



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRES OF PAMBULA

Parish Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A 7 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 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

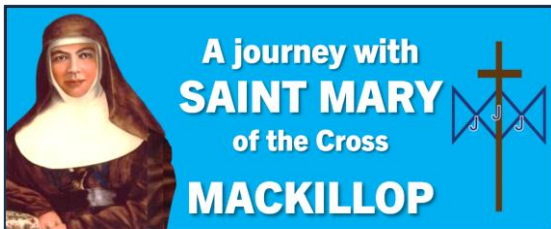
Merimbula: Cenacle & Holy Hour 11am Monday
Pambula: Wednesday 9:30am

Unity with Many Voices

A synodal Church holds unity and diversity together. We are one Body in Christ, yet each person brings unique gifts that enrich the whole community.
Reflection: Do I value the different voices and gifts in my parish?
Prayer: Holy Spirit, help us to be one in Christ while honouring our differences.

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

All is in the hands of God. (1.12.1881)
Mary MacKillop seriously ill in Melbourne, Victoria, 1891.
I would advise all to trust more to God, and of course, prayerfully to seek God's guidance. (1.12.1898)
May God bless you and keep you strong and help you in your anxieties. (3.12.1900)
Only what you will, my God. (1.12.1898)

COMING EVENTS/NOTICES

Aged Care Facility Mass

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

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.

Thank you note

Our Sincere thanks to **Fr Daniel** for offering the Masses while Fr Kose away. We are grateful for his assistance.

Lumen Christi Catholic Collage Year 6 Graduation Mass

We will celebrate the Year 6 Graduation Mass on **Tuesday, 9 Dec at 5.30pm** at Lumen Christi Catholic Collage. All are welcome.



No Mass

5pm Mass in Merimbula on **Tuesday 9** December

Pambula Merimbula Lions Carols by Candlelight

Join us for Carols by Candlelight on Friday, 12 December from 3pm - 9.00 pm at Sporting Complex, Pambula Beach Rd, Pambula Beach. Everyone is welcome!



Funeral Notice

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Dragan Pelt**, who has recently passed away. His funeral will be held on **Tuesday, 9 Dec** at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Eden at 12pm.

We also remember his family in our prayers during this time of loss.

May his soul rest in peace.



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



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

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)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – Claiming the Date

St Joseph’s Merimbula will be hosting the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6th March, 2026. Volunteers who are willing to assist with this special event are asked to register their names with Alice Elton or Anne Maddock, after the 10.00 Mass in Merimbula this Sunday, or phone Anne on 0408241230.

COLLECTIONS

Last Week Collection:

First: \$799.60 - Support Clergy in Parish & Archdiocese
Second: \$756.25 - 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

Catechism Corner

Week 4 — Why Do We Pray?

Prayer is our daily conversation with God — speaking and listening, thanking and trusting.

We pray not to change God’s mind but to let God change our hearts.

“Pray without ceasing.” — 1 Thess 5:17

Through prayer we grow closer to God and discover His peace in our lives.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

24 December (Wednesday)

5pm Children’s Christmas Eve 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

Significance of Decorating the House and Putting Stars for Christmas

Decorating our homes for Christmas is more than making the place look beautiful. It is a way of preparing our hearts and our families to welcome Jesus. When we clean, arrange, and decorate, we are reminded to prepare our inner life as well by letting go of worries, forgiving, and making space for peace and joy.

The Christmas star has a special meaning. It reminds us of the Star of Bethlehem that guided the Wise Men to Jesus. The star we hang outside our house is our way of saying, "Christ is welcome here." It becomes a small light of hope for others, especially during the dark days of the year. The star also tells the world that our home chooses to shine with faith, love, and hospitality.

Decorations, lights, and stars create an atmosphere of warmth. They bring families together and remind children that Christmas is a season of wonder. But deeper than that, every light we hang is a symbol of Christ, the Light of the World, who enters our homes and lives with His peace.

So, when we decorate our houses, we are not just celebrating a festival, we are preparing a place for Jesus, sharing joy with our neighbors, and keeping the message of Christmas alive in our community.



2nd Sunday of Advent – Theme: Prepare the Way

John the Baptist calls us to clear the path for the Lord. This preparation is not about busy schedules but about making space in our hearts. A kind word, a forgiving spirit, a simple act of charity—these open the road for Christ. As we light the second candle, may we ask the Lord to prepare our hearts for His peace.

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

Heartfelt thanks to all who have so generously donated a Christmas Pudding or Cake to this year's appeal. The students at Lumen Christi Catholic College have been collecting non-perishable food items to make up hampers for families who need a 'hand up' this Christmas. Your donations will be added to each hamper to make it something really special. All members of the Eden-Merimbula Conference wish you a very happy, holy and safe Christmas, and may God bless you all.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2025

This appeal will be conducted after Mass next weekend, 14/15 December. There will be envelopes available at the church entrances, which can be returned with your donation and placed in the second collection. Please do not post the envelope, or your donation will not be credited as having been raised in this community. Vinnies members will also have a bucket collection at the end of Mass. Did you know that 3.3 million people in Australia are currently living in poverty? Your gift can help ease the pressure on struggling families by providing food, clothing and financial assistance to cover rent, utility bills and other essentials like medicines. Your continued support is greatly appreciated, thank you





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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 lion 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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