



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>	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

19th & 20th December 2020



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: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

R

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'

R

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.

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>To be held at Yass until further notice</i>		10:15 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/Warlington

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

Fri: The Nativity of the Lord **Sat:** Saint Stephen

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Vigil Mass, 24th 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)

Christmas Day, 25th December

- 8:30am, St. Augustine's, Yass

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

- Tuesday 22nd December - 5:30 – 6pm
- Wednesday 23rd December - 9 – 9:30am
- 6 – 6:30pm
- Thursday 24th December - 9 – 9:30am
- Saturday 26th December - 9am Mass with the Anointing of the sick and frail

It was with reluctance I accepted to have a picnic to mark the occasion of my leaving the parishes of Yass and Gunning. Most people seemed to enjoy the gathering and I was surprised at the number who came. Thank you to all those who contributed towards the laptop and printer, I am extremely grateful for your generosity. Some of the money collected has already gone to Timor Leste to support our work for the poor in that country. Finally to those who organised this gathering, a special thanks.

Fr. Peter My will be in residence on the 30th December.

Additional contributions to our work in Timor Leste, \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500.

Christmas Message December 2020

CHRISTMAS – THE VACCINE OF HOPE

Christmas is all about hope. I have experienced some wonderful examples of hopeful living over this eventful year. Here are some “snapshots”.

There were the bushfires on the South Coast. The trauma is ongoing for those affected.

I witnessed hope in hearing of the generosity of heart shown by the frightened gathered at the Moruya Showgrounds.

There was the raw courage shown by the two women who saved our Cobargo Church and belltower.

I witnessed Fr Luke Verrell and others offering hope to the people at the Bega Emergency Centre.

The three families I visited who had lost their homes along the Eurobodalla Rd impressed me deeply by their Christian faith and hopeful determination to build again. Sadly, this rebuilding still remains a dream.

There was hope and excitement from some who pointed out to me small green shoots starting to come from charred trees.

South Coast families expressed much hope and thanks from the incredible generosity of Canberra people who sent immediate financial help to those most in need.

(Con't)

Parish Finance Committee Members:

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

(Con't)

Social welfare agencies continue to provide hope for the homeless, hungry and mentally ill.

There is also the hope that the long and devastating drought is finally breaking.

The rains have come. The canola fields near Harden are healthy and brilliant in gold. The vision exudes hope. Travellers are stopping to take photos and breathe in the clean air.

It is a total change from smoky and hail damaged Canberra in January.

Even the farmers themselves seem rather upbeat and hopeful for the immediate future. The despair surrounding suicides and mental health issues remain a threat to hope.

The Covid-19 global catastrophe has really worn us out.

We are tired. Schoolteachers have exhausted themselves by offering so much hope to their students and parents. They have kept our schools open as much as possible during the threatening weeks.

Whole families studying and working from homes has not been easy. People are turning to prayer and silence in greater numbers.

The sick, aged and vulnerable appreciate the extra on-line services to help our reflections in these times.

The youth, as always, have shown us an example of on-line networking.

Compassionate people talk of the hope that a phone call or visit gives the house bound. Grandparents delight to see their children and grandchildren on FaceTime, Viber or whatever is electronically available.

In so many ways, the underlining pandemic of loneliness and isolation is conquered by all these “little miracles” of practical hope and closeness, as Pope Francis would phrase it.

In 2021, we await in hope a vaccine. Will it ever come? We hope it does.

In the meantime, we continue to offer others the “new normal” of a kindly smile and generous word and help. It is all part now of the vaccine of hope we offer. This is especially shared at Christmas.

Over the centuries, Christians have knelt in awe before the Holy Family at the Bethlehem stable. They have done so in greater fervour in times of war, pestilence and catastrophe. They have done so not simply to draw personal hope for life after death.

They have prayed too for the communitarian hope in the here and now arising from the humility of the Bethlehem stable.

This is our hope. This is our Christmas prayer. Emmanuel – God is with us! Do not be afraid!

A prayerful and Happy Christmas and New Year to all!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

HELP WANTED



Thursday 24th 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.

SIMBANG GABI-NOVENA MASSES IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS – 15th TO 23rd 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 15th December will be held outdoors.

Please book to attend:

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL – 31st DECEMBER

8:00pm

The Marian Movement of Priests invites you and your friends to the 14th 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 – 20th TO 21st 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

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

Keep awake

The situation into which Jesus was born was one of huge stigma with dangerous consequences. God's physical birth into this world was condemned socially; Jesus was marginalised from the moment of his conception. Imagine God choosing to be involved so intimately in this world and in such a 'shocking' way. Even the town of Galilee is problematic for this news as Galileans were considered by the religious leaders of the time to be 'second-class Jews'. It is here Jesus comes. God surprises. God stands with the marginalised. God is present in the most hidden places at times.

On the first Sunday of Advent we were invited to 'Keep Awake'. As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, what have you noticed this advent? What has your waiting been like? How have you prepared? Where have you seen God present this Advent? Where have you seen God being born around you? In the most unexpected places? In the most marginalised? Is your heart more open to receive a new birth of God again?

'Quiet me within, clothe my body in peacefulness, that your Word once again may take flesh – this time, within me – as once it did in holy Mary; long Advent days ago.'

Edward Hays,

Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim

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This week we welcomed into our Church community:

Charlie

child of

Mathew & Emily

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 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



COMMUNION REFLECTION

You sometimes hear people say,
I always find Christmas Day a lonely day.
 I think what they are really saying is:
I always feel lonely on Christmas Day.
 Loneliness is caused chiefly by two things:
 absence and emptiness.
 Let us spare a thought, a prayer, and maybe a visit
 for someone who will spend Christmas alone.
 And if while spending Christmas in the midst of others,
 we still feel lonely, let us not be alarmed.
 Our hearts are always longing for something more,
 or rather, for Someone else.
 In every human heart there is an empty chamber

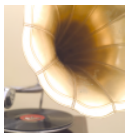
READINGS NEXT WEEK: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - YEAR B

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 2:22-40
 Jesus is presented at the Temple by Mary and Joseph.

Please reflect on these readings over the coming week



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PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED



Recently Deceased

Val Hanrahan

Prayers for

Michael Cooke, Jackie Longley, William Grace

**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
19/20 Dec Debbie Valencic 1	Mark Valencic 2
Greg Minahan 3	Bob Nash 4
24 Dec Peter Gibbs 1	Rod Perceval 2
Peter Cleary 3	
25 Dec Sue Morrissey 1	Joe Morrissey 2
VOLUNTEER PLEASE 3	

ALTAR SERVERS

19 Dec Tallara Howard	Fergus Green
24 Dec Molly & Grace McPherson	
25 Dec Ella & Clare Broers	

ALTAR CLEANERS

22 Dec Coral	Carroll (NO CHRISTMAS CLEAN)
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