



# 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	Clare	Barry
Chair Finance Committee	Paul	O'Mara
Chair Parish Council	Sarah	Johnston
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:

<b>Yass:</b>	<i>St Augustine</i>	
Vigil Saturday		6:00 pm
<b>Gunning:</b>	<i>St Francis Xavier</i>	
1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday		8:30 am
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Liturgy of the Word and HC		8:30 am
<b>Murrumbateman:</b>		
<i>To be held at Yass until further notice</i>		10:15 am
<b>Wee Jasper:</b>	<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	
5 <sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Thomas Eccles Gardens (Linton)</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues (monthly)	Yass	11:00 am

## Horton/Warlington

4 <sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Yass</b>	Saturdays	10:30 am
	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays	12:15 pm

**Gunning Parish** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 8:30 am & 12:30 pm

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

## Marriages

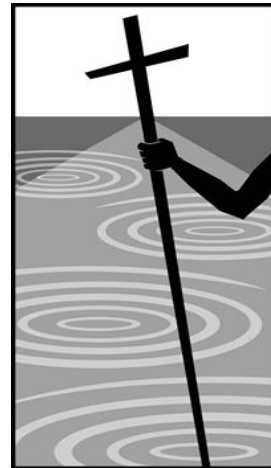
By appointment. Five to six months notice ideal.

## School Enrolments

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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020



### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R**

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **R**

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **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.

# Thoughts from the Presbytery



## FEASTS OF THE WEEK

**Mon:** Saint John of the Cross

Pope Francis has declared a Year of St. Joseph in honour of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church, it concludes on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The decree said that Francis had established a Year of St. Joseph so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfilment of God's will".

It was great to spend time with Fr. Peter My this past week and show him around our two parishes. He is a wonderful priest of 27 years and brings to our communities many special gifts. I note that the parishioners of Kambah are very sad to see him move. Fr. Peter has told the Vietnamese community of Canberra he will celebrate Mass there only once a month as his primary focus must be Yass/Gunning. I believe you will be truly blest by his ministry.

Graduation Mass for Year 6 at Mount Carmel School will be held this Tuesday at 10am.

I spoke with Fr. Peter about our outreach to Timor Leste and he is happy for Yass/Gunning Belun to continue for the present under the committee of Steve and Maureen Clancy, Bill and Kath Luchetti and Margaret Jenkinson. This past week we have had two donations towards our work, \$1,000 and \$500. The extraordinary generosity of our people is amazing.

## Desert Voices

The people around John are odd. What seems to attract them is who he is not: not the anointed saviour of Israel, not Elijah come to announce the end of the world, not the great prophet the Samaritans were expecting. But the evangelist John also tells us who the Baptist is: the testimony to the great light to follow.

What is your life testimony? Does it proclaim fidelity, honesty, generosity? If you had to name ten things you stand for, would any of them be holy? These are hard questions. If I pose them to myself, my answer is wishy-washy: depends on when you ask. Some days are less exemplary than others. Sometimes I'm a shining example of Christian virtue, and I wish my Mum were here to see me. Other times I'm grateful she isn't and wish no one was. John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus and the fruit of a miracle birth, may have had a head start on his testimony. Or maybe he had to work out all the bugs like the rest of us in the years before he turned up at the Jordan.

But the truth is: whatever our origins, they can't be an excuse for who we are or are not, "what we've done, or failed to do". John's desert voice summons me to train mine, to learn to present another clear testimony to the light.

**Describe one element of your Christian witness that is particularly strong.**

**What element of your witness needs work?**

How do you refine your 'desert voice,' your independence from the temptations of a secular world view? Consider a time of retreat, an afternoon or recollection, or a regular practice of prayer and meditation to keep you "in the desert".

GPBS eNews

## Parish Finance Committee Members:

Father	Mick Burke	Stan	Waldren
David	Garland	Mark	Valencic
Paul	O'Mara	Trish	Gibbs
Irene	Carr		

## Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Annabelle O'Connell (Youth)	Peter	Cleary (Liturgy)
Bryan Coleborne (Ecumenism)	Michael	Green (School)
Genevieve Colbert (Education)	Lourdes	O'Keefe (Social)
Bob Nash (Maintenance)	Michael	Van Wanrooy (Welfare)
Ex Officio Member: Fr Mick Burke	Sarah	Johnston (Social Justice)

## A bearer of light

Last week we were introduced to John the Baptist as part of our Advent journey. We hear his story again but this time from the fourth Gospel. Light and darkness is a key theme of the fourth Gospel and in its opening verses proclaims that this light has always shone in the dark; the darkness cannot overpower it. The evangelist goes on to tell us that John the Baptist's mission is that he has been sent by God to 'speak for the light'. John is a light bearer, he is not *the* light, but he points to the light. He is a witness to the light of God in our world, a light that cannot be put out.

