



St Mary's Bungendore
St Joseph's Gundaroo
St Peter & Paul's Hoskinstown
St Joseph's Tarago

<http://cg.org.au/bungendore/Home.aspx>

Fr. Tony Percy 0431 225 574 (Administrator)



THIRD Sunday of ADVENT

17th December, 2023

BUNGENDORE PARISH TEAM

Fr. Tony Percy is our Administrator.

Baptisms: Baptisms will be on 1st & 3rd Sunday during Mass.
Please email or ring the parish office to arrange a baptism.

Weddings: Please contact Parish office; at least six months notice required.

Phone: 6238 1247

Email: bungendore@cg.org.au

Website: <http://cg.org.au/bungendore/Home.aspx>

Secretary- Julie-Ann

Office Open: - Wednesday - 10:30am - 5:00pm
Thursday—9:00am—3:30pm

BUNGENDORE, BRAIDWOOD and REGION MASS TIMES

Bungendore : Sunday 8.30am; **Weekday Mass:** Wednesday 9am **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Braidwood: Saturday 6.00pm **Weekday Mass:** Tuesday 10.00am **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Hoskinstown: Four times a year—1st Sunday Feb, May, Aug 10:30am (Nov cancelled)

Gundaroo: 2nd & 4th Sunday 10:30am

Tarago: TBA

Krawarree: 5th Sunday 11.00am

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas draws near. Our faith helps us focus (*Catechism of the Catholic Church 525*):

Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty, heaven's glory was made manifest. The Church never tires of singing the glory of this night:

*The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal
and the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible.*

*The angels and shepherds praise him
and the magi advance with the star,*

For you are born for us,

Little Child, God eternal! (Kontakion of Romanos the Melodist)

Amidst the plethora of Christmas gifts – and the New Year shopping frenzy – it is possible for us to miss the message and grace of the moment.

Life is not about accumulating possessions and things, but about accepting the divine gift of the *Little Child*, born in poverty, completely dependent upon Mary and Joseph.

For this reason, we are encouraged to take note of the shepherds and the wise men, but especially of the *Blessed Virgin Mary*, and her husband *St. Joseph*.

They worked through their *fear* in a most magnificent and courageous manner and thus opened their hearts to the Eternal and supposedly Inaccessible One.

Let's encourage each other, deepening our faith in the mystery of God entering our personal and social lives.

Prayers for safe travel and family harmony during these beautiful days of early summer,

Father Tony



The Parish of St Mary's, Bungendore acknowledges the Ngannawal and Ngambri people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Entrance Antiphon

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

First reading

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

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.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

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.)**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **(R.)**

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

Second reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

John 1:6-8. 19-28

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.

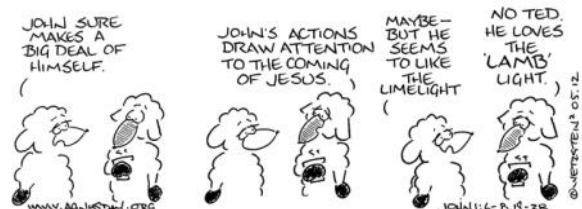
This is how John appeared as a witness. When the
Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask
him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he
declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well
then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said.
'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' 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.

Communion Antiphon

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



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday Prayer & Communion - 9am then please join us as we gather afterward at local café.

Fridays @ St Mary's—9am PRAY FOR PEACE Rosary & Reflection .

ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP SET UP CHAIRS AND PEWS from 3pm ON CHRISTMAS EVE ??

Please let David Bishop or Chris Murdock know.

Christmas Mass Times

24th December: **8.30am Mass BUNGENDORE**
10.30am Mass GUNDAROO

Christmas Vigil:

5pm Braidwood
6pm Queanbeyan
7pm BUNGENDORE
12am Queanbeyan

Christmas Day:

8am Queanbeyan
8am Michelago
9am GUNDAROO
10am Queanbeyan

For direct credit payments to the Parish:

BSB: 062-786 ACC: 00014851

NAME: St Mary's Parish Bungendore

Reference: NAME

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE AND BEYOND

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CATHEDRAL

Christmas Eve: 5:00pm & 11:50pm

Christmas Day: 8:00am & 5:00pm

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

I would like my donation to be:

| \$20 | \$50 | \$100 | \$150 | Other \$ _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dri/Rev _____

