

St Peter's Catholic Parish

20th December, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Our mission as the Christian community of St Peter's Parish, enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit, is to be salt and light through the loving way of our words, actions and respect for the dignity of all, so that other may experience the love of Christ.

We sincerely acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Yuin people.

'Spirit Hovering'

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and God's Spirit hovered over the water. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.'

The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan.

We could pause for a moment to ask whether now is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'
by Fr Michael

Contact Details

Parish Priest

Fr Paletasala (Pale) Leota

Parish Secretary

Mrs Patricia Field

Parish Council Chair

Mrs Bernadette Wood

Liturgy Coordinator

Ms Sue Heffeman

Finance Chair

Mr Neil Ffrench

Lumen Christi Catholic College

Mr Shane Giles (02)64958888

Parish Office

Hours - 10am to 1pm

Wednesday to Thursday,

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Email - pambula@cg.org.au

Web -

www.cg.org.au/pambula

Address - 79 Main Street, PO BOX 249, Merimbula, NSW, 2548



"Be it done according to your word."

Churches, Mass Celebrations and Prayer

Churches

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden

St Joseph's, Merimbula

St Peter's, Pambula

St Joseph's, Wyndham

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday, 9:30am-10am, Merimbula

Saturday, before Vigil Mass, Eden

Adoration

1st Friday of the month at 8:30am, Merimbula

1st Sunday at 3pm, Eden

Weddings

By appointment only – at least 6 months notice in advance.

Mass Times

Saturday, 6pm, Eden

Sunday, 8am, Merimbula

Sunday, 10am, Merimbula

Tuesday 5pm, Merimbula

Wednesday, 9:30am, Merimbula

Thursday, 9:30am Eden

Friday, 9:30am Merimbula

Sacrament of Baptism

Welcoming Mass – 4th Sat/Sun of the month prior to Baptism. During Mass on 1st Saturday/Sunday of the month. Please ring office for all Baptism preparation enquiries

Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

Tuesdays at 4:30pm, St Joseph's Merimbula

"Enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit"

Feasts of the Week ...

The homily has special importance due to its Eucharistic context: it surpasses all forms of catechesis as the supreme moment in the dialogue between God and his people which leads up to sacramental communion

Evangelii Gaudium (2013) 137

Readings of the Week ...

Monday	Song 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday	1 Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:56-66
Thursday	2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14,16; Lk 1:67-79
Friday	Christmas Day
Saturday	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Parish News and Events ... Please ring 0435036236 for any parish enquiries

NEW PARISH PHONE NUMBER The parish office is back online both with the internet and the phone. We do however have a new phone number 0435 036 236 the old number is no longer connected. To all of our parishioners who have been trying to contact the office via the old landline we apologize and thank you for your patience.

Any parishioner who wishes to make a donation to the **Archbishop's Christmas appeal** electronically will be able to do so by going to our archdiocesan website <https://cgcatholic.org.au/> This will be available by next week.

ADVENT PREPARATIONS: The parish has purchased the Wollongong Diocese's Advent program "ADORE" which has daily reflections. The cost per book is \$5.00 If you would like to purchase a book to use in your own home are now available from the parish office.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU REGISTER FOR CHRISTMAS MASS

Christmas Eve - December 24th	5pm	<i>Lumen Christi Catholic College</i>	Pambula Beach Road
	7pm	<i>Our Lady Star of the Sea,</i>	Eden
	9pm	<i>St Joseph's</i>	Merimbula
Christmas Day - December 25th	8am & 10am		Merimbula

N.B. We have added an extra Mass on Christmas Day at 8am, Merimbula to accommodate everyone due to large number of visitors around the area. Please be advised to consider attending either the 9pm or 8am Mass

Book-in for Mass

Please remember that as per restrictions we are still expected **to book and check in for mass**, maintain a spacial-distance of 2 square metres, receive Holy Communion in the hand only, refrain from physical contact when offering the Sign of Peace, and to sanitise when entering and exiting the premises. Please email or ring the parish office between 10am - 1pm Wed - Fri. Ph: 0435036236 -

https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/201008_UpdatedArchProtocols_PercyA.pdf

REMINDER: The maximum number of people at a religious service (*not including weddings and funerals*) must not exceed 300 (120) people in or outside (30) subject to the 2 square meter rule.

PLEASE KEEP FOLLOWING ALL OF THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN THE CHURCH

Columban Calendars 2021 are now available in the Parish Office at \$10 each.

The Catholic Daily Voice is available for you to subscribe to and receive via email by clicking on the attached link: <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/> and follow instructions online to subscribe.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgivng be every moment thine.

Planned Giving Collections; First: \$541.55; Second: Envelopes \$355.50, Loose \$231.30
Thank you for your generosity and God bless you all

"Enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit"

Let Us Pray for and support those who are sick

John Reynolds, Bill Petrie, Ysmael Valencia, Danielle Sou, Max Andrew, David Went, Ros Beveridge, Roy Bugden, Eric Mangion, Maureen Partridge, Marie Hart, Anselmo Guiffre, Beata Denkiewicz, Peter Hamer.

