

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve

6pm Vigil mass Sacred Heart, Moruya (36 Queen Street) -

Children's special mass: children are encouraged to come dressed in Nativity costumes (Mary, Joseph, Angels, Wisemen)

Christmas Day

8am: Tuross (36 Craddock Road)

9:30: Bodalla (62 Princes Highway)

10am: Sacred Heart, Moruya

No Saturday Vigil mass.



Sunday 26 December 8am: Tuross, 10am: Sacred Heart, Moruya

(no Bodalla 3pm mass)

CARING GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTIES: Our Caring groups gathered to celebrate the joy of Christmas on Thursday, 2 December and Friday, 3 December for Tuross and Moruya folk respectively. Fellow parishioners enjoying the gathering at the Vulcan Café, Moruya last Friday were Pat Anderson, Pauline and Han de Grave, Pat Morris, Graham Scobie, Jan Morris and Bert Broekhuysse.

SAVE THE DATE—PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY: We will be hosting a **Sausage Sizzle** on **Friday, 17 December @ 5:30pm**. Please bring your drinks and salad or dessert to share. Sausages, onions and bread rolls will be supplied. We hope to see as many parishioners as possible gather at the new garden table setting.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Tickets are on sale and are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Prizes include: Southlands Butchery \$150 voucher, Cameron's Hardware \$100 voucher and various wines. Tickets will be available at every weekend mass up to Christmas. The raffle will be drawn on Christmas Day after 10am mass.

VINNIES CONFERENCE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: **This weekend (11 & 12 December)** we ask that you please support us in making it possible for families in our community to find joy in celebrating the birth of Jesus. Please give generously to the leaving collection at the end of Mass. This Christmas we will be catering to approximately 65 families, providing food hampers and toys for young children.

ARCHDIOCESAN ZOOM GROUPS FOR ADVENT: The Archdiocese is hosting weekly zoom Advent discussion groups to support those parishes who don't have the resources to run Advent groups or for parishioners who can't get to parish groups. These will run weekly via zoom on: Sunday afternoons at 4pm (which started Sunday 28th Nov) Tuesday mornings at 10am (which started Tuesday 30th Nov). **Advent discussion group:** Join an Archdiocesan ZOOM Advent discussion group 4pm this Sunday or 10am this coming Tuesday. Log on as an individual or as a group using: Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96186839540> Meeting ID: 961 8683 9540 Or use the resource www.cgatholic.org.au/ADVENT at a time that suits you. Enquiries lara.kirk@cg.org.au 0429 192 869. **Youth Advent Resource:** And a reminder that the youth & child-friendly **Way of the Star** Archdiocesan video resource is also available for catechists, teachers, youth ministers and parents at www.cgyouth.org.au/Christmas.

ST MARY'S YEAR 6 GRADUATION: Congratulations to St Mary's Year 6! Their Graduation Mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart on Thursday, 9 December.



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 msfs

Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore

Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9am—2pm

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 and Fourth Sunday of the month 3pm

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 before/after mass. Adoration & Benediction Fridays 9.45—10.45am



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

-YEAR C -

December 11 & 12 2021

“Gaudete in Domino semper” (“Rejoice in the Lord always”)

Message: Repentance leading to renewal of Life

Today is “Gaudete” Sunday because today’s Mass begins with the opening antiphon, “*Gaudete in Domino semper*” (“Rejoice in the Lord always”). Today we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest wears rose vestments to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus, as our Saviour. The theme of the third Sunday of Advent is *rejoicing in hope*. Advent is a time for joy, not because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Jesus, but because God is already in our midst. Christian joy does not come from the absence of sorrow, pain or trouble, but from an awareness of the presence of Christ within our souls.

In today’s **first reading**, the prophet Zephaniah says, “*Shout for joy, O Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel.*” Zephaniah made this prophetic proclamation at the height of the Jewish exile when things appeared hopeless and unbearable. The instruction is repeated in the response to the **Psalm**, “*Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*” St Paul echoes the same message of joy in the **second reading** from the Philippians: “*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice ... The Lord is in your midst ... Fear not ... be not discouraged ... The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all ...*” Paul was in prison when he made this appeal for rejoicing.

In the **Gospel** today, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as wholehearted commitment to God’s way by doing His will. A sad Christian is a contradiction in terms. According to the Baptist, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good to others and sharing our blessings with others. John’s call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. **Repentance** means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives.

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.

