



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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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> | |

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

15th & 16th December 2018



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. **R**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
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

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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/Warmincton

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------|----------|
| 4 th Tues (monthly) | Yass | 11:00 am |
|--------------------------------|------|----------|

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.

Thoughts from the Presbytery



The Sunday following Christmas is the fifth Sunday of the month and Mass will be celebrated at Wee Jasper at 10am. On that Sunday, Gunning and Murrumbateman will hold a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion. If you have visitors, the scenic drive to Wee Jasper is a real treat.

From now until the end of January there is little to report in the bulletin and after Christmas we will print a smaller version. Today we continue with the findings from our survey for the Plenary Council 2020 and you might disagree with some comments. All opinions are to be taken into consideration and discussed when we meet on the 6th February.

Parishioners who contribute to our Sacrificial Planned Giving using envelopes, they are at the back of the church.

For Charles Lovat, 'Shepherd of Shepherd's', a gift suggestion, can be purchased from Tony MacQuillan or our parish office for \$20 a copy.

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



Drilling for water in Timor Leste.

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>) |

The reason for the season: In his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis issues a warning that might resonate with us as we continue our Advent journey. Caught up in consumerism, he says, it is easy for us to forget what is truly important:

'The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades.'

In the lead-up to Christmas we often get caught up in a flurry of 'interests and concerns'. True, much of the joy of Christmas comes from giving to others, but there is so much focus on material goods and spending money that it can be difficult to remember the good news at the heart of the season. It is so easy to become distracted by the bright lights and advertising. This Sunday is *Gaudete Sunday* – *Gaudete* means 'Rejoice'. It's the perfect time to recapture some of the 'quiet joy' that Pope Francis talks about. 'The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus,' he reminds us. It is this personal encounter with Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, God becoming man, the Good News announced by John the Baptist in today's Gospel. This is the reason for our joy – the reason for the season!

Triona Doherty

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John was no "gander preacher" Soren Kierkegaard the well-known philosopher of Denmark has a famous fable about geese. The geese in a certain farmyard decided to gather together every seventh day. At that time one of the ganders would mount the fence and preach to his fellow geese about their lofty destiny. The pulpit gander would recall the exploits of their forefathers and praise God for the gift of flight bestowed upon them. The congregation of fowl would flap their wings in hearty agreement. This routine happened every week. After each assembly the geese would break up and waddle to their respective places in the farmyard and eat the grain the kind farmer had scattered on the ground for them. On Monday morning the geese would chat about Sunday's sermon and discuss what might happen if they took to the skies once again. They might get lost or even worse, they might get shot. There was little doubt among them that the best thing was to linger in the farmyard with its security. The sermons would stir them and that was sufficient. It was good to hear what they could be and do as long as they need not do it or be it. All the while they didn't realize they were being fattened for the holiday tables of the farmer and his friends. That not only happened in a fable on fowl but can happen all too frequently in a Church service on Sunday. The people are told simply what they must do. When John was through preaching, the people asked questions about deeds ... what they should do. They had been so guided in their thoughts that they were prompted by God's Spirit to do that which was pleasing to the Lord.

Indian Bishops Conference

If you wish to contribute to our work in Timor Leste, please donate by direct deposit at:

BSB: 062 786
Account number : 0000 28521
Account Name: Timor Leste
Reference: T.L. Donation

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

20th December 6:00pm (*Communal Celebration, Gunning*)
21st December 6:00am (*Communal Celebration, Yass*)

PLenary COUNCIL

– ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH SURVEY RESPONSE (*Con't*)

Do you have suggestions for any other topics you feel it would be important to be discussed at the Plenary Council?

33 people (52%) responded to this additional question – responses are listed below without edits.....

