



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

6pm: Vigil Mass Sacred Heart, Moruya
(36 Queen Street)

Special Children's Mass. Children are invited to come dressed in Nativity costumes (Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, Wisemen)

Christmas Day

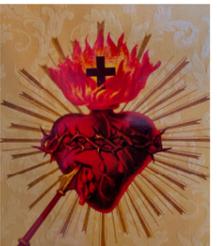
8am: Tuross (36 Craddock Road)
10am: Sacred Heart, Moruya



SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537
Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au
Web: <http://cg.org/au/Moruya>
Priest: Fr George Azhakath
Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm



Mass Times:
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am
Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am
Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am
Reconciliation: Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass
1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am
Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass
Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600
Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

2nd Sunday of Advent - YEAR B -

9 & 10 December 2023

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY:



Friday, 15 December from 5pm in the Presbytery grounds. Please bring a plate to share and BYO drinks. There is a sheet in the Church foyer to please indicate what dish you would like to share. All Parishioners are warmly invited to attend. Please bring a chair.



2023 RED DOOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH: This year the Red Door Christmas Lunch will be held on Saturday, 23 December from 12pm. To enable this combined churches initiative to be a success, the organisers are calling for volunteers to assist them in providing a bountiful Christmas banquet for the lonely and the homeless in our community. If you are available to assist in any capacity, please provide your contact details on the sheet in the Church foyer.

EVANGELISATION PROGRAM: Next Tuesday, 12 December Jan Morris will be hosting The Chosen at 12 Shorthorn Close, Moruya. All welcome.



Parishioners who attended the Tuross Head Caring Group Christmas Party on 30 November.

Congratulations to St Mary's Year 6 student Indiana Turnbull who received the Good Samaritan Award at the Awards Night.
Well done Indy!

2nd Rite of Reconciliation, Thursday, 21 December 5pm

The Preaching of John the Baptist “Repent and return to the Lord”

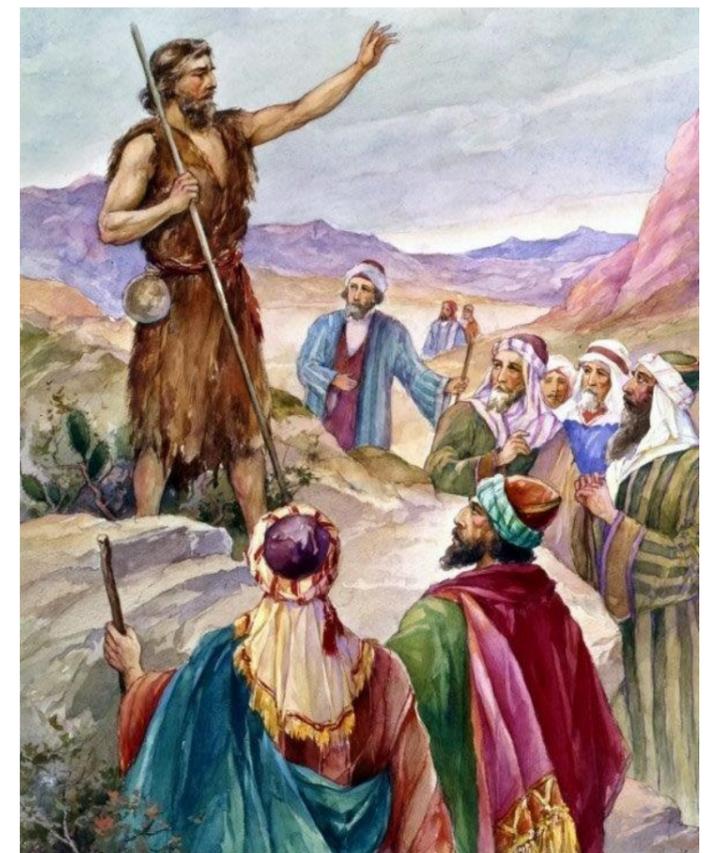
Today's readings remind us that the past, present and future comings of Jesus into the world are the fulfilment of the savings plan of God. Today's scripture readings deal with coming home—Babylonian exiles coming home, shalom or perfect peace coming home, our going home with Jesus at his second coming and Jesus the Saviour coming home into our lives during Advent. All the three readings focus on the absolute necessity of our readying ourselves by contrition and penance for Christ's coming.

In the first reading, Isaiah assures his people that the Lord will restore their homeland to them and care for them as a shepherd cares for the sheep. Today's Responsorial Psalm also speaks of the return of shalom (perfect peace) and pardon to the people. The second reading gives an answer to those who scoff at the expectation of the second coming of Christ, explaining that God's way of reckoning time is different from ours and God has His own reasons for delaying Christ's second coming. It gives us the assurance that Jesus is sure to come again although we do not know when. Hence, while we wait, we should be leading lives of holiness and godliness.

Finally, the Gospel tells us that the restoration of the fallen world has already begun, starting with the arrival of John the Baptist, the messenger and forerunner of the Messiah. John speaks of one, more powerful than he—Jesus Christ—who will baptise us with the Holy Spirit. Each of us has received the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism and now we are in the Spirit each day, waiting for the return of our Lord. Thus, we become John the Baptist's successors, preparing for Christ's return which will bring a new and perfect world.

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.



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

‘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 Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

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

1. 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. **(R.)**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him

and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

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

Gospel Acclamation Luke 3:4. 6

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

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to

Mark

All: Glory to you O Lord

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

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.

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) Making use of Advent as a season of reflection and preparation. We are invited by the Church to prepare for Christmas. Christmas is the time for reflection and personal renewal in preparation for the coming of Jesus into our lives. Through his epistle today, St Peter reminds us, on the one hand, of God’s great desire to come into our lives and, on the other, of our need to be prepared for that event when it happens. We want God’s help and comfort but we are not prepared to change our ways to enhance genuine conversion. For God to come to us, we also need to go to him. We need to let every day become Christmas and the “Day of the Lord” for each one of us.

2) Do we accept Jesus or reject him during this Christmas season? It was their stubborn pride and self-centeredness, which blinded the eyes of the Jews and kept them from recognising Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah. The same stubborn pride, the same exaggerated sense of our own dignity, blinds the intellects of many of us today who not only fail to accept Christ and His good tidings, but also prevent others from accepting him. The mad rush for earthly possessions and pleasures, the casting-off of all reasonable restraints and restrictions, which are so necessary for the survival of human society, the rejection of all things spiritual in man’s make-up, the general incitement of the animal instincts in man—all these are signs of the rejection of Christ. Let us accept Jesus as our personal saviour and Lord during this Christmas season and remain, or become, true Christians in our daily conduct. Let us use these days of preparation for Christmas to prepare ourselves for his daily coming and his Second Coming, remembering that it will occur for each one of us on the day of our death.

3) Being preachers of the good news: John’s preaching reminds us also of our important task of announcing Christ to others through our lives at home and in the community. When we show real love, kindness, mercy and a spirit of forgiveness, we are announcing the truth that Christ is with us. Thus our lives become a kind of Bible which others can read. John the Baptist invites us to turn this advent season into a real spiritual homecoming by making the necessary preparations for the arrival of the Saviour into our lives.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter, Pauline de Grave and Brian Fee.

WELL WISHES: Best wishes to John Gillett for a quick and full recovery after an operation earlier this week. Get well soon John!

READERS OF THE WORD AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION ROSTERS: The new rosters from January-June 2024 have been emailed and there are copies available in the Church foyer. Thank you to Colleen Palise for compiling these rosters and thank you to all our volunteers.