



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. Sijo Jose Parish Priest



Sunday 14 December 2025, Third Sunday of Advent Year A

BUNGENDORE PARISH TEAM

Fr Sijo Jose : 0470 110 189 email: sijo.jose@cg.org.au

Baptisms: Baptisms will be on Saturday's at 11:00am

Please email the parish office to arrange a baptism.

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

Phone: 02 6238 1247

Email: bungendore@cg.org.au

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

Secretary: Bernadette Coman

Office hours: Thursday 9:30-4:00, Friday 9:30-1:30.

Please email your enquiries.

BUNGENDORE, BRAIDWOOD and REGION MASS TIMES

Bungendore : Sunday 8:30am; **Weekday Mass:** Wednesday and Friday 9:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: After Wednesday or Friday Mass

Braidwood: Thursday 10:15am and Saturday 5:00pm

Gundaroo: 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30am; Baptisms will be conducted during Mass.

Hoskinstown: 1st Sunday of each month at 10:30am

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today', says Pope Leo.

The Pope is very concerned to bring us back to the essentials of our Faith. He speaks of 'caring for the poor', for instance, as 'a beacon as it were of evangelical light.'

Similarly, he speaks of how 'love for the poor – whatever the form their poverty may take – is the evangelical hallmark of a Church faithful to the heart of God.'

In short, the Pope is reminding us that we proclaim Christ most effectively when we are Christ-like in our attitudes and actions towards others. This is most especially true when we are dealing with those in need or otherwise on the margins of society.

'The dominant culture', the Pope suggests, 'would have us abandon the poor to their fate and consider them unworthy of attention, much less our respect.' But, through our faith we see them differently. In the poor, we see the suffering of Our Lord himself. This is a message worth proclaiming to the world.

'For Christians,' the Pope affirms, 'the poor are not a sociological category, but the very "flesh" of Christ.' In that sense, we are always challenged to prepare for our Lord by being open to encountering him anywhere there is need.

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Please pray for: Frank Shugg, Erwin Feeken, Sheather family, Diana Robertson, Luke Alam, Bob Angel, Peter Gagliardi, Annie Nikolaou, Stewart Briggs, Ed Cory, Cassandra Mallia, Bob Yates, Ann Reardon, Mary Coombe, Wayne Smith, Rene Mallia, Ken & Cathy Vine, Elizabeth Van Gessel, Barb Rayner, Fr. Mick Burke, Adrian van Prooyen, Carol-Jayne McManus, Mary & Peter McCullagh, Peter Hugonnet & Terry Reardon

Recently Deceased: Marjorie Avery (sister of Fr Hilton Roberts), Murray Scott (Fr Josh Scott's grandfather), Barbara Jones (Stephen Dunkerley's mother), Roger Cutbill (uncle of Chris Murdoch)

Anniversaries: Maddie Wakeling

If you would like to add or remove a name please email Bernadette at bungendore@cg.org.au



The Parish of St Mary's, Bungendore acknowledges the Ngunnawal 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

Philippians 4:4-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 35:4

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

PARISH NEWS

Christmas Mass Times for the Bungendore community parishes:

>> Christmas Eve:

5:00pm St Bede's Braidwood

7:00pm St Mary's Bungendore

>> Christmas Day:

8:30am St Mary's Bungendore

10:30am St Joseph's Gundaroo

Caritas Australia appeals for support for vulnerable communities across Africa

Across Africa, millions of people are trapped in a desperate struggle for survival. Conflict, violence, hunger, and displacement are tearing communities apart. In places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and across the Horn of Africa, the situation is critical.

In response, Caritas Australia is supporting partners across the region to provide vital aid including emergency shelter, food and nutrition support, and access to clean water. Your support is urgently needed.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Africa Crisis Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/africa, scan the QR code or phone 1800 024 413.



Caritas Australia: Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas

This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty.

But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/> or scan the QR code.



Volunteer Scripture Teacher Needed – Bungendore Public School

Are you looking for a meaningful way to share your faith and make a difference in the lives of young people?

St Mary's and The Sisters of Charity are seeking a volunteer to teach Scripture at Bungendore Primary School on Tuesdays from 2:10pm-3:10pm. You'll be

using the *Christ Our Light and Life* program, which includes student books and a clear teaching manual to guide each lesson.

