



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



PARISH BULLETIN: Second Sunday of Advent, Year A, 14 December 2025



PARISH VISION STATEMENT 2004



“Created by God, Loved by Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit ... We come together inspired by our patrons, St Mary the Virgin and St Joseph, her husband, to worship, study and serve.”

St Mary's Bombala
St Joseph's Delegate
St Peter's Corrowong

PARISH CONTACTS

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Please assist the team by having items in by Wednesday pm.



PRAYER INTENTIONS

POPES INTENTION DECEMBER

For Christians in areas of conflict



Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

We pray for the Australian community, that our seasonal gift-giving will be generous, waste-conscious and mindful of the poor.

We pray for the human family, that this week's United Nations' Days for migrants (18 December) and for human solidarity (20 December) will further Pope Leo's vision of a world fully shared by all.

We pray for rural dioceses and country parishes, including our own, that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, finding creative ways to build a vibrant community and proclaim the Gospel with renewed faith and hope.



We pray for those who are sick in our family & community, may they be able to see Christ's presence in their most difficult moments:

Christine Cowell, Lorna Thornton, Clive Cottrell, Joyce Crotty, John Liston, Roma Brownlie, Jenny Chaplin, John Elliott, Peter & Joyce Reed, Glad Hurley, Jim Parkes, Marilyn Holdsworth, Sr Margaret Maloney, Jen Farrell, Patricia Guthrie, Mary Anne Dillon, Terry Perkins, Kath Farrell, Val Perkins, Kim Peisley, Heather Whitby, Peter Hopkins, Marlene Kennedy.



PARISH CALENDAR

WED Mass Delegate MPS 11am
Mass Bombala 12.30pm

THU



Prayer Service for the Repose of the Soul of Tom Kennedy
St Mary's Bombala
1.30pm

SAT

Mass Delegate 3pm
Afternoon tea to follow in St Joseph's School Centre
Mass Bombala 5pm



REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

Recently Deceased

Tom Kennedy, Myra Bruce
Jim Peadon

December Anniversaries

Carol Badewitz, Vincent Crotty
Del Duffell, Tori Finnane
Emily Giblett, Kitty Guthrie
Nola Hehir, Jareth Hillyer
Brian Murphy, Toby Mustard
Brian Nash, Kevin O'Mara
Dot Ogilvy, Helen Parkes
Mort Smith, Jimmy Thompson
Jim Twigg



“We have loved them in Life:
Let us not forget them in death.”



“Let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation.”
Pope Francis



A journey with
SAINT MARY
of the Cross
MACKILLOP



Rest assured that I shall not forget any of you. (7.12.1899)
Never is God nearer to us than when danger threatens. (11.12.1880)
Forgive from your heart anyone who has pained you. (12.12.1890)
Death of Maggie MacKillop, Mary's sister, 13.12.1872.
Mary MacKillop returns to Sydney, December 1902.

CANDLE LITURGY

ADVENT WEEK 3 | THE THIRD CANDLE IS PINK AND REPRESENTS JOY

CELEBRANT/LEADER: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us - in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations - or our memories - push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share. (Three candles are lit• 1 pink and 2 purple)

ALL: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: You created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. AMEN



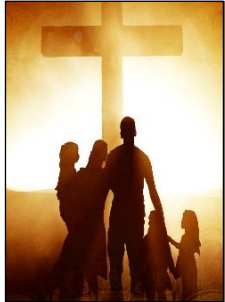
FINDING GOD IN OUR WORLD

A summons

Let's actively embody the Good News this December through acts of kindness, compassion and service.

Daily Prayer Intention – We pray for our parish community as this new church year begins, that it will be blessed with a lively Advent spirit of peace, hope and joy.

Weekly Prayer Intention - We pray for all who wield authority in the world, that guided by God's Spirit they will care for creation and be instruments of peace.



Prayer of the Faithful



Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer

CELEBRANT/LEADER: Dear friends, Jesus calls us to open our eyes to God's saving work in our world. Let us pray with him for a new heaven and a new earth.

READER: For health services supporting persons with any form of disability, that they will affirm their dignity and gifts and assist them to take their rightful place in the community. We pray to the Lord. (R)

For all who care for nature, that their active love of creation will bear fruit in a healthy habitat for all living things. We pray to the Lord. (R)

For all who are confined in physical or mental prisons, that they will not succumb to doubt or despondency but hold fast to resolute hope. We pray to the Lord. (R)

For one another, that we will grow ever more prayerful and peaceful through the remaining days of the Advent season. We pray to the Lord. (R)

For the sick among our parish community and for all who have sought our prayers, may they find strength comfort, and healing. For those who have recently passed from this life and those whose anniversaries we commemorate at this time. May they be lifted to the glory of the Risen Lord and rest in eternal peace. We pray to the Lord. (R)

For Our Lady's intercession for all our needs and especially for the people in war torn places. We pray **Hail Mary...**

CELEBRANT/LEADER: Faithful God, in Christ Jesus your Son you make all things new. Dispel our doubts, refresh our hope, and help us show your glory to the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

LOOKING BACK 110 YEARS AGO

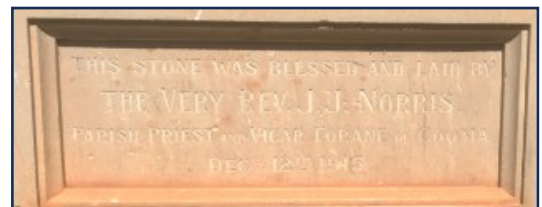
Laying of Foundation Stone – New Church Delegate

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, DELEGATE.

