



Historic Parish of St Augustine, Yass

Established: 1838

Bowning, Breadalbane, Dalton, Gunning, Gurrundah, Murrumbateman, Wee Jasper and Yass

Meehan Street, PO Box 24, YASS NSW 2582

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E-mail: yass@cg.org.au Website: www.stauga-yass.org.au

ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH VISION STATEMENT

St Augustine's Parish is a community striving to be Christ to one another and to welcome and serve the Christ in those around us. We seek ongoing spiritual formation as individuals, as families and as a community. We hope, through pastoral care, to strengthen, support and enrich one another and reach out to others in witness and evangelisation.

Parish Priest	Father	Mick Burke
Youth Worker	Georgia	Breynard
Chair Finance Committee	Paul	O'Mara
Chair Parish Council	Joe	Morrissey
Principal of the School	Michael	Green
School Community Council	Amber	Maher
Sacramental Team Leader	Dianne	Carey
RCIA	Sister	Aileen
Parish Office	Zuzy	Webster
	<i>Monday and Wednesday 9:00am – 3:00pm</i>	
Parish Bulletin	Bianca	Nash
	<i>Friday 9:30am – 3:30pm</i>	

SUNDAY MASSES:

Yass:	<i>St Augustine</i>	
Vigil Saturday		6:00 pm
Gunning:	<i>St Francis Xavier</i>	
1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Sunday		8:30 am
5 th Sunday	Liturgy of the Word and HC	8:30 am
Murrumbateman:	<i>Uniting Church Hall</i>	
1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Sunday		10:30 am
5 th Sunday	Liturgy of the Word and HC	10:30 am
Wee Jasper:	<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	
5 th Sunday		10:00 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Wednesday	Yass	5:30 pm
Thursday	Yass	7:30 am
Friday	Yass	12:00 noon
Saturday	Yass	9:00 am

Nursing Home/Hostel

Thomas Eccles Gardens (Linton)		
2 nd Tues (monthly)	Yass	11:00 am

Horton/Warminsteron

4 th Tues (monthly)	Yass	11:00 am
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Parishioners are invited to celebrate Mass with the residents at both locations.

Exposition

Saturday after 9:00am Mass until 10:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday Yass 10:00am, 5:00pm – 5:15pm

Sunday Gunning 8:00am – 8:15 am

At other times: On request

Baptisms

Yass Saturdays 10:30 am
3rd & 4th Sundays 12:15 pm

Gunning Parish 1st Sunday 8:30 am & 12:30 pm

Book by ringing the Parish Secretary (Mon, Wed. or Fri.)

Marriages

By appointment. Five to six months notice ideal.

School Enrolments

Mt Carmel Central School: Kindergarten to Yr 6. Ring the School Secretary for appointment (02) 6226 3357.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

8th & 9th December 2018



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

PARISH PRAYER

Lord God, may we, as St Augustine's Parish, be a united and welcoming community recognising the need for Christ in our lives and serving the Christ in others. May we, as community, continue to face challenges together serving and supporting individuals and our families through our own personal efforts and our parish support groups. Guide us with your patient love. Fill us with your infinite Wisdom. Pour out your rich blessings upon us as we reach out to one another to fulfil our spiritual and pastoral needs as One in Christ, in community, and in faith, hope and love. AMEN.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Thoughts from the Presbytery



FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Thu: St Lucy

Fri: St John of the Cross

The people on the parish email list should have received the results of the survey, towards the Plenary Council 2020, by now. We will also print in the bulletin a summary of the findings. Thanks to Paul Trezise, we have an excellent insight into the concerns of the respondents.

Those parishioners contributing to our Sacrificial Planned Giving program will receive new envelopes in the next two weeks. There are a significant number who prefer direct giving. I do encourage all parishioners to share the burden of ongoing costs and maintenance, at the same time, expressing gratitude for the generosity of those who contribute. Our budget is very tight, because income hasn't increased in many years but expenses continue to rise.

At the Yass/Gunning Belun meeting this past week we decided to concentrate on the clinics dealing with TB and leprosy. We also sponsored twelve young people to study permaculture in Dili and continue to advocate for the blind. We are looking at a partnership with the Embassy of Japan to build the training centre in Tibar for the blind.

Graduation Mass for Mount Carmel School will be held at 9:45am on the 18th December.

