



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRES OF PAMBULA

Parish Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent, Year A 30 November 2025

Our mission as a Christian community of the Catholic Parish Centre's of Pambula is 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 others may experience the love of Christ. We acknowledge the Yuin people and honour Elders past, present and emerging, and all First Nations peoples worldwide.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest

Fr Kuriakose Chennelil Joseph MS (Fr Kose)
kose.joseph@cg.org.au
Phone: 0470 498 321

Parish Office

Open to the public on Wed & Fri from 10am-2pm

Parish Secretary

Su Chantler
Phone: 0435 036 236 or 02 6495 0683
Email: pambula@cg.org.au
Web: www.cg.org.au/pambula
Address: 79 Main Street / PO Box 249
Merimbula NSW 2548

Parish Centres

Merimbula: St Joseph's
Pambula: St Peter's
Eden: Our Lady Star of the Sea

Sisters of St Joseph

Sr Marie Carson

Parish Council Chair

Mrs Bernadette Wood

Liturgy Coordinator

Ms Sue Heffernan

Finance Chair

Mr Michael Wood

Parish Safeguarding Volunteer

Mr Philip Roach
pambula.safeguarding@cg.org.au

Lumen Christi Catholic College

Mr Shane Giles 02 6495 8888

PARISH INFORMATION

Reconciliation (Confession)

Merimbula: Friday before Mass,
Eden: Saturday before Vigil Mass
Pambula: Wednesday before Mass
At any other time by request

Anointing of the Sick

Merimbula: Friday 26 December 10am
Pambula: Wednesday 28 January 10am
Eden: Thursday 26 February 10am

Sacrament of Baptism

Families are warmly invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism in our parish. A Welcoming Mass is held on the 4th Saturday/Sunday of the month prior to Baptism, with the Baptism celebrated during Mass on the 1st Saturday/Sunday of the following month. For all enquiries and Baptism preparation arrangements, please contact the Parish Office.

Weddings

By appointment only: Minimum 6 months advance notice.

Adoration

Eden: Thursday 9am followed by Mass at 10am.
Merimbula: Friday 9am followed by Mass at 10am.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

Merimbula: Sunday 9:30am & Friday 9am

Rosary

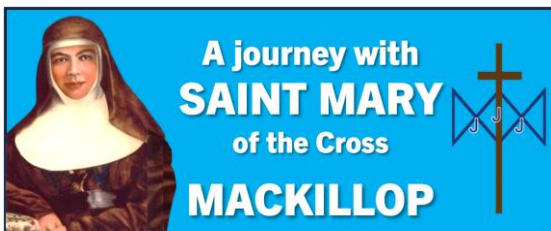
Merimbula: Cenacle & Holy Hour 11am Monday
Pambula: Wednesday 9:30am

Forgive and Be Forgiven

A synodal Church is built on forgiveness. We are called to forgive one another and also to ask forgiveness when we fall short. Mercy strengthens our community.
Reflection: Who do I need to forgive, and where do I need to seek forgiveness?
Prayer: Lord, teach me to forgive as You forgive me.

PARISH CALENDAR/MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 5pm Merimbula
Wednesday: 10am Pambula
Thursday: 10am Eden
Friday: 10am Merimbula
Saturday: 5.30pm Eden
Sunday: 8am Pambula
10am Merimbula



A journey with
SAINT MARY
of the Cross
MACKILLOP

Our crosses are a little heavy, but God, our own good God, gives courage under them. (25.11.1871)
Be full of forgiveness, hope and love. (26.11.1873)
We are but travellers here. (27.11.1866)
I am full of hope in God who has been so good to us all (28.11.1898)
God's work does not depend on any of us. (28.11.1898)
Keep up your courage. (30.11.1868)

COMING EVENTS/NOTICES

Aged Care Facility Mass

11 December 11.30am Uniting Age Care, Eden
16 December 2pm Albert Moore Gardens, Merimbula
18 December 11.30am Imlay House, Pambula

New Parishioners

Could anyone new to the Parish contact the Parish Office or Fr Kose, so that the Parish has your contact details. Thank you.