Prayer for the lighting of the Candle

All: O God, we remember the promise of your Son. As light from this candle, may the blessings of Christ come upon 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 wait for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

(one candle is lit 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.



Liturgy of the Word

Zep 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

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 Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

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

1. 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. **(R.)**
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **(R.)**
3. 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.
(R.)

Second Reading Phil 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I
repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your toler-
ance 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

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 Luke 3:10-18

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke

All: Glory to you O Lord

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 bap-
tism, 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 peo-
ple, 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 win-
nowing-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

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

Communion Antiphon: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will
come, and he will save us.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) A call for a change of life. John the Baptist, the stern and uncompromising preacher, challenges
our superficial attempts at change, demanding that we take a deeper look. Obeying the commandments is a
good start, but we must then examine our relationships with others. We must mend ruptures and frictions,
face family responsibilities, work honestly and treat employees justly. Start where you are, John says. Our
domestic and social lives must be put in order. John’s voice is sober and runs counter to the intoxicating
voices around us. He calls for rectitude and social consciousness. We must abandon our selfish thirst for
consumption, and instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus’ coming. Hence let us celebrate the
memory of his first advent at Bethlehem, prepare for his daily advent in our lives through his presence
within us and in people around us, and wait for his third advent or “second coming” (“Parousia”) at the end
of the world, with joyful expectation.

2) We need to remember that we are, like John the Baptist, Christ’s precursors: Parents, teachers
and public servants are also Christ’s precursors, carrying out the mission of bringing to Christ those en-
trusted to their care. Parents are expected to instill in their children a true Christian spirit and an apprecia-
tion for Christian values by their own lives and behaviour. Teachers too, have to play the role of John the
Baptist. A Christian teacher must be always aware of being Christian in the presence of students, whatever
the subject being taught, so that his or her Christian personality may leave a lasting impression on his or
her students. All public servants are to remember that they are God’s instruments, and that they are to lead
the people they serve to the feet of Jesus, so that they may know Him personally as Saviour, Lord and
Brother. A nurse is not to hold back compassion from those deemed “not worthy”. A teacher is to teach
with enthusiasm and love. A salesperson is not to present the product as more valuable than it is, nor to
overcharge people for products or services. Leaders are not to hold themselves above others. Anyone who
has more of anything than he or she needs, should share it.

3) What should we do in preparation for Christmas? This is the same question the Jews asked John.
His answer to them and to us, is the same: repent and reform your lives, and prayerfully wait for the Mes-
siah. Our blessed Mother, in her many apparitions, urgently calls us to more fervent prayer. Let us re-
member that the Mass is the most powerful of prayers. We must be a Eucharistic people, living and experi-
encing the present of Jesus in our hearts. Let us remember that conversion is through Jesus, whom we en-
counter in the sacraments. Regular monthly confession makes us strong and enables us to receive more
grace in the Eucharist. Let us read the Bible and pray the rosary daily. We might also fast once a week all
year round, rather than just in Advent and Lent; after all, we sin all year round! Let us have the courage of
our Christian convictions to turn off the TV programs that show explicit sexual behaviour, violence and the
use of foul language. Let us spend some time every week in adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
Let us forgive those who offend us and pray for them. Finally, let us share our love with others as selfless
and humble service. “Do small things but with great love” (Mother Teresa).

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND THE HOUSEBOUND: We continue to pray and extend our support
to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya; and the sick members of our Parish: Cath Hulse, John Gerber,
Ben Pollock, Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Monique Driver, Andy McCosker, Paul
Croese, Clare Broekhuysse, Trish Tarlinton, Anthony Morris, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat,
Paul Rummery Jnr, Sandra Spellacy, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald and
Kaye Shephard.

ARCHBISHOP’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: The Archbishop’s Christmas Appeal will again be held at
all Christmas masses. To offer a helping hand to others this Christmas can be a way of stirring the great
hope of Christmas especially as Covid-19 continues to impact all our lives.

Funds raised will be used to support the National Council of Churches’ Christmas Bowl Appeal and to as-
sist Church communities in Ethiopia, Gaza, Syria, Indonesia and Sri Lankans in India. Further support will
be given for projects within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Africa and Tamarassery in India along with projects
of the La Salette Martha Province, in India. Continuing assistance will be given for the Bethlehem Univer-
sity as well as contributing to construction of a school hall at Vanga Point within the Diocese of Gizo,
PNG. Generosity in the face of COVID challenges will again be needed to enable us to reach out and assist
our neighbours in need this year.