The Church's best work/mission has always been in the areas of social justice / working with the marginalised. This should be its main focus. Sharing of 'authority' with women - the majority of the Church (Parish/Diocese/National)

1. Formation of young people in our faith. 2. Peace in our world, our time. 3 Married clergy (as in other spheres of the Catholic faith) 4. Outreach to the poor. 5. The significance of education for growth of the spirit. 6. The many ways of worship and prayer

1. Married men should be encouraged to enter priesthood. 2. Priests should be allowed to marry. 3. Question: Is married clergy a problem with the Eastern Rites?

I feel the survey is badly constructed. Why start a sentence with "How can" and not give a space to answer. 5. Women deserve a more prominent place in the church. 4. should be widely discussed and prayed for

Teachers in Catholic schools should be involved in the preparation of sacraments with the parents and students.

Individual churches - many newcomers to districts find it hard to fit in, to get to know other parishioners. These people find it hard to keep their faith and become the "lost sheep". Not many churches seem to have a designated person or persons who welcome newcomers to the parish. Many people who are on their own are hesitant to put themselves forward when they move to another parish.

The Plenary Council should look at the church structure to make it more bottom-up rather than a top-down organisation. This would provide greater transparency in decision making. The laity would feel that they had a voice in the direction of the church.

How is the catholic church responding to diversity and inclusion (beyond same sex marriage) in society.

Engaging young people in the church. Maintaining small local church communities rather than moving to a transactional 'super church' model where people don't feel connected to their local faith community. The closure of small regional churches is a great loss to local committed faith communities. How can we attract young men to the Priesthood?

Greater transparency within the church moving away from the autocratic approach of organising the church

The Church should stop discrimination against women & offer women the same opportunities as men, including priesthood. (I am a male).

(*Con't*)

PLenary COUNCIL

– ST AUGUSTINE'S PARISH SURVEY RESPONSE (*Con't*)

Religious education for parents and children as a home subject supported by schools. Availability of resources in the parish.

Yes however I will make a direct submission via email. More importantly; thank you to whomever has created this survey monkey and all your efforts in attempting to engage the wider congregation.

A closer community between laity, priests, Bishops etc

Clergy. Married and female too

No doubt there are other topics but these are covering a huge area and if explored deeply would contribute to a revitalised Church

More help for divorced Catholics

More emphasis on instructing our children at school about the real presence at the eucharist and this should be encouraged to parents to do the same

For more people to be really aware of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

Church being more in touch with social issues that affect all of us - and accordingly equip lay people and ministry with informed and reasonable information of issues: same sex marriage, we need to acknowledge different life choices

Spirituality - a new contemplative, mystic awakening

The Church should get right out of schools completely. Close all schools claiming to be Catholic. They are a source of division in the community and a waste of tax-payers' money. They are no longer Catholic schools but just private schools for the rich and snobs

Inviting priests from Africa and Asia to work in our parishes due to low numbers of Australian priests.

Cultural inclusion in liturgy

Baptism in The Holy Spirit Charismatic Renewal of Catholic Church

What can the Catholic Church do to increase its advocacy and influence around issues of social justice e.g. for refugees/asylum seekers, the poor/homeless in our society?

People seem to have lost their fear of hell and don't seem to care much anymore.

Modernise and stop being so negative and defensive because that kind of behaviour is actually the opposite of Jesus love

Where is the movement of the Holy Spirit within our churches? Many Catholics are not 'alive' in their faith. This comes through the Holy Spirit. I'd like to see parishes offering opportunities for parishioners to explore the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit, most other Christian Churches do this so well and you can see the fruits! I strongly feel that this is key to enlivening the Catholic Church.

Not including celibacy, look at the way Priests are formed. Take a less institutionalised approach. More or an apprenticeship. Link them up with families. Give the professional supervision.

Why the church is not actively taking part in public debate re: issues that concern the laity in Australia. Why they're not proactive on ethical & moral issues etc.

Yes - make all those who allowed this bad culture regarding child abuse to happen under their governance and tarnish our religion to be held to account.

How can the Church support the maintenance and growth of Catholic communities in small rural towns and villages?