Volunteers Needed

Flower Arrangements – If you would like to assist, please contact Ruth Smith on 0427 441 287, Parish Office or Fr Kose. Thank you.

Looking for daily inspiration in the New Year?

“God’s Word Daily Reflections 2026” is now available. You can purchase a copy for \$20 at the Parish Office or by contacting Fr Kose.

Special Note

No weekday masses in this week (From 1-5 December)
Fr Kose is away as his mother is unwell. Please keep them in your prayers.



Weekend Masses will remain the same.

SOLEMNITIES/FEAST DAYS

8 December (Monday) Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

25 December (Thursday) The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

26 December (Friday) St Stephen, the first martyr

27 December (Saturday) St John, apostle, evangelist

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

1. The Circle — God’s Endless Love

The wreath is a circle with no beginning or end. It reminds us that God’s love is eternal, and His mercy never runs out.

2. Evergreen Leaves — Hope That Never Fades

The wreath is made from evergreens, which stay green even in winter. They symbolise Christian hope and the life that Christ brings, even when life feels cold or difficult.

3. The Four Candles — Our Journey to Christmas

Each candle represents one of the four Sundays of Advent. Lighting them slowly, week by week, teaches us to wait patiently for the Lord.

- 1st Candle – Hope (“Prophet’s Candle”)
- 2nd Candle – Peace (“Bethlehem Candle”)
- 3rd Candle – Joy (Rose-coloured, “Shepherds’ Candle”)
- 4th Candle – Love (“Angels’ Candle”)

4. The Increasing Light — Christ Is Near

As each candle is lit, the light grows. This shows that the nearer we come to Christmas, the nearer Christ comes into our lives. His light overcomes darkness.

5. The Centre Candle (optional) — Christ Candle

A white candle lit at Christmas represents Jesus Himself—pure, bright, and the true Light of the World.

The Advent wreath reminds us to pause, pray, and prepare: Make room for Christ in our hearts and homes. Slow down in the busy season. Bring light to others through kindness and forgiveness. Keep hope alive even in struggles.



PRAYER INTENTIONS



We pray for all the faithful departed or whose anniversaries occur including:

Max Andrew, Henk Westerlaken, Michael Picker, Marjory Townsend, Sr Mary Ellen, Sr Martina Sarkins rsj, Dani Sou, Sr Johanna Pieban rsj, Sr Sheila Conliffe rsj, Sr Francine Caesar rsj, Sr Jacqueline rsj, Gerry Coyle, Jeff Paffen, Sr Helena Hill rsj, John Kennelly, Eilis Copas, Cristina Embac, Giulio Rech, Sandra Gray, Grace Family, Giuseppina Gianfrotta, Ros & Ruby Hain, Shirley Aldridge, Lynette Robert, JGanette Robert

Let us pray for and support those who are sick and for all who have asked for our prayers:

Damien Lambourn, Pat Wong, John Liston, Jocelyn Petty, Ros Beveridge, Mary Scanlan, Anne Cooper, Monica Paffen, Murray Beveridge
(The list will be refreshed every first week of the month.
If you would like the names to continue, please inform the Parish office via email or phone)

COLLECTIONS

Last Week Collection:

First: \$973.60 - Support Clergy in Parish & Archdiocese
Second: \$605.65 - Support running the Parish

Planned Giving Collections:

THANK YOU to ALL parishioners who continually support our Parish through our plate collections at Mass, through the envelopes and direct banking. Without your financial help our Parish could not continue to function.

Catechism Corner

Week 3 — What Is the Eucharist?

The Eucharist is Jesus Himself — truly present: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity — under the appearance of bread and wine.

It nourishes our soul, unites us with Christ, and builds the Church in love.

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven.”
— John 6:51

May we approach Holy Communion with reverence, gratitude, and faith

St Vincent de Paul Eden-Merimbula Conference Christmas Giving Trees 2025

The Vinnies Christmas trees are now installed in our churches. You are invited to take a tag from the tree and return your unwrapped gift of either a Christmas pudding or cake, by **Sunday 7 December**. Please remember that we can only accept commercially made products. These will be added to a hamper to make someone’s Christmas just that little bit brighter. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the vital work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.