We celebrate this light today on Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete which means 'rejoice'. We light the pink candle and we celebrate with joy. As our world continues to battle this pandemic, there is much fear about. People might not feel like celebrating or being joyful. But nature shows us that Spring always follows Winter. Like John, we are called to be light-bearers. To carry Christ's love and light to those we meet in our daily lives. Our world needs light-bearers, especially in these Winter months. It might be a good opportunity to ask today 'Who have been the light bearers for me in these past months?' And also, 'To whom can I carry light to this week?' In this way we observe Christ's ongoing incarnation in the world today.

*'Lord there is much darkness in society and in our church. We thank you that someone always comes on the scene, sent by you as a witness to speak for the light ... teachers, community leaders, grandparents, children, a friend ... they bear witness to the rest of us that somewhere in the dark a light shines that darkness cannot overcome.'*

Michel de Verteuil

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## The prayer to St. Joseph that Francis has said for more than 40 years

*Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.*

*Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.*

*My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.*

*Amen.*

**Heaven and hell on your face:** A drama teacher was instructing his students about acting. He was trying to get them to realize the idea that they convey the message in their faces. When they are doing different scenes in a play, they have to project whatever that scene is on their face. He used the example of Heaven and Hell. Their faces should look very different if they are talking about Heaven or if they are talking about Hell. He said to the students, "When you are talking about Heaven, your faces should light up. Your smiles should radiate, and your eyes should look to the skies. People should be able to see Heaven on your faces." He said, "When you are talking about Hell, well, your normal faces will do." Let there be heaven on your face on "Gaudete Sunday."

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

- 24<sup>th</sup> December - 5:30pm, St. Francis Xavier, Gunning  
(in the grounds of the church)  
- 7:00pm, St. Augustine's, Yass  
(in the grounds of the Hartigan Centre)
- 25<sup>th</sup> December - 8:30am, St. Augustine's, Yass



*This week we welcomed into  
our Church community:*

Logan	child of	Nathan & Lauren
Jonas Damien	child of	Jacob & Jenna
<i>Next week we welcome into our Church community:</i>		
Charlie	child of	Mathew & Emily

## HELP WANTED



Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 8:00am

### CHRISTMAS MASS CELEBRATION

Help is needed for about 1 ½ hours on Christmas Eve morning at 8:00am to set up chairs, etc.

Limited seating will be available, so you are asked to bring your own chairs or rugs to sit on.

The main gate will be the only entrance except for the elderly and disabled who can gain entrance through the side gate near the chapel.

You will be required to register your name at both entrances.

Social distancing is still to be applied.

If you can help, please contact Bob Nash on 0418 691 423.

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020

By helping the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, you will assist in two ways. At Yass Valley level, our members and volunteers will be able to offer assistance directly to families and individuals. At a broader level, you will be contributing to the large and varied network of short and longer term support services for people in NSW who require specialized care.

St. Vincent de Paul told his followers there are no people so rich that they have nothing to receive and none so poor that they have nothing to give. Please support this Appeal that will benefit those who seek our assistance, and address poverty and disadvantage in our communities. At the same time it is an endorsement of your concern and generosity.

Advice on how to donate:

- An envelope is on your seat – fill out and return to the Vinnies Centre in Meehan Street, Yass
- Alternatively, return your envelope and enclosed donation by post
- You can donate online at [vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal](http://vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal) or by phone at 13 18 12
- Attached is the QR code for the Christmas Appeal. If you scan this code with your phone it will take you to a web page where you can donate to the Christmas Appeal specifically to Yass Conference

*Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible*

Many thanks to you all for your ongoing support.

Judith Williams



## ADVENT 2020 WITH BRUCE DOWNES THE CATHOLIC GUY

Join me and people all around the world and Expect the Unexpected!

Sign up for a free daily email devotional that will guide you on a life-changing journey through Advent.

Starting November 29<sup>th</sup> you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Bruce Downes, full of real life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be!

Register now or for more information:

<https://brucedownes.org/registerforadvent>

Email: [info@brucedownes.org](mailto:info@brucedownes.org)

## NORTH CANBERRA NATIVITY FESTIVAL – 10<sup>th</sup> TO 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

9:00am – 5:00pm Exhibition

6:30pm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December Community BBQ followed by Carols

North Canberra Nativity Festival an exhibition of 200 nativities from over 40 countries, by Rosary Parish Watson in collaboration with Holy Cross Anglican & St Margaret's Uniting Communities.