THE FOUNDATION STONE of the new Church will be LAID and BLESSED by Rev. Father Norris, P. P., V.F., on SUNDAY NEXT, 12th December, at 3 p.m.

EVERYONE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BE PRESENT.

FRANK H. MULLANE,
Hon Secretary.



Human Rights Day often draws attention to injustice more than to the rights people already enjoy. The media regularly highlights stories of suffering and unfair treatment. When compared with extreme abuses in other countries, Australians can be grateful for their freedoms. At the same time, it challenges us to better respect human rights at home. War and armed conflict are the greatest destroyers of human rights. Civilians suffer through death, displacement, ruined education and broken economies. Even after wars end, corruption and poverty often continue to deny basic rights. Human rights are more than entitlements, they define duties and relationships in society. Rights can come into conflict and must be resolved fairly for the common good. Ultimately, human rights remind us that justice depends on mutual respect and cooperation.

HYMNS - ONE LICENSE 3642645A

1. Bring Forth the Kingdom *Marty Haugen*

1. You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavour of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God!

**Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!**

2. You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God!

2. A New Heart for a New World *Trish Watts, Monica O'Brien*

**Refrain: Create a new heart, holy Lord,
Beckon our lives through your word, Open our eyes to
your call,
United as one for your world.
Heighten our minds to your thoughts, Heal us of pride and
of hurt,
May we go forth in your name, We pray our hearts change.**

1. The heart of the cross lowly and poor, calls us on.
Lord, it is you promising hope, promising truth. **R**

2. Restless the hearts who yearn for your peace in this land.
Deepen the dream, justice brings life, justice redeems. **R**



- **17 December:** Mass Delegate MPS 11am
- Graduation Mass 12.30pm Bombala
- **18 December:** Last Day of the 2025 School Year
- **24 December:** Christmas Mass Delegate 4.30pm
& Bombala 6.30pm
- **New Years Eve:** Mass Bombala 9.30am

The Names of Churches – A Patron Saint

Across centuries, wherever a church was built, a patron saint had to be chosen. The saint was chosen as a spiritual guardian, an example of faith to follow, and a heavenly intercessor to pray for the people of that church. The name was never just a label, it was a commitment to live by the values that saint represented.

Again and again, many people chose the same three.

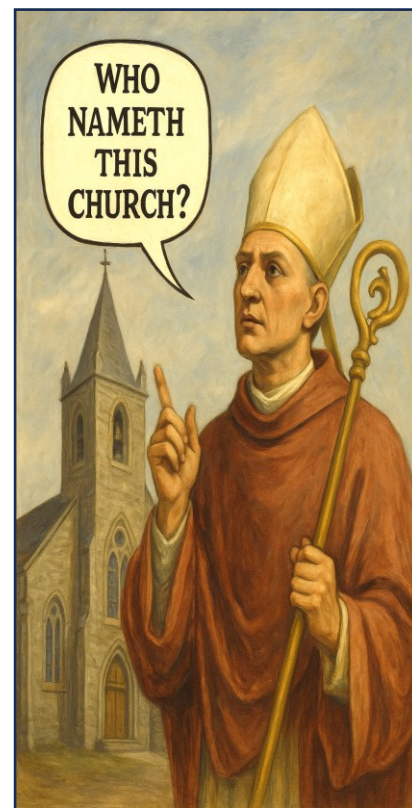
They chose **Saint Mary** when the world felt uncertain, when children needed protection, and when faith needed tenderness. Her patronage came to mean comfort, trust and a church that feels like home.

They chose **Saint Joseph** when work was hard and life was fragile. A quiet man of strength and faithfulness, his patronage became the symbol of steady hands and honest labour.

They chose **Saint Peter** when courage and leadership were needed. A man who stumbled, repented and rose again, his patronage stands for perseverance and strength of faith.

So across the world, without any grand plan, the same three patron saints keep being chosen.

And how fitting, even ironic, that the three churches of our own small parish, **St Mary's Bombala, St Joseph's Delegate** and **St Peter's Corrowong**, carry the very same three names that are the most cherished and most chosen across the entire world.



BOMBALA-DELEGATE CATHOLIC PARISH - IN THE MONARO MISSION Country of the Bidwell, Ngarigo and Yuin People



The inaugural Catholics to settle in the region arrived in 1826 as designated servants, primarily convicts. The community's foundation expanded with the influx of Scottish, Irish and subsequently German immigrants starting in 1833. Father Patrick Newman assumed the role of the first resident priest in 1864, succeeding a period during which priests were dispatched from Queanbeyan and Cooma. Churches were erected to serve the growing Catholic population, including St Mary's Bombala in 1867 & 1942, St Joseph's Delegate 1877 & 1915, St John's Cathcart in 1878 and St Peter's Corrowong in 1894. Educational institutions also emerged with privately Catholic schools opening between 1866 and 1886, followed by the establishment of Catholic schools in Bombala in 1886 and Delegate in 1921. In 1888, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart (North Sydney) co-founded by St Mary MacKillop, arrived, embarking on a continuous ministry that spanned 134 years. Monaro & South Coast Parishes transitioned from the Sydney Archdiocese to the Goulburn Diocese in 1917 and later to the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn in 1948. The first local priestly vocation was Fr Ernest Baragy, ordained as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart in 1941. The Parish of Delegate operated independently from 1955 to 1973. Significant events marked parish history in 2008, including the arrival of the World Youth Day Cross & Icon and the Consecration of St Mary's Church Bombala following extensive repairs and restoration. St Joseph's Church Delegate commemorated its Centenary in 2015.



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

14 December 2025

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

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.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

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 Jas 5:7-10

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 Is 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 Mt 11:2-11

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.'



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

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