

# SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO BOX 23) Moruya NSW 2537

Phone: 4474 2024 Email: [Moruya@cg.org.au](mailto:Moruya@cg.org.au)

Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>

Priest: Fr George Azhakath msfs

Secretary: Mrs Pat Anderson

Parish Office hours: Wed. and Fri. 10am—3pm

Mass Times:

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00 am

Tue: 5.30 pm. Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15 am

Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30 am

Tuross Mass: Sun. 8am Bodalla: Mass: 2nd Thursday of the month 9.15am. Fifth Sunday of the month 3 pm.

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817

Carroll College Broulee 4471 5600

Caring Group: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

Devotions: Daily Rosary after mass. First Friday Adoration & Benediction. 9.45—10.45 am



3rd Sunday in Advent

-YEAR B

December 12—13 2020

## “Gaudete in Domino Semper”

### “Rejoice in the Lord always”

Today is “**Gaudete Sunday**” because today’s Mass (in its pre-Vatican II Latin form), began with the opening antiphon: “**Gaudete in Domino semper**” - “**Rejoice in the Lord always.**” Today we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus, our saviour. The readings for the third Sunday of Advent remind us that the past, present and future coming of Jesus is the reason for our rejoicing. The first reading tells us that we should rejoice because the promised messiah is coming as our saviour and liberator, saving us by liberating us from our bondages.

The responsorial psalm of the day is taken from Mary’s Magnificat, in which she exclaims: “*My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my saviour.*” St. Paul, in the second reading, advises us to “*rejoice always*” by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ is faithful to his promise that he will come again to reward us. Today’s gospel tells us that John the Baptist came as a witness to testify to the light, i.e., Jesus. The coming of Jesus the light into the world is cause for rejoicing as he removes darkness from the world. We should be glad and rejoice also because, like John the Baptist, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the light of the world.

We are to reflect his light in our lives so that we may radiate it and illuminate the dark lives of others around us. The joyful message of today’s liturgy is clear. The salvation we await with rejoicing will liberate both the individual and the community, and its special focus will be the poor and lowly, not the rich and powerful.

*Fr George Azhakath.*



### BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**PRIEST:** Lord, Jesus Christ, you are the Saviour of the world. We ask you to bless this advent wreath which we honour as a remembrance of your first coming at Bethlehem and your final coming in glory. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption when you will come to reign as King for ever.

**ALL:** O God, we remember the promise of your Son. As light from this candle, may the blessings of Christ come upon us brightening our way and guiding us by His truth. May Christ our Saviour bring light into the darkness of our world and to us as we await for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(One Candle is lighted and then the following prayer is said.)

**ALL:** O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ desire of every nation, saviour of all people, come and dwell among us.

**PRIEST:** During this Advent season may almighty God let the light of his Son shine upon us. May he fill our hearts with joy at his coming and lead us to life everlasting. Amen.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA & DISTRICTS.

Christmas Eve Vigil: 6pm. Outdoors. St Mary’s School. (Bring chair/rug)

Christmas Day: Moruya - 8am & 10am. Tuross Head: 8am. Bodalla: 9.30am.

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading: Is 61:1-2. 10-11

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.’

This is the word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-50. 53-54.

**(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. **(R.)**
3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

## Second Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit,

soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

This is the word of the Lord,

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation: Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel: Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

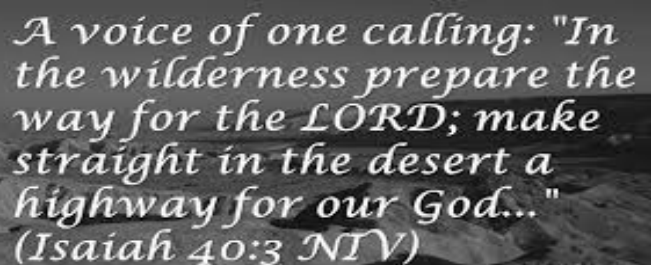
This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked, ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not,’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



*A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God..." (Isaiah 40:3 NIV)*

**Prayer after Communion:** Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you. **O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.**

### **WORD AND LIFE this week....**

**What should we do in preparation for Christmas?** The Jews asked the same questions of John. His answer was: "Repent and reform your lives, and prayerfully wait for the Messiah." This means that we have to pray from the heart and pray more often. Our Blessed Mother, in her many apparitions, has urgently reminded us of the need for more fervent and more frequent prayer. Let us remember that the Holy Mass is the most powerful of prayers. We must be a Eucharistic people, receiving the living presence of Jesus in our hearts so that we may be transformed into His image and likeness. We encounter Jesus in all the sacraments. Regular monthly Confession makes us strong and enables us to receive more grace in the Eucharist. Let us also listen daily to God speaking to us through the Bible. Perhaps, we may want to pray the rosary daily and fast once a week all year round, not just during Advent and Lent. After all, we sin all year round, so why not fast also all year round? Let us also find some spare time to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us forgive those who have offended us and pray for those whom we have offended. Finally, let us share love with others in selfless and humble service, "doing small things but with great love" (Mother Teresa). As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the coming of God into our lives we need also to remind ourselves that we have been called to be the means of bringing Jesus into others people's lives.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND HOUSE BOUND:** We continue to pray and extend our support to those who are in near lock down at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya; and the sick members of our Parish: Gail Fenton, John Gerber, Ben Pollock, Catherine Hulse, Kathleen Ebbelaar, Carmel Trenholme, Dale Moore, Gerry Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Jean Marrion, Monique Driver, Ester and Peter Morgan, Andy McCosker, Paul Croese, Pete Podgorczyk, Pauline & Peter Morgan, Trish Tarlington and Ron Parnell. Love and prayers to all of them for a speedy recovery. Please advise the Office if you would like to be added to or taken off the list for prayers.

