



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

Tel: (02) 6226 1086

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

WEEKEND MASSES THIS MONTH – DECEMBER

Saturday 4 th & 18 th	6:00pm	Gunning
Saturday 11 th NO MASS 25th	6:00pm	Murrumbateman
All Sundays	10:15am	Yass
Sunday 12 th & 26 th	8:30am	Gunning

Vigil Mass, 24th December

5:00pm	St Francis Xavier, Gunning
7:00pm	Mt Carmel School grounds, Yass (Carols from 6:30pm)

Christmas Day, 25th December

10:30am	St Augustine's, Yass
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Parish Office	Zuzy Webster Monday to Wednesday 9:00am – 3:00pm
Parish Bulletin	Bianca Nash Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm

SUNDAY MASSES:

VIGIL (SATURDAY)

Gunning:	1 st , 3 rd , 5 th of the month	6:00pm
Murrumbateman:	2 nd , 4 th of the month	6:00pm

SUNDAY

Yass:		10:15am
Gunning:	2 nd , 4 th of the month	8:30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Wednesday	Lovat Chapel, Yass	5:30 pm
Thursday	Lovat Chapel, Yass	7:30 am
Friday	Lovat Chapel, Yass	12:00 noon
Saturday	St. Augustine's, Yass	9:00 am

(start with 8:40am Rosary)

Nursing Home/Hostel

Thomas Eccles Gardens (Linton)

2 nd Tues (monthly)	Yass	11:00 am
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Horton/Warmington

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

Saturdays	Yass	10:00am - 10:30am,
Sundays	Gunning	8:00am - 8:15 am

Baptisms

Yass	Saturdays	10:30 am
Gunning Parish	2 nd Sunday of the month	
		8:30am (during Mass) or 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

4th & 5th December 2021



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**

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

Thoughts from the Presbytery



Parish Priest	Father	Peter My
Youth Worker	Father	Peter My
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	Genevieve	Colbert

Parish Finance Committee Members:

Father	Peter My	Stan	Waldren
David	Garland	Mark	Valencic
Paul	O'Mara	Trish	Gibbs
Irene	Carr		

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Annabelle	O'Connell (<i>Youth</i>)	Peter	Cleary (<i>Liturgy</i>)
Bryan	Coleborne (<i>Ecumenism</i>)	Michael	Green (<i>School</i>)
Genevieve	Colbert (<i>Education</i>)	Lourdes	O'Keefe (<i>Social</i>)
Bob	Nash (<i>Maintenance</i>)	Michael	Van Wanrooy (<i>Welfare</i>)
Sarah	Johnston (<i>Social Justice</i>)	Zuzy	Webster (<i>Secretary</i>)
Ex Officio Member: Fr Peter My			

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Vigil Mass, 24th December

5:00pm St Francis Xavier, Gunning

7:00pm Mt Carmel School grounds, Yass
(Carols from 6:30pm)

Christmas Day, 25th December

10:30am St Augustine's, Yass

HOMILY

We are John the Baptists

John the Baptist was an eccentric figure. Elsewhere we read he was dressed in a cloak made out of camel hair to protect him from the chill of the desert night, and that he ate locusts and wild honey, what he could scavenge as a truly poor man.

And so we can think that a person who prepares the way of the Lord has to be somewhat extraordinary, somewhat eccentric, even bizarre, the sort of person whose arrival somewhere draws a crowd.

But, *you and I* are called to 'prepare the way of the Lord'. Some of you do qualify as eccentric and bizarre, but for most of us of the ordinary ilk, our vocation is to do what we can to prepare the hearts and minds of those with whom we come into contact so that Our Lord Jesus Christ can enter into the history of that person's life.

Every act of unselfishness, every act of companionship, every act of setting to right some injustice, every act of encouragement so that a person begins to bloom in a new way, every act of advice to avoid some folly which would hurt or stunt someone, all these actions and many, many more, make the path straight for Our Lord to enter that person's heart.

But, lest we become just another moralising meddler in other people's lives, we have to let God prepare *our* heart for *our* role. John the Baptist helps us understand what is involved.

First, we must 'repent'. We can all identify that part of our lives which we need to turn around, sometimes 180 degrees! Second, we have to carry out our role believing with John the Baptist that '*all who live shall see the salvation of God*'. We must not allow ethnic or social identity to limit our role as John or Joan the Baptists in this world.

In this respect there are signs of hope in our world. Without having a clue of what I am talking about, I am sure that we should encourage social media, and much of the blogging and twittering which link millions of young people across the planet. Their constant and instantaneous communication negate the contours of geography and the boundaries of nations.

Young people are saying 'we are one community of human beings on this fragile planet whether in Tanzania, Chile, Oklahoma or Tasmania'.

With his pastoral guidance and with a new generation of truly global Catholics Pope Francis wants us to be 'les misericordes sans frontieres'. Were that realised, we would be hastening the day when all who live shall see the salvation of God.

In the meantime, the challenge this Advent is to identify the one person whose heart you can help prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus in three weeks time. The best method is to let that person see your faith and joy centred on that little Jewish baby lying in a manger.

We cannot put boundaries on the effect of our preparing the way of the Lord in that person's heart because, when the Lord Jesus comes, it is as the Sovereign Lord of History, the Ruler of the powers of the Cosmos, so the effect may be felt beyond that person's individual situation, into his social setting, community, and so to the world.

With God's grace, you don't have to be as eccentric or bizarre as John the Baptist to change the course of history!

