

TEMORA MISSION AREA

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Ardlethan/Sacred Heart Ariah Park

Contact: Sr Maureen McDermott: Ph: 69782585

Website: www.cg.org.au/ardlethan Email: maureen.mcdermott@sosj.org.au

Sacred Heart Temora Ph: 69772104 Email: Temora@cg.org.au

Parish Priest Fr Sijo Jose Email: Sijo.Jose@cg.org.au

St Therese Barellan Pastoral Associate: Sr Janet Glass rsj

In our Prayers: Ian Bonny, Tracey Passlow, Fr Francis, Ray Fairman, Kashaya Kuemmel, Maxine Keshan,

For our Deceased: Deceased family, community members, those who have died from violence and natural disasters

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<u>December</u> 7-8	Ariah Park 6.00 p.m. Sat Mass
Mass	Barmedman 8.00 a.m. Temora 10.00 a.m. Sunday
Liturgy	Ardlethan 9.00 a.m. Barellan 10.00 a.m.

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Reflection
Walk in God’s light. We do not know when Christ will come again in glory. Nor do we know the day of our death. This should not worry us. What is important is to live this day well by being respectful and loving towards each other and seeking to walk in God’s light. If we do this, we will be ready whenever God calls us to eternal life.

Advent Wreath ~ what is that all about?
A short explanation by Fr Kevin Walsh, Sydney

The Origins of the Advent Wreath
 The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and, by the 16th century, used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.



Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. The circle represents Eternity – God’s life and love. The evergreen leaves represent Life as we wait for the coming of our Redeemer.

The **first** candle lit is the **Prophet’s candle**, which reminds us of the Old Testament Prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. This candle also reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world.

Advent Wreath Prayer

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven. May the light that shines forth from the candle illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas. We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World. Amen

We do not proclaim the Gloria during Advent

School Christmas Service

You are invited to join Ardlethan Central School as it gathers here in the **Catholic Church** on Friday, 6 December at 9.00 a.m. for its Christmas celebration.

Christmas Crib

As the school service will now be held in the Catholic Church it might be wise to set up the crib so that the children can see it when they are here on Friday. After our Mass today those of you who can remain it will be appreciated if the crib could be set up please.

Fr Francis Carroll’s Book

If you would like to purchase the book on the life of Fr Francis Carroll please let Sr Maureen know. Books are available at a cost of \$20.00 plus postage (*if required!*).

Prayer for the Blessing of Rain

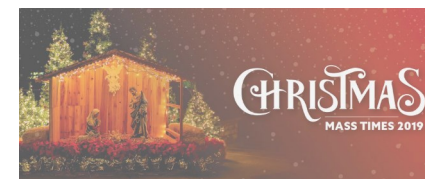
Eternal God, In wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life. We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our drought-stricken land, on our starving animals, on our failing crops. Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them. In your loving providence, send abundant rain and restore our parched earth. Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son, in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life: Renew your faithful people; Renew the face of the earth.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians – Pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop - Pray for us.

Christmas Mass Times

Ariah Park—6.00 p.m. (*Vigil*)
 Ardlethan 8.00 a.m.



Roster 8 December	Leader: Linda	Reader: Col
	Minister: Ian	Welcomer: Brenda