



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)

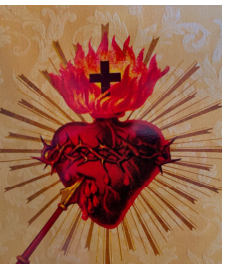
10am: Sacred Heart, Moruya



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

1st Sunday of Advent - YEAR B -

2 & 3 December 2023

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY: Friday, 15 December from 5pm in the Presbytery grounds. Please bring a plate to share and BYO. Everyone is welcome to join us.

CORRECTION: ST MARY'S YEAR 6 GRADUATION: The St Mary's Year 6 Graduation Mass will be on **Tuesday, 12 December** at Sacred Heart Church and not on the 7 December as advised last week. Apologies for any confusion caused.

PPC CHRISTMAS PLANNING MEETING: All PPC members are reminded next Wednesday, 6 December, a Christmas Planning Meeting will be held at the Presbytery at 4pm.

NOTICES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

ROUNDTABLE ON DOMESTIC CHURCH—7 DECEMBER: In preparation for our Archdiocesan Assembly in October 2024 you are invited to participate in a series of prayerful listening & discussion 'roundtables' on various topics. This Thu 7th Dec we will reflect on the blessings and challenges of family life in relation to the evangelising mission of the Church. Attend in person (St Christopher's Pastoral Centre) or online (Zoom). 7:00pm - 8:30pm More info at www.cgevangalisation.org.au/roundtables/ Register at <https://tally.so/r/3xJdY9>



The Season of Advent

The Story of the Advent Wreath

The origins of the Advent Wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic people who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming of spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive and by the 16th century they used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. Today, the Advent wreath is a widely recognised symbol of Advent (the arrival of a notable person or thing).



The wreath is made of a circle evergreen laid flat to symbolise the endless and ever growing nature of God's love for his people. Four candles stand in the circle. Traditionally, 3 of the candles are purple and the 4th, the "joy" candle, is pink. One candle is lit during the first week of Advent, two in the second week, etc. The candle reminds us of the light of God coming into the world and the light from the candles grow brighter as each week comes closer to Christmas.

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.

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 LIGHTING 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

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open
and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
(R.)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Entrance Antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) An Advent project of being alert and watchful in the spirit of today's gospel: Every morning when we get up, let us pray "Lord, show me someone today with whom I may share your love, mercy and forgiveness". Mother Teresa once said "Whatever you do in your family, for your children, for your husband, for your wife, you do for Jesus". "Every night when we go to bed, let us ask ourselves "Where have I found Christ today?" The answer will be God's Advent gift to us that day. By being alert and watchful, we will receive an extra gift: Christ himself. Let us remember the saying of St Thomas Aquinas "Without God, I can't. Without me, He won't".

2) Being wakeful and watchful: We are so future oriented that we often forget the present entirely. We spend too much time trying to protect ourselves against future misfortunes. We save for a rainy day, to get married, to buy a home, to provide our children the best possible education, to retire in comfort, and to protect ourselves against future misfortunes. But we need to be more spiritual and wakeful and prepare for our eternal life because we can die at any time, on any day, and that is the end of the world for us. Let this Advent season be the time of such a preparation for each of us.

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 Broekhuysen, 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.

GARDEN WORKING BEE: This **Saturday, 2 December at 10am.** Please bring your gardening gloves, rakes, whipper snippers and buckets to tidy up the Church grounds for the festive Christmas season.

BIRTHDAYS: Happiest of Birthdays to Graham Beer who celebrates his special day on 2 December. Rhonda Zammit and Graham Scobie celebrate on 3 December. We hope you all have a splendid day with family and friends.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Brenda and John Gillett celebrated their wedding anniversary on 28 November. Congratulations Brenda and John and we wish you many more happy years together!

EVANGELISATION PROGRAM: Next Tuesday, 5 December after 5pm Mass, Marg Croese will be hosting The Chosen at 19 Costin Street, Moruya. All welcome.