November – Month of the Holy Souls

Envelopes are available at the entrance to all churches.



The Catholic Church dedicates November, starting with All Saints Day and All Souls Day, as the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory—those who died in grace but have yet to atone for all their sins. This reflects the Church's belief in the communion of saints, uniting us with those in heaven, purgatory and on earth. In November, Catholics are encouraged to pray for deceased loved ones and those who have no one to pray for them, reinforcing our unity in Christ. Pope Saint John XXIII expressed this beautifully, calling devotion to the dead "one of the most beautiful expressions of the Catholic spirit".

Special Mass in Merimbula Last Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

What a joy it was to come together last Sunday for our annual Parish Mass at St Joseph's, Merimbula, followed by a wonderful time of fellowship and a shared meal. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the Mass so special, with a special mention to our dedicated Liturgy and Music Ministry.

Not even the rain could dampen our spirits or the fun of the day! Thank you to all who brought along such a delicious variety of food—we were truly spoilt for choice. A big thank you to our BBQ chefs, Michael and Sue, to Amanda for keeping us supplied with tea and coffee—your generosity and skills were much appreciated. It was fantastic to see everyone mingling and enjoying each other's company, and all the helping hands made everything run smoothly. Thanks Steve and River.

A special thanks to Lumen Christi and Damian Kennedy for providing the tables and chairs, which made our day so comfortable. Thanks also to Fr Kose for the warm hospitality and use of his kitchen, and of course, thank you to the Parish Pastoral Council members for bringing this day together. We extend our sincere thanks to the Filipino community for their wonderful dance performance. A special thank you to Zera for her beautiful singing. Your contributions made the celebration extra special.

As we begin the new liturgical year this weekend with the 1st Sunday in Advent, we send our very best wishes for the coming year.

May God bless us all,

Pambula Pastoral Council – Bernadette Wood (Chair)



Vacancy for 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 Parish support Manager Leanne.Boyd@cg.org.au and cc: to Fr Kose Joseph, Parish Priest kose.joseph@cg.org.au by CoB 12 Dec 2025.

Essential Requirements for Parish Officer positions:

- Experience with database packages & Microsoft Suite
- Strong communication and liaison skills
- Strong organizational skills
- Ability to work on your own, as part of a team, and take direction
- Understand and administer areas of church and regulatory compliance (eg. Parish sacrament registers, Working with Vulnerable People, WHS, child protection, copyright)
- Understanding and respect for the Catholic Church and its teaching
- Current experience in an office environment.



Catholic Parish Centres of Pambula

Parish Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent, Year A

30 November 2025

First Reading Is 2:1-5

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: ‘Let us go to God’s house.’ And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel’s law it is, there to praise the Lord’s name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. (R.)
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: ‘Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!’ (R.)
4. For love of my brethren and friends I say: ‘Peace upon you!’ For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 13:11-14

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 24:37-44

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the gospel of Matthew. (Year B features the gospel of Mark and Year C, that we have just completed, features the gospel of Luke.) Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which literally means ‘coming’; it is also reflected in the Greek word *Parousia*, which is used to describe the second coming of Jesus. So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas. The gospel passage chosen for today’s reading richly expresses that anticipation and need for preparation.

It may seem a little confusing that we begin our year-long exploration of the gospel of Matthew by taking a reading from chapter 24. However, the need for readiness and alertness that Jesus speaks about in relation to the coming of the Kingdom is equally suitable for a modern audience when preparing to celebrate once again the coming of Jesus into the world. Jesus is the best expression of the Kingdom that we have yet experienced and so rather than seeing the choice of this passage as a confusion, we should recognise the alignment that exists between the anticipation of the Kingdom and the anticipation of the Nativity.

The two great feasts of Christianity – the Nativity and Easter – are each preceded by a period of preparation: Advent and Lent. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God become human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world.

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