Where: St Margaret's Hall, Corner Antill St & Phillip Av Hackett

## SIMBANG GABI-NOVENA MASSES IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS – 15<sup>th</sup> TO 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER

8:00pm

Simbang Gabi 2020 is a multicultural event. Each evening's Holy Mass is officiated in English by Fr Thonn Riosa, SSS.

We hope to see you there at the 9-day Simbang Gabi Masses. The opening Mass on 15<sup>th</sup> December will be held outdoors.

Please book to attend:

<https://www.holyspiritgungahlin.org.au/mass-bookings/>

## NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL – 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER

8:00pm

The Marian Movement of Priests invites you and your friends to the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Canberra New Year's Eve Vigil.

- St Brigid's Church, 2 Bancroft Street, Dickson
- First Cenacle is prayed at 8.00pm (Joyful Mysteries)
- Second Cenacle at 9.00pm (Luminous Mysteries)
- Third Cenacle at 10.00pm (Sorrowful Mysteries)
- Fourth Cenacle at 11.00pm (Glorious Mysteries)

Exposition from 8:00pm until Midnight Mass. Benediction will take place before Midnight Mass.

Enquiries: Judy & Joe Mewburn 6254 6202

## ENGAGED ENCOUNTER RETREAT – 20<sup>th</sup> TO 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life.

For further information visit:

[www.engagedencounter.org.au](http://www.engagedencounter.org.au)

## THAT CATHOLIC SHOP

That Catholic Shop is an exciting development for *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*. This year do some Christmas shopping on the online store and support the works of ACN to keep the faith alive.

Please visit [www.thatcatholicshop.com](http://www.thatcatholicshop.com)

## ALPHA AUSTRALIA

Our gift to you is some free wallpapers for your phones, tablets and desktops. Each download includes an Emmanuel image, as well as a Pause & Pray image, with a prayer for those who are believing will hear the true message of Christmas this year. We are believing with you! You can download these at [alpha.org.au/christmas](http://alpha.org.au/christmas).

## COMMUNION REFLECTION

Vincent van Gogh died at the age of thirty-seven. The following day eight of his friends came and decked the small room where his coffin lay with some of his paintings. It was only then they realised how beautiful they were. Vincent had a very difficult life. He knew loneliness, poverty and mental illness, with few friends to support him. But now that he was dead, as often happens, everybody was full of praise for his talents. He once said:  
*I think that those who do not lose courage, and who do not become indifferent, ripen through it. One must bear hardship in order to ripen. Most people who know me consider me a failure. Still, life is only a kind of sowing, the harvest is not here.*  
 Today his canvasses are almost beyond price. Yet only one of them was sold while he was still alive. It was sold for a few hundred francs. Vincent certainly did not reap an earthly harvest.

## OLD LINTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

Dr Ray Burn, Dr Hanna Burn-Petersen  
 Dr Shyama Gonakumbura  
 Dr Ann Stephenson – Psychiatrist  
 Ruth Sneesby – Foot Nurse

### Monday - Friday

9:00 am – 5:00 pm (by appointment)  
 (Closed for lunch 1pm – 2pm)

Mobile 0428 581 355 Residence 6226 5328  
 153 Comur Street, Yass  
 Phone: 6226 3697 Surgery

ALSO



**MURRUMBATEMAN  
 MEDICAL PRACTICE**

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**Cathy Cleary – 6226 2012**

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## PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED



### Prayers for

*Michael Cooke, Jackie Longley, William Grace, Garry Cooke,  
 Peter & Anna, Hon Peter*

**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), Neville Bonnette (5/12),  
 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 = Acolyte	4 = Sunday Acolyte
<b>12/13 Dec</b> Gaye McManus 1 Tom Considine 2	
Frank Grace 3 Peter Walker 4	
<b>19/20 Dec</b> Debbie Valencic 1 Mark Valencic 2	
Greg Minahan 3 Bob Nash 4	

### ALTAR SERVERS

<b>12 Dec</b> Charlotte Alexander Molly McPherson
<b>19 Dec</b> Tallara Howard Fergus Green

### ALTAR CLEANERS

<b>19 Dec</b> Coral Carroll
<b>22 Dec</b> Coral Carroll (NO CHRISTMAS CLEAN)

## READINGS NEXT WEEK: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

### First Reading

2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

The Lord speaks to Nathan.

### Second Reading

Rom 16:25-27

God strengthens the Gentiles in their understanding of the Gospel.

### Gospel

Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary, who responds willingly to God.

**Please reflect on these readings over the coming week**



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 RayWhite Rural Canberra | Yass

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