



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>	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

22nd & 23rd December 2018



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

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

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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
	3 rd & 4 th 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



FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Wed: St Stephen, First Martyr
Thu: St John, Apostle and Evangelist
Fri: Holy Innocents

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

On behalf of those we serve in Timor Leste, the generosity of our communities is extraordinary. Besides those who contribute on a regular basis, this past week two families have given \$1,000 each.

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.

Reaching out

Have you ever wondered why Mary travelled to visit Elizabeth? At first it is the excitement that comes through. Caught up in her wonderment at being pregnant and the news that her cousin is also expecting, Mary hurries off as quickly as she can. Perhaps the journey gives her time to reflect on everything that is happening. The precious moment when Elizabeth greets her is a lovely glimpse of the close friendship between the two women.

We know that Elizabeth is advanced in years, and that she and her husband Zechariah had not expected to ever have a child. After this encounter, we are told that Mary stays on with Elizabeth for three months; as a younger woman, it is fair to assume that she is there to help and support her cousin.

Pope Francis has described the visit as a lesson in service and joy, as well as demonstrating great courage. 'Being of service and reaching out to others both require going out from themselves: going out to serve and meet others, to embrace another person. Through Mary's service towards others, through that encounter, our Lord's promise is renewed and makes it happen now, just as it did then.'

With just two days to go until Christmas it is a busy time. But it is also a time that offers many opportunities to reach out, whether it is to build bridges with family members, offer our time to someone who is lonely, or support a friend or neighbour who finds this time of year difficult.

Triona Doherty

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Taking flesh in a very human way

Amazing progress has taken place in our ability to view the unborn child as it develops in its mother's womb. From a certain stage in her baby's growth, a mother has always been able to feel the child moving inside her. Fathers too have been able to place a hand on the mother's stomach and feel their child as it kicks and jumps. However, ultrasound technology has revolutionised how people understand and think about human life in the womb. Now, rather than just feeling their child move, a mother and father can actually see it. They can watch as it sucks its thumb, as it turns and stretches. An incredible video called *Window to the Womb* even shows an unborn child doing somersaults inside its mother's womb!

It has become common practice for expectant parents to be given ultrasound pictures of their unborn children. They rightly consider these to be the first photographs of their child. Sometimes they even put them in frames or save them in photo albums. They provide a record of the first nine months of life.

We now know that much more is going on in the womb that we previously imagined. We can see the unborn child living in harmony and security with its mother and, through her, with the outside world. Ultrasound enables us to see and appreciate what God has always known: the beauty and wonder of human life as it grows and develops.

Very soon we shall be placing the child Jesus in the manger of our Christmas cribs. The figure of that tiny baby reminds us that God has not only blessed us by creating us but also chose to become one with us. God can work through human lives and make them extraordinary. Mary and Elizabeth had faith to believe God's promises; they were prepared to trust God's word.

The visitation is more than a nice story. It's an invitation to deepen our faith and trust in God's love. It's a call to recognise the presence of Christ in the people we meet and to allow Christ to shine through our often fragile human lives. Mary and Elizabeth were unique in what God asked of them. We too have a unique calling. As someone once said, we are all meant to be mothers of God, because Jesus needs to be continually born in our lives.

GPBS eNews

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2018

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2018 is conducted at all Christmas Masses throughout the Archdiocese and will again have the funds raised split.

- Our support will continue for the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal and its work in bringing hope and opportunity to those in need in Vanuatu, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Syria and Pakistan.
- Contributions will be made to support Diocesan projects locally, within Wilcannia Forbes Diocese and Broome Diocese, and globally, within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria.
- Other endeavours will include support towards: helping the rural parish of St. Joseph's, Battambang in Cambodia provide improved and extended education opportunities to students beyond their infant years to primary, secondary and tertiary levels whilst also seeking to improve the self-sufficiency of the parish and their community is envisaged, projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India and student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.

Parishes may have received the *Christmas Bowl Appeal 2018 Promotional Kits* from the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).



This weekend we welcomed into our Church community:

Rhyan Maree child of Trae & Khiala

Sisters Macrina and Aileen wish all parishioners a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thankyou for all your generosity and support during the year. You are in prayer daily!

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

Do you have any further comments regarding the Plenary Council that you would like to make at this stage?

14 people (22%) responded to this additional question – responses are listed below without edits.....

Process: 1. The wisdom and care of the whole Catholic community should be included. This requires strong presence and voice of "the laity". 2. Strong publicity so all the world can know the wisdom of the Holy Spirit

There should be an Assembly of Laity to select a delegation to the Plenary Council.

I am disappointed that there is not any mention of prayers in any of the articles I've read on the plenary council! Surely an Archdiocesan novena could have been suggested!! "More things are wrought by prayer than the world dreams of"

Our children are the church's greatest assets and the future of our church. There are definite leaders among them. But other children are shy, withdrawn and have no real understanding of their faith. Their recognition and needs should be acknowledged and be given every opportunity to understand their faith.

I hope that many positives come out of the conference, but history tells me to not get my hopes up too high.

That the decision making should also include individuals from outside the parish councils or prominent people in the parishes

From the structure it seems top-heavy with clerics. If the Church is really serious about the Council it needs input and decision making on a far wider scale. We don't need "yes" people but people who are faith-filled and able to be open to discuss and resolve in an intelligent way

I felt these questions were asking "how can" rather than suggestions as to how could

Get the church out of schooling! Then the other churches can close their schools too.