The current volunteer (Mary-Anne Curran 0450 917 865) is happy to speak with anyone interested and share their experience.

A Working with Children Check is required—the parish can assist you with this process.

This important role needs to be filled by the end of 2025. If you feel called to this ministry or would like more information, please contact the parish office at bungendore@cg.org.au

Your time could light the way for the next generation.

Missionaries of Charity Home Visits

The Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa Sisters) teach Scripture at Bungendore Public School on Tuesday afternoons. As part of their mission, they also visit those who are elderly, sick, or in need of company and prayer. They would like to extend this mission to include members of the Bungendore Parish community from 3:30pm on Tuesdays. If you, or someone you know, would like a visit from the Sisters, please contact Sr Marie-Louise on 0476 038 276 or 02 6297 1296.

Position Vacant—Pambula - Parish Officer

People are invited to apply for the position of Parish Officer for the Catholic Parishes of Pambula including Our Lady Star of the Sea Eden, St Joseph's Merimbula and St Peter's Pambula. This is a permanent part time position of 12 hours per week and will be based in the Parish Office, Merimbula. There may be some travel between parishes when required. Employment conditions are subject to Clerks Award. For a copy of the Duty Statement please email the Parish Office pambula@cg.org.au Applications addressing the Selection Criteria and current CV to be sent to Leanne Boyd, Parish Support Manager leanne.boyd@cg.org.au by CoB 12 December 2025.

Christmas Mass Collection for 2025 Archbishops Christmas Appeal Support is Needed!

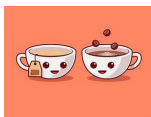
Help *life saving assistance to displaced people or people under threat of displacement whether from war or, climate change in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, female access to education in Pakistan* as well as *student assistance in the Middle East*. Communities in India, Africa and Timor Leste along with local works by The Farm in Galong and The Home in Queanbeyan will also be assisted. Donations can also be sent to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.

BUNGENDORE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Helen Jewell
 David Bishop
 Jenny Amey
 Chris Murdock
 Catherine Mueller

BUNGENDORE PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Greg Darmody
 Michele Murdock
 Richard Konarski
 Ian Cusack
 Stephen Dunkerley

LITURGICAL ROSTER**Sunday 14th December 2025 8:30 am****R1; R2: Julie-Ann Snudden & Volunteer****Minister of the Altar: Chris Murdoch****Welcomer: Julie-Ann Snudden****Offertory: Pauline Segeri & Julie-Ann Snudden****Sunday 21st December 2025 8:30 am****R1; R2: Volunteers needed please****Minister of the Altar: Anna Melek****Welcomer: Julie-Ann Snudden****Offertory:****Social Sunday - 21st December**

Please stay for a cuppa.

St Mary's Liturgical and Cleaning Rosters 2026

Liturgical and Cleaning Rosters are due to be updated for 2026. If you do not wish to continue or need to make changes, please advise Bernadette by email (bungendore@cg.org.au) asap. More volunteers would be very welcome for both rosters.

Thank you - your time and participation is appreciated!

Wednesday & Friday @ St Mary's

9:00am Mass followed by Rosary. Join us after at The Gathering for a cuppa on Wednesday.

Church Cleaning

December: Tess Montesin
 & Rene Mallia

January: Julie-Ann Snudden
 & Caroline Gibson

Thank you!

**Plaques for Memorial Wall**

We are taking orders for plaques for the memorial wall.

Please contact the office for more details.

The format shown here will be the one used.

**REFLECTION by Michael Tate****The Right Question**

John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. *Those* are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.

© Fr Michael Tate (mtate@bigpond.com)



The Parish of St Mary's, Bungendore and the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. We endeavour to create safe spaces where we can have meaningful conversations with children and adults at risk about their safety. If you wish to discuss something with our Safeguarding Representative please talk to Sarah Dunkerley or confidentially email: bungendore.safeguarding@cg.org.au You may also wish to contact Maria Hicks (Manager) Institute for Professional Standards & Safeguarding 6239 9806 / ipss@cg.org.au