John's baptism was not a proselyte baptism, converting Gentiles into Jews. In proselyte baptism, the Gentile would be immersed in a body of water (called a *mikveh*), to symbolize death and burial to his Gentile past, and then would be raised up from the water to symbolize being "born again," raised to a new life as a Jew. This baptism symbolized turning from the past and turning toward a new life with God in the future. And what was repentance? It was a turning from the new Jew's pattern of sin in the past and turning toward God. John's baptism offered to Jews, was, thus extraordinary. It was a "baptism of repentance," a baptism for the forgiveness of sins committed by those who were Jews already, and it required repentance (*metanoeo*, a change of being), which implied a turning around to proceed in a new direction. True repentance is not just a 180 degree turn from the sin, but an all-out, full bore, frantic sprint back toward God. ["Our basic problem is a heart problem. We need to get the heart changed, the heart transformed" (Rev. Billy Graham).] John, then, was inviting the Chosen people to be purified of the unholy elements in their lives. Fulfilling the prophetic words of Isaiah, John the Baptist' preaching assisted in ensuring that in the lives of everyone who was baptized, "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth" (Lk 3:5). Isaiah was referring to mountains of pride and arrogance and valleys of discouragement and despair. As with Baruch, John presents an image of the mountains and valleys being made flat and smooth as a sign of Israel's repentance and moral transformation.

Indian Bishops Conference

Today, just like in John's time, there are a lot of paths out there. And many paths are promoted that lead people away from God. Drug and alcohol use. Sex before marriage. Gang lifestyle. Those are a few paths some people promote or accept. Each one can lead to what seems like good things at first. But eventually, statistics show, these paths lead to dead ends like broken relationships, single teen parenthood, addiction, violence, or jail.

God wants much more for you. So God has sent you people like John the Baptist. People that can live happy and healthy lives while changing the world. People that point to paths that will lead you to be all God knows you can be, if you watch or listen

Parish Finance Committee Members:

Bill	Luchetti	Father	Mick Burke
Stan	Waldren	David	Garland
Mark	Valencic	Paul	O'Mara
Trish	Gibbs	Irene	Carr (<i>Minutes</i>)

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Georgia	Breynard (<i>Youth</i>)	Peter	Cleary (<i>Liturgy</i>)
Bryan	Coleborne (<i>Ecumenism</i>)	Michael	Green (<i>School</i>)
<i>Vacant</i>	(<i>Education</i>)	Steve	Scroope (<i>Social</i>)
Bob	Nash (<i>Maintenance</i>)	Michael	Van Wanrooy (<i>Welfare</i>)
<i>Ex Officio Member:</i> Fr Mick Burke		Sarah Johnston (<i>Social Justice</i>)	

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Vigil	5:30pm	St. Francis Xavier, Gunning
	7:00pm	St. Augustine's, Yass
	8:30pm	Murrumbateman Rec Hall
25 th December	8:00am	St. Augustine's, Yass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

24th December 6:00pm (Communal Celebration)

The Jordan River was the place that represented the eastern border of the Promised Land, separating it from the desert — where the Jews had wandered aimlessly for 40 years after centuries of slavery in Egypt. By preaching his message there, John was inviting the Jews of his day to come out of the bondage of slavery, to leave their faults, their wandering and their sinful lives behind, and to enter into the Promised Land full of God's blessings. The Fathers of the Church have called the Sacrament of Reconciliation our "second baptism," in which we're brought back to the Jordan and cleansed interiorly as we were on the day of our Baptism. Advent, like Lent, is a season given to us so that we may repent of our sins and be reconciled with God and His Church by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was for this purpose that the Sacrament was instituted by Jesus after His Resurrection: "Receive the Holy Spirit: Those whose sins you forgive are forgiven; those whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20:18-22). It is for this on-going reconciliation, then, not just to "preach repentance and forgiveness of sins ... to all nations beginning from Jerusalem" (Lk 24:47), that Jesus sent His apostles and their successors out to the ends of the world.

Indian Bishops Conference

Oh, well, soap only works when it is applied.

A soap manufacturer and a pastor were walking together down a street in a large city. The soap manufacturer casually said, "The Gospel you preach hasn't done much good, has it? Just observe. There is still a lot of wickedness in the world, and a lot of wicked people, too!" The pastor made no reply until they passed a dirty little child making mud pies in the gutter. Seizing the opportunity, the pastor said, "I see that soap hasn't done much good in the world either; for there is much dirt still here, and many dirty people are still around." The soap man said, "Oh, well, soap only works when it is applied." And the pastor said, "Exactly! So, it is with the Gospel."

FOR SALE - SIDBOARD AND HUTCH.

