

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve

6pm Vigil mass Sacred Heart, Moruya (36 Queen Street) - Children's special mass

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)

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 will be \$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.

CHANGES TO MASS TIMES: Thursday, 9 December Mass at Bodalla 9:15am. **St Mary's Year 6** Graduation Mass at 11:30am.

BIRTHDAYS: Happy Birthday to our lovely Parishioners Rhonda Zammit and Graham Scobie who celebrated their Birthdays on 3 December. We hope you had a lovely day!

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

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.cg youth.org.au/Christmas.

PPC PLAN: Included in this week's Bulletin is a draft version of the Parish Pastoral Plan 2019-2030. If you have any comments, please email the Parish office moruya@cg.org.au.

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 again be used to support the National Council of Churches' Christmas Bowl Appeal and to assist Church communities in Ethiopia, Gaza, Syria Indonesia and Sri Lankans in India. Further support will be given for projects within the Dioceses of Otuokpo, Africa and Thamarassery in India along with projects of the La Salette Martha Province, in India. Continuing assistance will be given for the Bethlehem University 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.



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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- YEAR C -

December 4 & 5 2021

John the Baptist: A Voice Crying in the Wilderness

True repentance

leading to the renewal of our lives

The Advent season challenges us to prepare for God's coming to us in the future, with power and great glory on the clouds of heaven, and for His present "coming" to us in his Word, in the Eucharist and in the abiding presence of His Holy Spirit in our souls. Our waiting for that advent will be brought to completion when Christ comes in glory. The readings today invite us to recall God's saving deeds in the history of Israel, culminating in the coming of the promised Messiah.

Baruch, in the **first reading**, asks the grieving Jerusalem to stand on the heights in order to see her scattered children coming home, with God in the lead. This reminds us that all of us, like Israel, in her exile, have been led into the captivity of sin. Hence, we are in need of restoration and conversion by the Word of the Holy One. In writing to his favourite community at Philippi, Paul in today's **second reading** prays that they be filled with joy as they await the day of Christ. Paul reminds us that our remembrance of God's saving deeds during the Advent season is meant to stir our faith and to fill us with confidence so that "*the One who began a good work in us will continue to complete it*" until he comes again in glory.

In the **Gospel**, John the Baptist challenges us to prepare the way for the salvation of "all flesh", including our own, by true repentance leading to the renewal of our lives. Quoting Isaiah, John declares that he has come to prepare a royal road in our hearts for our Saviour, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God.

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 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.



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of this glory with his mercy and integrity for escort. The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **(R.)**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

Second Reading Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Lk 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 Lk 3:1-6

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

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see

the salvation of God.

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.

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) **We need to prepare the way for the Messiah in our hearts:** We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls which have resulted from our shallow prayer life and minimalist way of living our faith. We have to straighten out whatever crooked paths we have been walking, like involvement in some secret or habitual sins or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harbouring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris. If we have been pushing God off to the side of our road, if we have been saying to Him that we do not really have the time for Him, now is the time for us to get our priorities straight. As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, a bullying attitude. And we all have to level the "mountains" of our pride and egocentrism. As a society we might have to dismantle unfair housing policies, employment disparity, economic injustice or racial and ethnic biases.

2) **We need to repent and seek forgiveness from God and fellow human beings:** John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We have to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. There are basically two reasons why people who have recognized their sins fail to receive forgiveness for them. The first is that they fail to repent. But the second is that they fail to forgive. Jesus was very explicit about this in Matthew 6:14 and 15. He says "*For if you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive me, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions*". Is there someone I need to forgive today? We must not let what others have done destroy our lives. We cannot be forgiven unless we forgive. We must release our bitterness if we are to be able to allow God to do His healing work in our lives.

ADVENT MEDITATIONS: "Jesus said to his disciples: "Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! ... You do not know when the Master of the house is coming." Mk 13:33

O Jesus, your voice sounds through the house of my world: 'Be on your guard' Stay awake"! Yet I hardly hear you, busy with so much, I go about the things I do, like a servant trapped in household routine, hardly giving a thought to what my life is about. My spirit within has grown tired and you, my God, seem far away. How can I hear your voice today? Speak to my heart during this season of grace, as you spoke to your prophets and saints. Remind me again of the journey you can call me to make and the work you would have me do. I am your servant, O Lord. Speak to me in this holy season and turn my eyes to watch for your coming. O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Saviour of all people, come and dwell among us.

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.

2021 CHRISTMAS LUNCH, RED DOOR HALL: Helpers and donations of food are required. Please see NOTICE in the Church foyer to put your name on if you can assist. Thank you