**GRATTITUDE FOR PRAYERS:** Pauline Morgan is home in Tuross from Canberra hospital and wants to thank everyone for their prayers and support. She has no doubt that they helped her through this rough time.

### **Notes from the PPC meeting 25.11.20.**

\* A big thank you from the committee to Tim Cahill for his work and presentation from the 2016 ABS and Parish Social Survey. Tim highlighted areas for discussion and planning next year. We will be having a planning meeting in early February 2021. A copy of the summary will be posted on the PPC noticeboard in the foyer. \* Christmas planning: Mass times organized. Christmas Committee: John Munce, Jan Morris, Marg Croese and Pauline de Grave. \* PPC will continue to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month in 2021 and look forward to any Parishioner input. \* We will be purchasing automatic Holy Water and hand sanitizers. \* John Munce has volunteered to maintain and update the Working with Children register for our volunteers. The documents are valid for 5 years and is compulsory. Please see John if you have recently updated your own check. \* Two volunteers will be asked to be responsible for the regular Work, Health and Safety schedules to be attended to comply with the legislation. \* We are continuing to update our Parish Register. This document has been helpful for the Council to contact parishioners to check on well-being during 2020 and sending out the weekly bulletin so we would be grateful for any updates of addresses, phone, and emails to the Parish office. \* The Council wishes everyone a joyous and peaceful Christmas season and a healthy and prosperous 2021 with thanks for all you do for the Parish and each other.

*Sue McCosker. Chair.*

**PARISH SECRETARY POSITION:** People are invited to apply for the position of Parish Secretary for Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya. This is a part-time permanent position 12 hours per week, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am—3pm. **ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:** Experience with Microsoft suite & database packages; strong communication and liaison skills; strong organizational skills; ability to work in a team environment and show personal initiative; Desire to share in the mission of Christ in the Catholic tradition. **SALARY** will be subject to Clerk Award Level 4 rates. Please email your application (including resume) to [George.azhakath@cg.org.au](mailto:George.azhakath@cg.org.au) Applications addressed to Fr George Azhakath, must be received by Friday 22nd January, 2021. Copy of duties available on request. The position to commence 3rd March, 2021.

**ANGLICAN CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH:** This year because of COVID restrictions, there will NOT be the traditional lunch as served in past years. However, all are still invited to come along and join in with others sharing some sandwiches and Christmas cake as they gather outside the hall after 11am. **ALL WELCOME!**

**WELCOME TO FRANK & FRIENDS FROM THE ORDER OF MALTA** visiting us this Sunday.  
**. THE CATHOLIC VOICE "REBUILDING HOPE" : Free copies available in the foyer.**



**CHRISTMAS ROSTERS:** Please indicate on the form in the foyer if you are available . ALSO the Moruya Readers and Special Ministers rosters for 2021 have been compiled from January to March. If you would like to be included or unable to help out this year please indicate on the separate form in the foyer or contact the parish office.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** It has been decided to hold a Christmas raffle to be drawn after the 10am Mass on Christmas Day. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses. Tickets 3 for \$5 or 1 for \$2. There will be three prizes. 1st: Christmas food hamper. 2nd: \$50 Woolworths Voucher. 3rd: Pampering gifts. Donations of food suitable for a hamper will be gratefully received. Donations can be left at the presbytery.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

To Sue McCosker

This Sunday  
13th December.



Thank you to Joe O'Connor and Cletus Heffernan for installing the bollards in the car park.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Due to the cold weather the party was conducted indoors. It was a wonderful occasion to meet up with people not seen for some time. The Scobies and John Heffernan provided music for us, young girls from two families entertained us with Irish dancing and our jokesters John Gillett, Bert Brockhoyse and Deacon Paul Rummery had us in stitches. The food, as always was a feast with women in the kitchen and men outside cooking on the barbeque. Everyone joined in to help and the outcome was a very successful evening. Special thanks to those who donated to the party raffle prizes. Winners were: 1st prize Doreen Mattingly; 2nd prize. Louise Strahlendorf; 3rd prize: Pauline de Grave. Thanks also to Cletus Heffernan who provided the barbeque. Thank you to all participants who demonstrated great community



Visiting family performing Irish Dancing at our Christmas Party.