Very clean and no marks. \$250 or nearest offer.
Available to view at the Hartigan Centre.
Contact: Bob Nash 0418 691 423

ST VINCENT DE PAUL - URGENT CALL FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERS

Vinnies Centres need volunteers able to work about 5, 4 hour shifts between the 22nd December and 1st of February.
Most Centres are open Monday – Saturday, public holidays excepted.
If you know someone who would be interested or if you are interested, please contact (02) 6234 7348 or by emailing volunteer@svdp-cg.org.au.



PLENARY COUNCIL – ST AUGUSTINE’S PARISH SURVEY RESPONSE

Response Rate & Type

A total of 64 responses were received – 39 electronic and 25 paper. The electronic responses represent a return from 41% of those on the parish contact list. The total response represents perhaps around 20% of the adults over 20yrs who regularly attend Catholic services in Yass, Gunning or Murrumbateman. This is quite a reasonable response rate for a survey of this nature.

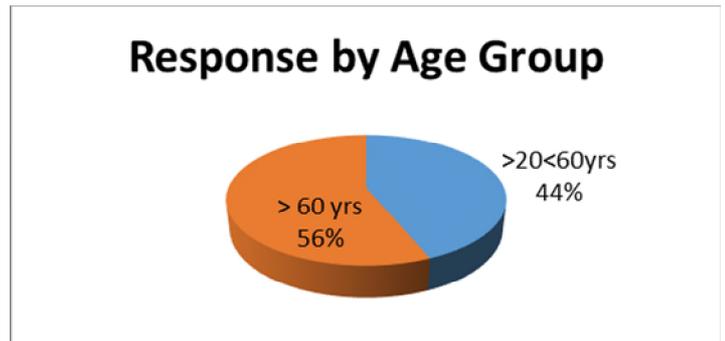
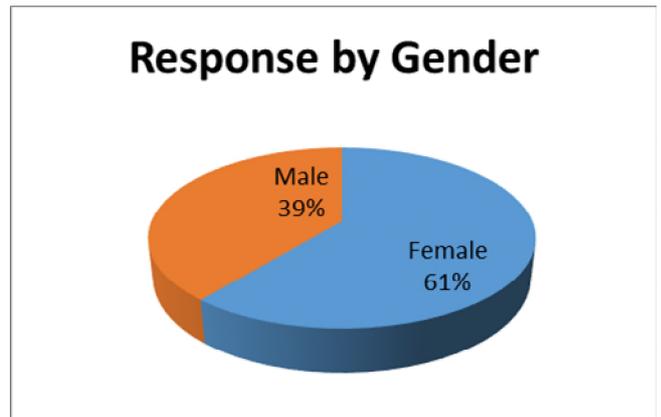
61% of the responses were from females – this is probably representative of the parish demographic.

56% of the responses came from persons aged over 60, with the remaining 44% from those aged 20-60 years. No responses were received from persons under the age of 20 hence the results cannot be seen as indicative of the views of younger parishioners.

Only 1 response was received from a person who doesn't regularly attend Catholic services. This is natural because of the way that the survey was distributed but means that the results only represent the view of current regular church goers.

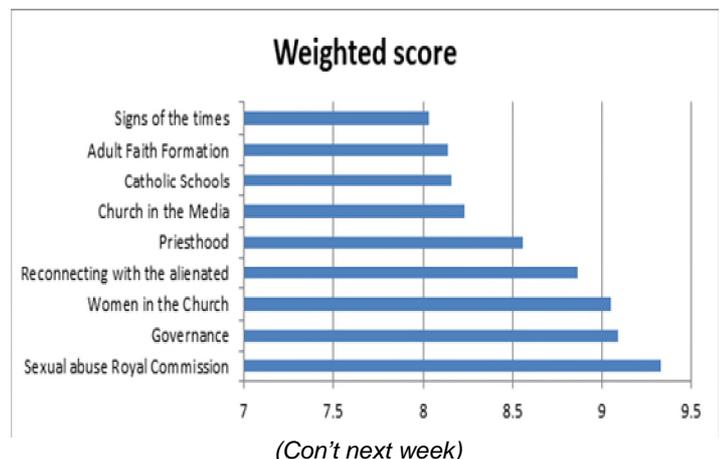
(Con't)

PLENARY COUNCIL – ST AUGUSTINE’S PARISH SURVEY RESPONSE (Con't)



What Issues are the most important?