(*Con't next week*)

COMMUNION REFLECTION

The Good News

In the gospel of Jesus there is the good news that we are children of God and that we are called together into the love of God.

We are called to a faith that is personal and connected to the faith of others, so that we have a care for the poor and for all in their times of need.

We are to give what we have to those who have not enough.

Those who have two tunics give to those who have none.

And in giving to those who are needy, we are giving to the needy Christ.

He is cold in those who are unclothed, hungry in those who are starving, lonely in those who are alone, victimised in those who are bullied and abused.

He rejoices with us in good times, and sympathises with us in our sorrow.

The Lord Jesus was born among us poor, rejected by many and loved by Mary and Joseph.

He himself, before he can speak, is good news.

He is Son of God and one of us – we await his birth this year

so that we can be reborn ourselves, and each of us can be the good news of God, reborn in our conviction that

all men and women are brothers and sisters,

and that all are children of God

and that all will share the joy of God,

when Jesus comes again in glory.

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

| | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|---|---------------|----------------|
| 15 Dec | Dianne Carey | 1 | Russell Hill | 2 |
| | Gibbs Family | 3 | Allan Hackett | 4 |
| 22 Dec | Russell Hill | 1 | Gaye McManus | 2 |
| | McManus Family | 3 | Greg Minahan | 4 |
| 24 Dec | Peter Gibbs | 1 | Tom Considine | 2 |
| | TBA | 3 | Peter Cleary | 4 |
| 25 Dec | VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 1,2,3 | | | Vince Coffey 4 |

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

| | | | |
|--------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 15 Dec | Frank Grace | Michael Van Wanrooy | Trish Gibbs |
| 22 Dec | Joe Buhagiar | Steve Scroope | Joe Morrissey |
| 24 Dec | CHRISTMAS EVE | | |

VISITS

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 16 Dec | Frank Grace | Michael Van Wanrooy | Trish Gibbs |
| 23 Dec | Joe Buhagiar | Steve Scroope | Joe Morrissey |
| 24 Dec | Russell Hill | Ken Robbie | Frank Grace |

ALTAR SERVERS

| | | |
|--------|-------------------|--------------|
| 15 Dec | Ella Broers | Fergus Green |
| 22 Dec | Molly McPherson | Ella Cassidy |
| 24 Dec | Tallara Howard | Wendy Morton |
| 25 Dec | VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | |

POWER POINT PRESENTERS

| | | | |
|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| 15 Dec | Peter Cleary | 22 Dec | Russell Hill |
| 24 Dec | Dianne Carey | | |

HOSPITALITY

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 15 Dec | Bert & Kath Moore | 22 Dec | Michael & Helen Van Wanrooy |
| 24 Dec | TBA | | |

CARE GROUP

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|---------|-------|-----------|
| 14 Jan | Margaret Wilson | | | (Group 1) |
| | Pat Longley | Pauline | Abbey | (Group 2) |

ALTAR CLEANERS

| | |
|--------|--|
| 15 Dec | Pat Coleburn |
| 20 Dec | CHRISTMAS CLEANING 10:00AM |
| | Geraldine Doyle PLUS as many helpers as possible |

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

First Reading Mi 5:1-4

The Lord foretells the coming of the Messiah from Bethlehem.

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

Paul reveals Jesus as the new sacrificial offering.

Gospel Lk 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth.

Please reflect on these readings over the coming week

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

CHRISTMAS Celebration

YASS COMMUNITY CAROLS
SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2018
VICTORIA PARK YASS

ACTIVITIES START 5PM

FACE PAINTING | JUMPING CASTLE
KIDS GAMES | SANTA | NATIVITY DRESS UP
BBQ | CHEESE PLATTERS | COFFEE | AND MORE!

CAROLS START 6PM

For more information and the latest updates visit
facebook.com/yasscommunitycarols.

Combined Churches of Yass
Supporting the Yass Valley Community

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