



Bombala-Delegate Catholic Parish



PARISH BULLETIN: Second Sunday of Advent, Year A, 7 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



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 all the baptised, that their love and peace will draw many into the freedom they enjoy as the children of God.

We pray for students graduating from secondary school or higher education, that they will make wise choices about their future path in life.

We pray for people whose dignity is denied by injustice, oppression or abuse, that this week's observance of Human Rights Day (10 December) will give them new hope of redress.

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 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, Tom Kennedy.



PARISH CALENDAR

MON Immaculate Conception



TUE *Saint Juan Diego*

WED **Mass Bombala 9.30am**

Our Lady of Loreto

THU *Saint Damasus*

FRI *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

SAT **LW&HC Delegate 5pm**

Saint Lucy

SUN **LW&HC Bombala 9am**

PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST

Father Mark Croker

02 6452 2062

ASSISTANT PRIEST

-

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

02 6458 3776

School Principal

Mrs Susan Tighe

PARISH COUNCIL

-

PARISH WEBSITE

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PARISH BULLETIN

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



REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

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.”**



**“In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human success, but rather on how much we have loved.”
Saint John of the Cross**



A journey with
SAINT MARY
of the Cross
MACKILLOP



Let us love and praise God in all. 9.7.1873
I want, first of all, to find you in peace and unity. 26.4.1873
Happy indeed is the love of God and the true religious peace
I hope will be yours. 7.12.1899
God is all goodness and love. 2.1.1880

CANDLE LITURGY



ADVENT WEEK 2 | THE SECOND CANDLE IS PURPLE AND REPRESENTS PEACE

CELEBRANT/LEADER: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

ALL: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God's creation.

CELEBRANT/LEADER: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

ALL: AMEN *(Light the second candle of the Advent wreath)*

FINDING GOD IN OUR WORLD

We are all precious

Jesus showed people with disabilities they were precious in God's eyes, and in doing so demonstrated the response he wanted Christians to follow.

Daily Prayer Intention - 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 - for those who have sought refuge in Australia but remain without support and security, that their dream of making a new life here will be fulfilled without further delay.

Prayer of the Faithful



Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer

CELEBRANT/LEADER: Dear friends, baptised by Christ with the Holy Spirit and fire, let us pray that all people will see the salvation of God.

READER: For the prophets who challenge the world to change its ways, that their call to conversion will help save life on earth. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For our parish community, that Monday's feast of the Immaculate Conception will be an occasion of joy and renewed faith in the power of grace. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For all whose loving relationships have ended in divorce or separation, that with the aid of family and friends they will be free to make a fresh start. We pray to the Lord. **(R)**

For emergency service personnel as the summer season commences. May they succeed in their task of keeping the community safe. 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: Saving God, you bless us each year with this season of hope. Renew in us, we pray, the trusting faith of Mary, the mother of Jesus. We ask this through him, Christ our Lord. **AMEN**



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Monaro Mission

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Offered after Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE: 24 DECEMBER

ST JOSEPH'S BERRIDALE 4PM

ST JOSEPH'S DELEGATE 4.30PM

ST PATRICK'S COOMA 6PM

ST ANDREW'S NIMMITABEL 6PM

ST MARY'S BOMBALA 6.30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY: 25 DECEMBER

ST MARY'S ADAMINABY 8AM

ST PATRICK'S COOMA 10AM

ST COLUMBKILLE'S JINDABYNE 10AM

4th Sunday 27 & 28 December 2025

Sat: LW&HC Delegate 5pm

Sun: LW&HC Bombala 9am

31 December 2025

New Years Eve: Mass Bombala 9.30am



One evening, a businessman stopped for the night at a little country pub near London called **The George and Dragon**. He asked the lady at reception if they were still serving meals. "No!" she snapped. "Meals stop at 8pm sharp. Not even a sandwich after that!" The man sighed, "Alright then... what about breakfast in my room tomorrow morning?" "Absolutely not!" she barked. "Breakfast is at 7.30am in the dining room. Prompt. No exceptions." The man paused for a moment and then asked quietly... "Okay... any chance I could have a quick word with George?"

ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT & SCHOOL NIMMITABEL

An application is being prepared to ask for permission to sell St Joseph's Convent and the adjoining St Joseph's School building in Nimmitabel.

If you have any comments on this proposal, please speak with Fr Mark, or with Chris Haylock on 0400 737 772, or any other member of the Nimmitabel Parish.

HYMNS - ONE LICENSE 3642645A

1. Christ Be Our Light *Bernadette Farrell*

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see. *R*

**Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice. *R*

2. Be Not Afraid *St Louis Jesuits*

1. You shall cross the barren desert, But you shall not die of thirst,
You shall wander far in safety, Though you do not know the way,
You shall speak your words to foreign men, And they will understand,
You shall see the face of God and live. *R*

**Refrain: Be not afraid, I go before you always
Come, follow me and I will give you rest**

2. If you pass through raging waters in the sea, You shall not drown,
If you walk amid the burning flames, You shall not be harmed,
If you stand before the power of hell, And death is at your side,
Know that I am with you through it all. *R*

3. Open My Eyes, Lord *Jesse Manisuban*

1. Open my eyes, Lord, Help me to see Your face
Open my eyes, Lord, Help me to see
2. Open my ears, Lord, Help me to hear Your voice
Open my ears, Lord, Help me to hear
3. Open my heart, Lord, Help me to love like You
Open my heart, Lord, Help me to love
4. I live within you, Deep in your heart, oh, love
I live within you, Rest now in me.

4. Sing A New Song *Dan Schutte*

**Refrain: Sing A New Song Unto The Lord;
Let Your Song Be Sung From Mountains High.
Sing A New Song Unto The Lord, Singing Alleluia.**

1. Yahweh's People Dance For Joy. O Come Before The Lord,
And Play For Him On Glad Tambourines, And Let Your Trumpet Sound. *R*
2. Rise, O Children, From Your Sleep; Your Saviour Now Has Come.
He Has Turned Your Sorrow To Joy And Filled Your Soul With Song. *R*



- **12 December:** SCC Street Stall
- **13 December:** Ecumenical Christmas Carols
St Philip's Anglican Church Delegate 11am
- **17 December:** Graduation Mass 12.30pm Bombala
- **18 December:** Last Day of the 2025 School Year

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We, the Parish of Bombala-Delegate, acknowledge with deep respect that we stand upon the traditional lands of the Bidwell, Ngarigo and Yuin peoples.

We recognise the enduring legacy of their culture, which continues to enrich the life and spirit of Australia.



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



Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

7 December 2025

First Reading Is 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the
land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the
Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

**(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the
scriptures was meant to teach us something about
hope from the examples scripture gives of how
people who did not give up were helped by God.
And may he who helps us when we refuse to give
up, help you all to be tolerant with each other,
following the example of Christ Jesus, so that
united in mind and voice you may give glory to the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat
each other in the same friendly way as Christ
treated you. The reason Christ became the servant
of circumcised Jews was not only so that God
could faithfully carry out the promises made to the
patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give
glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one
place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans
and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths:**

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he
preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was
his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven
is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet
Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair
with a leather belt round his waist, and his food
was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and
all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their
way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the
river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when
he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees
coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of
vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution
that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce
the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell
yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father,"
because, I tell you, God can raise children for
Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe
is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree
which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down
and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for
repentance, but the one who follows me is more
powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his
sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and
fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear
his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the
barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will
never go out.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

John proclaimed that the reign of
God was 'at hand' as he immersed
and plunged followers into the
waters of the Jordan River. (His
nickname was John the Immerser,
or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used
flowing water to symbolise the
washing away of the past for those
who repented so that they could be
totally focused on the 'at hand'
person who would inaugurate
God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not
identify the 'Someone'! But he
realised that this 'Someone' would
have divine power to affect the
future by immersing, baptising, his
followers with the Holy Spirit and
with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should
be like John's disciples, filled with
a sense of anticipation, looking
forward to the *coming towards us*
('Advent' in Latin) of the One who
can flood our minds and bodies
with the Holy Spirit and can
immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to
thank God that, even though we
are unworthy to carry His sandals,
there is One who is coming towards
us wanting to transform us with
Divine Power.

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