ministry means for us in practice

Mission

Jesus did give the Church a Mission Statement: it's called the Great Commission. Jesus gave the Church its mission at his ascension into Heaven: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Matt 28:19-20). The Church is to make disciples, and so then baptise and teach them. The key verb is 'to disciple' all people.

At the core of our life is a commitment to mission, to 'disciple' all people, which means our parish:

- Gives the very best to the worship of God, particularly during the weekend liturgies
- Exists to fulfil the Great Commission in Orange District
- Prioritises those people who are not already active members of our parish but who are searching
- Has a culture of invitation, hospitality, and personal witness
- Invests substantial time and resources into evangelisation through the Kerygma and supporting the formation of those who are making first steps through communal, spiritual, and intellectual formation
- Accepts and loves people where they are, but invites people into a transformative personal encounter with Jesus Christ

In Sum

God calls us to be a people committed to surrender, discipleship and mission. **Surrender:** we've got to believe and act like God really is totally in charge of all this and everything relies on his call, blessing and support. **Discipleship:** we've got to be personally committed to living a life-long relationship with, and commitment to, Jesus himself, no excuses or going through the motions. **Mission:** we've got to pour all our energy into doing what Jesus told us to do - make more disciples through our witness.