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of 9 topics that were suggested for the Plenary Council agenda as a result of the parish workshop held on 17th October 2018. Each topic received a rating from 1 (not at all important) to 10 (extremely important). The following table ranks the topics in order of importance to all respondents on the basis of the weighted score. The weighted score is calculated by adding all the individual ratings together and dividing by the total number of respondents (64). The table also includes the percentage of respondents that rated the topic the maximum score of 10. This gives a slight variation to the ranking order. Overall, all topics ranked quite highly but there is a significant difference between the highest and lowest ranked. The weighted rankings were similar for different genders and age groups except where indicated in the “Comments” section of the table. The response to the topics on “Catholic Schools” and “Church in the Media” was more polarised than for the other questions – ie there were some quite low ratings as well as high ratings.



(Con't next week)

COMMUNION REFLECTION

The word of God that comes to John in the wilderness is not a word meant for him alone but is to be shared with all the people. John's proclamation of the word of God 'through the whole Jordan district' is a precursor to Jesus' instruction to his disciples, 'that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations'. The salvation brought by the Lord is not a personal and private matter but one that is destined for the whole of humankind. This salvation can only be achieved, however, if one is prepared to realign one's life – to repent of past sins and take a new path in life. John's call is a call to a new beginning.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

First Reading *Zep 3: 14-18*

Shout for joy, sing joyfully.

Second Reading *Phil 4: 4-7*

Rejoice, the Lord is near.

Gospel *Lk 3:10-18*

John announces the coming of the Messiah.

Please reflect on these readings over the coming week

SAVE THE DATE

RECONCILIATION 2019

Registration

Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March 5:00-6:00pm at the presbytery

Commitment Mass

Saturday 9th March 6:00pm St. Augustine's and Sunday 10th March 10:30am Uniting Church Hall Murrumbateman

Church Liturgy

Thursday 4th April 7:00pm St Augustine's

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 10th April 6:00pm St Augustine's

FIRST EUCHARIST 2019

Registration

Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March 5:00-6:00pm at the presbytery

Commitment Mass

Saturday 4th May 6:00pm St. Augustine's and Sunday 5th May 10:30am Uniting Church Hall Murrumbateman

Church Liturgy/ Family gathering

Thursday 13th June 7:00pm St Augustine's

Preparation Day

Friday 21st June 9:00am-3:10pm Hartigan Centre and St Augustine's

Sacrament of First Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd June 10:00am St Augustine's

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED



Recently Deceased

Sr. Marie Duffy, Neville Bonnette, Judith Whittaker, Ellen Agnew and Patrick Corcoran.

Prayers for all those whose anniversary occurs at this time including:

Betty Barber (1/12), Jessica Walker (1/12),
Eric Bernard (1/12), Eric Bell (1/12),
Beulah (Bubbles) Garry (3/12), Rae O'Brien (8/12),
Mary Wicks (8/12), William Freebody (5/12),
Mary Warren (9/12), Patricia (Jeannie) Merritt (9/12),
Judith Woods (13/12), John Gray (21/12),
Jessamine Williams (21/12), Nataline Parkin (29/12),
Michael Cooke (26/12), Gary Teale (30/12)
and William Jefcoate (31/12).

Always In Our Hearts Loved and Remembered

ROSTERS

LITURGY

1 = Readings/Resp. Psalm/Gospel Acc. 2 = Prayers of the Faithful
3 = Offertory 4 = Acolyte

8 Dec	Gaye Broers	McManus Family	1 3	Bob Paul	Nash Trezise	2 4
15 Dec	Dianne Gibbs	Carey Family	1 3	Russell Allan	Hill Hackett	2 4

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

8 Dec	Dianne Carey	Ken	Robbie	Coral	Carroll
15 Dec	Frank Grace	Michael	Van Wanrooy	Trish	Gibbs

VISITS

9 Dec	Dianne Carey	Ken	Robbie	Coral	Carroll
16 Dec	Frank Grace	Michael	Van Wanrooy	Trish	Gibbs

ALTAR SERVERS

8 Dec	Grace & Charlie Miller				
15 Dec	Ella Broers		Fergus	Green	

POWER POINT PRESENTERS

8 Dec	Dianne Carey				
15 Dec	Peter Cleary				

HOSPITALITY

8 Dec	The Cleary Family				
15 Dec	Bert & Kath Moore				

CARE GROUP

10 Dec	Kath Jane	Luchetti Hingston	Julie Sandra	Faulkner Davis	(Group 11) (Group 12)
14 Jan	Margaret Pat	Wilson Longley	Pauline Abbey		(Group 1) (Group 2)

ALTAR CLEANERS

8 Dec	Kath Moore				
15 Dec	Pat Coleburn				

Yass Newsagency



Roger & Merren Gregg

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Phone 6226 1049
110 Comur Street, Yass

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