Great opportunity to reflect together as God's people

I really hope that the Plenary Council will not just be a "talk-fest", with lip service paid to its ideas and recommendations. I hope that, whatever its recommendations, they are acted upon by the church hierarchy. To do otherwise would be a betrayal of trust and a sign that the powers that be in the church had not learned from their lack of understanding of the thoughts of the majority of the congregation in recent times.

No. I am just disappointed that it is still so hard to be heard and the unwillingness to listen. The men in lofty lives who have never walked in the shoes of the modern family need to be more open about their shortcomings.

I hope that the Plenary Council marks a brave new era for the Catholic Church in Australia

I hope lay people will be heard and that this is not an exercise in futility

"I'M SPENDING CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS THIS YEAR"

Author Unknown

I see the countless Christmas trees
around the world below.
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars,
reflecting in the snow.
The sight is so spectacular,
please wipe away that tear;
For I am spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs
that people hold so dear.
But the sounds of music can't compare with the
Christmas choir up here.
I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring.
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me,
I see the pain inside your heart.
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.
I cannot tell you of the splendor
or the peace inside this place.
Can you imagine Christmas with our Savior
face to face?

I will ask him to light your spirit
as I tell him of your love.
So then pray for one another
as you lift your eyes above.
So be happy for me, dear ones,
you know I hold you dear.
And be glad I'm spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift,
from my heavenly home above.
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.
After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold.
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other,
as my Father said to do.
For I can't count the blessing or love
He has for each of you.
So have a Merry Christmas
and wipe away that tear.
Remember, I am spending Christmas
With Jesus Christ this year.

*A poem for those who will feel the loss of loved ones
this Christmas.*

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Mary – Mother and Friend

A very human side of Mary - after she knew she was to be the mother of God, Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, an older woman who herself was expecting her first child.

She needed to talk with someone – her hopes, her fears, her anxieties and the puzzlement of her mysterious visit from God, and what God asked her to become – the mother of Jesus.

And she knew her cousin would be the same. Elizabeth, too, needed to talk over her hopes, her fears, her anxieties and the puzzlement of her mysterious visit from God.

Like all we do: there are times in life we need to talk, and we need someone to listen.

If we're out in the cold, we need sympathy, understanding, someone just to listen, to be there, and maybe to give a bit of advice.

And when we're very happy, feel like dancing around the room or the fields, we like to share that too.

They helped each other grow in their faith, in what God had given to them and what God was asking of them, And they helped each other trust that what the Lord promised them would be fulfilled.

There are times in life when we need more than someone to listen to us; we need others to share their story and help us trust.

We also need faith.

She knew that God would not leave her alone when times would be rough and painful. She knew that God would be there, through people like Elizabeth now, like the shepherds at the birth, like John at the foot of the cross. She knew that God had called her, and she would welcome his call with courage.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED



Recently Deceased

Sr. Marie Duffy, Neville Bonnette, Judith Whittaker, Ellen Agnew, Patrick Corcoran, Robert Thurling and Jacqueline Longley

Prayers for

Gerald Longley, Bruce Longley and Robert Corkhill.

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), Natalie 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

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			4
29 Dec	Debbie Valencic	1	Vince Coffey	4
	Geraldine Doyle	3	Mark Valencic	2
			Russell Hill	4

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

22 Dec	Joe Buhagiar	Steve Scroope	Joe Morrissey
24 Dec	CHRISTMAS EVE		
29 Dec	Peter Walker	Susan Morrissey	Elizabeth Liew

VISITS

23 Dec	Joe Buhagiar	Steve Scroope	Joe Morrissey
24 Dec	Russell Hill	Ken Robbie	Frank Grace
30 Dec	Peter Walker	Susan Morrissey	Elizabeth Liew

ALTAR SERVERS

22 Dec	Molly McPherson	Ella Cassidy
24 Dec	Tallara Howard	Wendy Morton
25 Dec	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
29 Dec	Ella Broers	Clare Broers

POWER POINT PRESENTERS

22 Dec	Russell Hill	24 Dec	Dianne Carey
29 Dec	Peter Gibbs		

HOSPITALITY

22 Dec	Michael & Helen Van Wanrooy	24 Dec	TBA
29 Dec	Kay Perceval Irene Carr		

CARE GROUP

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

ALTAR CLEANERS

20 Dec	CHRISTMAS CLEANING 10:00AM		
	Geraldine Doyle	PLUS as many helpers as possible	
12 Jan	Pat	Coleburn	

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR C

First Reading Sir 3:2-6. 12-14
Kindness and respect for parents is urged.

Second Reading Col 3:12-21
What is expected of the chosen of God.

Gospel Lk 2:41-52
Jesus is found in the Temple.

Please reflect on these readings over the coming week

Yass Earthmovers

Local business for 40 years

All types of earth moving and machinery

BULLDOZERS	BACKHOES	GRADERS
EXCAVATORS	TIPPERS	ROLLERS
MINI EXCAVATORS	FRONT END LOADERS	WATER TRUCKS
BOBCATS	SCRAPER	LOW LOADERS

NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL

Jim Field
0428 486 330



Andrew Field
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