(Block letters please)

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please find enclosed my | Cheque | Money Order

I prefer to use my | Bankcard | Visa | Mastercard

Signed _____

Expires ____/____

Please send to:

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal

Attn: Deacon Joe Blackwell

GPO BOX 3089, Canberra ACT 2601

In

Please pray for:- Lauren Horton, Frank Shugg, Margaret Mikkelsen, Erwin Feeken, Maureen Boss, Sheather family, Doris and Roger Cutbill, Diana Robertson, Luke Alam, Bob Angel, Patrick Elwood, Peter Gagliardi, Annie Nikolaou, Jack Sealey, Magdalen Sillis, Stewart Briggs, Ed Cory, Cassandra Mallia, Bob Yates, Ann Reardon, Mary Coombe, Wayne Smith, Karen Toscan, Pam Finch, Rene Mallia, Ken & Cathy Vine, Elizabeth Van Gessel, Barb Rayner, Fr. Mick Burke, Adrian van Prooyen & Carol-Jayne McManus.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries:- Sandie Hobman, Anna Gina Cioccia, Andrew Garlick, Helen Garlick, Nancy Louise White, Elizabeth Lamkin, James Nash, John Lamkin, Sylvester Kennedy & Mary Anne Finlay.

Church Cleaning Thanks!

DECEMBER : **Tess Montesin & Rene Mallia**



Plaques for Memorial Wall

We are now taking orders for plaques for the memorial wall.

Please contact the office for more details.

The above format will be the one used.



Liturgical Roster

Sunday : 17th December 2022 8:30 am

Minister of the Altar: John Windsor

R1; R2: Miriam O'Brien & Julie-Ann Snudden

Offertory:

Welcomer: Julie-Ann

Sunday : 24th December 2022 8:30 am

Minister of the Altar: David Bishop

R1; R2: Louella & Luke Reeves

Offertory:

Welcomer: Julie-Ann

BUNGENDORE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Helen Jewell
David Bishop
Jenny Amey
Chris Murdock
Tess Montesin
Julie-Ann Snudden

BUNGENDORE PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Greg Darmody (Chairperson)
Michele Murdock
Richard Konarski
Ian Cusack
Ed Cory
Stephen Dunkerley

Do you think you might make the effort to go to Confession before Christmas this year?

Do you think you might have a few things to share with the Lord Who has loved you patiently throughout all your stupidity and malice and carelessness?

Many of them aren't mentioned in the Ten Commandments, but they're sins nonetheless – sins against the love of God and the love of neighbour.

You are so loved by God. You are so precious in His sight that He spent thousands of years carefully preparing the entire planet for His arrival in human form, just to save you.

Show him the things you're ashamed of. Let Him fix them up for you. It will take time and effort because you didn't get into such a bad state overnight.

Lots of bad decisions got you here. So the first good decision you can make is to go to Confession before Christmas.

Confession is available before Mass on Sunday

Appearance Isn't Everything

There once was a man, his name was John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light. (John 1: 6 - 8)

Anyone who has ever gone on a job interview knows that two elements can be the determining factors to getting hired or not. The first is the resume. It needs to follow certain clear guidelines that include length (no more than two pages), appearance (perfect), and content (highlights, not an autobiography). Of course, it has to be honest and accurate or it may come back to haunt you. Done right, it will get you in the door where the second factor comes into play, the interview.

In the interview everything needs to fall into place from appearance (conservative suits, no dangling jewellery), to eye contact, to modulated responses. After that all you can do is wait and hope you did a good job of selling yourself.

Isaiah presents himself as anointed by God and speaks with joy, which Paul tells us we should always do. John the Baptist, however, doesn't care how people respond to his appearance. It is his message that is important. He proclaims with joy that the Messiah is coming and coming soon.

But John is not the cause for joy. Everyone will have to wait, even if it is just for a little while. And that is the meaning and message of Advent. We wait because the Messiah will change so much. Our joyful waiting, says Paul, should be prayerful because God has chosen us. We need to get ready.

a reflection from gpbs.com.com.au