For the Faithful departed or whose anniversaries occur including,

Jeanette Robert, Louis Pintin, Joy Bugden, Olga Novinc, Kieth Balantyne, Kim Geraghty, Dawn Lucas, James Barry, Greg Morrison, Claire Thomas, Glyneth Middlemiss, Brian Middlemiss, Errol Cole, Mary D'Arcy.

May the Souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Only in **silence** can the word of God find a home in us, as it did in Mary, the woman of the word and, inseparably, woman in silence. *Verbum Domini (2010) 66*

The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life. Through our worship of God, we are invited to embrace the world on a different plane. Water, oil, fire and colours are taken up in all their symbolic power and incorporated in our act of praise. *Laudato Si (2015) 235*

The Divine Mercy of Jesus - 3 O'clock Prayer "The Hour of Great Mercy"

Jesus said: Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give that person the grace of conversion. This is the prayer; "O Blood and Water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fount of Mercy for us, I trust in you."

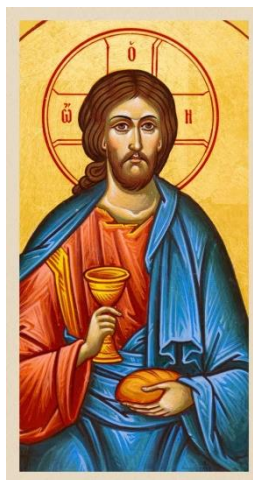
The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed before Mass on Sunday and Adoration and Benediction on every First Friday at 8.30am Merimbula Church.

Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Prayer for Australia

Lord you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.



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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

As we begin our celebration for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, let us prepare to light the fourth and last candle on our Advent wreath. As Advent draws to a close, we pause to pray for faith that opens our lives to the Spirit of God.

In the words of the acclamations, let us pray.

Come, O Wisdom of our God, Most High.

Come! Teach us to walk in the paths of Truth.

Come, O Morning Star and Radiance of eternal light.

Come! Enlighten all those who dwell in darkness.

Come, O Emmanuel, our long-awaited Saviour.

Come quickly now! Do not delay!

I am the Lord's Servant may it be done to me as you have said.

Luke 1, 36

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Just a quick note to wish you and your families the Lord's richest blessings at Christmas and to thank you for your support of your parish over the last year. May the new year be filled with the Holy Spirit and may that Spirit renew and refresh you. Fr Pale

Pope Francis has announced the 'Year of St. Joseph.'

The Holy Father's decision marked the second surprise to faithful on this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, following first his 7am visit to central Rome's Spanish Steps to entrust the city and world to the Blessed Virgin.

Within a few hours, the Holy See Press Office would publish the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde – With the heart of a Father," which commemorates the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the universal Church.

For the occasion, a special "Year of St. Joseph" will be held from today through Dec. 8, 2021. See attached for the full Vatican-provided English text.

The prayer to St. Joseph that Francis has said for more than 40 years

By Kathleen N. Hattrup

"It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph," the Holy Father reflects. In a footnote in his new apostolic letter on St. Joseph, Pope Francis notes that for more than 40 years, he has said a special prayer to St. Joseph after morning prayer. He explains that it is taken from a 19th-century French prayer book of the promise of your Son. As light from this candle, may the blessing Christ

come upon us brightening our way and guiding us by His truth. May Christ our Saviour bring light into darkness of our world and to us as we await for His coming.

Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. "It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph," the Holy Father reflects. Here is the prayer, as he shares it in the letter:

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.

Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.

My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**A reading from the second book of Samuel**

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2**(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord**

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me will keep my love for him always for him my covenant shall endure (R)

Second Reading Roman 16:25-27**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 1:38**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Lk 1:26-38**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
You will conceive and bear a son.**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Prayer Over the Offering

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord, sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar, just as he filled with his power the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer After Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption, we pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.

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	7pm	<i>Our Lady Star of the Sea,</i>	Eden
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NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS TIMES	8:30 am		Eden
	10am		Merimbula

Advent, which begins the Church's liturgical year, begins on this Sunday, November 29th. Advent encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas.

In our Churches, we celebrate Advent by putting up an Advent Wreath and lighting candles each week. Our Advent Wreath is located at the front next to the sanctuary and we are encouraged to look at it and contemplate the meaning of Advent.

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings that can be adapted to our faith. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes **hope**. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents **faith**. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is **pink** and symbolizes **joy**. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

On the **fourth week** of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes **peace**. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

The **white candle** is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the "**Christ Candle**" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

Celebrating Advent is an excellent way to prepare your mind and heart for Christmas. Welcome to Advent and may this holy season prepare us to celebrate PEACE and JOY of Christ.