Fr Michael Tate

REFLECTION

The advent of God's coming with its promise of fulfilment happens within world history. The first reading locates God's act of restoration in the city of Jerusalem. The gospel situates the ministry of John within a particular period of world history. They point us to historical experience as the place and the time of restoration, of incarnation, of redemption. They show us that God works within everyday life, in conventional places, during regular time. In fact, from a human point of view, the extraordinary events of salvation took place within what was quite ordinary.

John proclaims the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. Reversals characterise such transformation: the robe of mourning is replaced by the splendour of glory; tears are turned into rejoicing; those led away by enemies are brought back by God; valleys are filled, mountains are levelled, winding roads are made straight; even nature offers itself as shelter for the people of God. Those who are shamed and discarded are made glorious; those who suffer are comforted; the oppressed are freed; all of life's obstacles are removed; the way to God is made straight; the natural world enjoys peace and harmony.

The transformation or repentance of heart takes place within human life, within relationships of justice between people and with the earth, in right living, in genuine unselfish love. It produces the fruits of righteousness of which Paul speaks. Advent is the time to prepare ourselves for this.

Dianne Bergant CSA

Willow Anne child of Matthew & Lara



A Summer Blessing

Blessed are you, Summer, season of long days and short nights, you pour forth light from your golden orb, energising the Earth and calling forth growth.

Blessed are you, Summer, with your generous gift of heat, your warm breath animates creation, encouraging all growing things to stretch toward the sun.

Blessed are you, nurturing season of Summer, your fruits and vegetables appear on our tables, changing them into altars. Tasting of your life, we are made strong. Blessed are you, Summer, season of roots that reach for water.

We are reminded in your time, how precious water is, even still, you are source of growth and light.

Blessed are you, Summer, you call us into playfulness, encouraging us to pause from work, you renew our spirits. Blessed are you, Summer.



At the heart of our Church is a call to belong, believe and become. To invite young people to answer this call, and draw them into the life and mission of the Church, schools and Parishes across the Archdiocese have established Youth Minister positions. If you are a young adult and want to be employed on a year of formation and mission, become a Youth Minister in 2022 in the St Augustine's/Mt Carmel community. For more information, visit cgyouth.org.au/youth-ministers or email youth@cg.org.au

WALKING TOGETHER ADVENT PROGRAM

There is a fabulous local Advent Program available to support our preparations for Christmas this year. It is centred on the teaching of Pope Francis in *Laetitia Amoris* in the context of the Year of the Family (March 2021-June 2022). You will recognise some gorgeous local faces in the support videos!

Sarah and Paul will be hosting a group on Friday mornings at 10:00am to engage in the program. Please ring Sarah on 0447 180 533 if you are interested in joining this group.

Other groups are available on Zoom at 4:00pm Sundays and 10:00am Tuesdays and in other places so check out the following link if you are interested: <https://cgatholic.org.au/walking-together/join-a-group/>



SAVE THE DATE
YASS COMMUNITY CAROLS
SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2021
VICTORIA PARK YASS
ACTIVITIES START 4:30PM
CAROLS START 6PM

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

FAMILY HOME FOR RENT

(Former residence of the Sisters of Mercy)

- 4 bedrooms plus ensuite and bathroom
- study could be used for another bedroom
- open-plan kitchen/dining room
- lounge room
- double garage/ remote controlled door
- within walking distance of school and shops

All enquiries to George Southwell of Ray White Real Estate, Comur Street Yass on 0429 838 345

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – CLEANER

Volunteers are needed for assisting with the Altar cleaning. 1½ hours per week any time before weekend Mass.



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA

A MESSAGE FROM AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:

ACN is running an advent appeal to help Christian refugees who are suffering due to persecution, conflict and violence. This year share the hope of Christmas with Christian refugees and help ease their burdens.

To read stories and watch videos of how ACN is helping our suffering brothers and sisters and to make a donation please visit www.aidtochurch.org/adventappeal.

CATHOLIC CARE FOCUS MARRIAGE PREPARATION – 6th DECEMBER

5:00pm to 9:00pm

Last chance this year for engaged couples to complete their required marriage preparation.

Complete a relationship inventory, enjoy a meal, receive input on Catholic marriage and book in for a face to face couple interview with a CatholicCare Counsellor.

Register www.marriagefamily.org.au Inquire 0429 192 869.

COME BACK TO THE FATHER! ARCHBISHOP'S DAY OF TEACHING - 11th DECEMBER 2021

9:30am to 4:30pm

St Peter Chancels Church, Weston St, Yarralumla.

A day for all interested in Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Holy Mass, reconciliation, talks, testimonies and prayer ministry. Free sausage sizzle lunch! Free entry, collection taken to cover costs. All welcome!

To book, go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BUTGN>. Or text Maida 0423 658 326.



Living the Gospel
Make way!
Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

COMMUNION REFLECTION

During Advent we Christians wait for more than a day; 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: THIRD 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

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PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED



Recently Deceased

Geraldine Smith, Judith Hedges, Marianna (Mara) Apps

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),
Valerie Hanrahan (13/12), Lorna Fing (19/12),
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

ALTAR CLEANERS

4 Dec Coral Carroll 11 Dec Kath Moore
CHRISTMAS CLEAN: TUESDAY 21ST DECEMBER AT 9:30AM
PLEASE COME IF YOU CAN

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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

Our Parish Bulletin is made possible each week by our generous sponsors, please support them.

*Miller's Pharmacy, Old Linton Medical Practice, Ray White Rural Canberra/Yass, Yass Earthmovers,
Yass Learners, B & V Engineering, Priceline Pharmacy Yass, Woolaroo Merino Stud,
Designing Windows, Patrick's Butchery.*