



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 21 December 2025, Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

### **BUNGENDORE PARISH TEAM**

**Fr Sijo Jose** : 0470 110 189 email: [sijo.jose@cg.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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. (*The office will be closed between 22/12/2025—7/1/2026*)

Please email your enquiries.

### **BUNGENDORE, BRAIDWOOD and REGION MASS TIMES**

**Bungendore** : Sunday 8:30am; **Weekday Mass**: Wednesday and Friday 9:00am **No Mass this Wednesday (24th)**

**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 **No Mass at Hoskinstown on January 4th 2026**

### **Christmas Message from Fr Sijo**

I wish a Holy and Blessed Christmas and Peaceful New Year to all.

I would like to thank all of our parishioners for your commitment to our parish over the years. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. And a special thank you to the devoted members of the various ministry's in our parish and especially to those who work quietly behind the scenes.

For many, Christmas is the time for coming home to family and friends. It is important to be close to those who are dear to us.

Let us also come home to the Holy Family as we gather at the Crib. God will fill us with His peace if there is room in our lives for Him.

May the Love, Joy and Peace of Baby Jesus be in your hearts and your homes.

May 2026 prove to be a brighter and happier year!

Fr Sijo



**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](mailto: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**

Cf Isaiah 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**First Reading**

Isaiah 7:10-14

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

*The virgin will conceive*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:  
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God, too?  
The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.  
It is this: the maiden is with child  
and will soon give birth to a son  
whom she will call Immanuel,  
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter;  
he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

**Second Reading**

Romans 1:1-7

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his

resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**

Matthew 1:18-24

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*  
*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,  
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

**Communion Antiphon**

Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.



## 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



### Christmas Masses Liturgical Roster

If you are able to participate in the Christmas Liturgy, please fill in the Liturgical roster located in the Church foyer. Thank you.

### Christmas Carols—Hoskinstown, 6:00pm, this Sunday

Everyone is welcome to participate in Christmas carols at St Peter & Paul's Church on Sunday 21st (this Sunday) 6:00pm. Supper will be served in the hall after carols. Please join us.

### Confessional Refurbishments

A big thank you to Richard Konarski for the wonderful refurbishments to the confessional, bringing it into line with current legislative requirements. The area is now more spacious and comfortable. Confession will be available this Sunday after Mass, in preparation for Christmas.

### 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](http://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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:leanne.boyd@cg.org.au) by CoB 9 January 2026.

### 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.

### 31 December | New Year's Eve MMP Prayer Vigil

New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil, Marian Movement of Priests: at Sacred Heart Church, Pearce Wednesday 31 December 2025. Eucharistic Adoration starts at 8pm, with Rosary on the hour (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful & Glorious). Concludes with Benediction at midnight- we receive two plenary Indulgences as we pray the Te Deum & Veni Creator.

**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 21st December 2025 8:30 am**

R1; R2: Volunteer/s requested please  
Minister of the Altar: Anna Melek  
Welcomer: Julie-Ann Snudden  
Offertory:

**Sunday 28th December 2025 8:30 am**

R1; R2: David Bishop & Alison Bishop  
Minister of the Altar: Thomas Konarski  
Welcomer: Julie-Ann Snudden  
Offertory: Jenny Amey & Helen Jewell

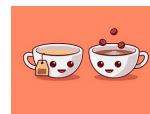
**Church Cleaning**

December: Tess Montesin  
& Rene Mallia  
January: Julie-Ann Snudden  
& Caroline Gibson  
Thank you!



**Social Sunday - 21st December**

Please stay for a cuppa.



**Wednesday & Friday @ St Mary's**

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

**St Mary's Liturgical and Cleaning Rosters 2026**

Liturgical and Cleaning Rosters for 2026 will be available for collection from the Church foyer. Thank you - your time and participation is appreciated!

**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.**

**GOSPEL REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living.

©Dianne Bergant CSA



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](mailto: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](mailto:ipss@cg.org.au)