



# CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRES OF PAMBULA

Parish Bulletin

**Third Sunday of Advent, Year A 14 December 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

Mrs 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 2 January 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

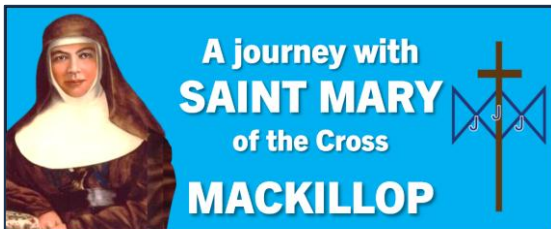
### Rosary

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



## 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**

Love charity more than ever. (7.12.1899)  
Help one another and bear with one another as God does with each of us. (7.12.1899)  
Happy indeed is the love of God and the true religious peace I hope will be yours. (7.12.1899)  
Rest assured that I shall not forget any of you. (7.12.1899)  
Make no reserves with God. (14.12.1890)

## COMING EVENTS/NOTICES

### Aged Care Facility Mass

16 December 2pm Albert Moore Gardens, Merimbula  
18 December 2pm Imlay House, Pambula – Ecumenical service for Christmas celebrations  
15 January 11.30am Uniting Age Care, Eden

### 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.

### No Mass

No Mass at 10am in Merimbula on **26 Dec 2025**

### Bible Discussion Group

The Monday Bible Discussion Group is taking a break over this busy period. Our weekly meetings will resume on Monday 19th January, as we continue our study of the Book of Leviticus. All are welcome to join us when we recommence. For further information, please contact Anne. 0408241230

## 3rd Sunday of Advent – Theme: Rejoice Always

Gaudete Sunday reminds us that joy is a gift from God, not just a feeling. Even when life is challenging, Christ brings a joy that lifts our spirit and strengthens us. The rose candle invites us to celebrate the nearness of the Lord. May this week be filled with small moments of joy that remind us that God is with us.

### No One Walks Alone

Faith is a journey we share. Synodality reminds us that we cannot follow Christ on our own. We need one another’s support, prayer, and encouragement.

Reflection: Who is walking with me in faith, and who might need me to walk with them?

Prayer: Lord, thank You for companions on the journey of faith.

## SOLEMNITIES/FEAST DAYS

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

**26 December (Friday)** St Stephen, the first martyr

**27 December (Saturday)** St John, apostle, evangelist



## PRAYER INTENTIONS



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

Giuseppina Gianfrotta, Ros & Ruby Hain, Shirley Aldridge, Lynette Robert, JGanette Robert, Murray Beveridge, Dragan Pelt, John Reynolds, Jenny Reynolds, Frank Elton

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

Pat Wong, John Liston, Jocelyn Petty, Ros Beveridge, Mary Scanlan, Anne Cooper, Monica Paffen, Garry Moorhead, Cristina Embac  
(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: \$1020.65 - Support Clergy in Parish & Archdiocese  
Second: \$630.00 - 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 5 — Why Is Mary Important?

Mary is the Mother of Jesus and our spiritual mother. She shows us perfect faith, humility, and trust in God. When we honour Mary, we honour the One who chose her — God Himself.

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.” — Luke 1:38

Let us learn from Mary to say “yes” to God each day with love and joy.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### 24 December (Wednesday)

**5pm** Christmas Vigil Mass at St.Joseph’s Church, Merimbula

**7pm** Christmas Eve Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Eden

### 25 December (Thursday)

**8am** Christmas Day Mass at St.Peter’s Church, Pambula

**10am** Christmas Day Mass at St.Joseph’s Church, Merimbula

## 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](mailto:pambula@cg.org.au) Applications addressing the Selection Criteria and current CV to be sent to Parish support Manager [Leanne.Boyd@cg.org.au](mailto:Leanne.Boyd@cg.org.au) and cc: to Fr Kose Joseph, Parish Priest [kose.joseph@cg.org.au](mailto:kose.joseph@cg.org.au) by CoB 9 Jan 2026.

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.

## Year 6 Graduation Mass at Lumen Christi Catholic Collage Pambula



## Lumen Christi Students join Vinnies to support families in need





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**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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