

# Welcome to the HISTORIC PARISH OF ST AUGUSTINE, YASS

*established 1838*

Located in the Yass Valley the Parish covers a large area including  
Bowling, Breadalbane, Dalton, Gurrundah, Murrumbateman, Wee Jasper and Yass

Meehan St, PO Box 24, YASS NSW 2582

**Ph:** (02) 6226 1086 **E-mail:** [yass@cg.org.au](mailto:yass@cg.org.au) **Website:** [www.staug-yass.org.au](http://www.staug-yass.org.au)



*St. Augustine's Church  
Built 1954*



*Original St. Augustine's Church  
- The Lovat Chapel*

**FATHER PETER MY, PARISH PRIEST**

St. Augustine's Yass and St Francis Xavier's, Gunning

## 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 Secretary** Zuzy Webster  
**Parish Office** Open Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9 am – 3 pm

### Parish Finance Committee

Paul O'Mara (*Chair*) Mark Valencic Trish Gibbs  
David Garland Irene Carr

**Ex Officio Members** Father Peter and Zuzy Webster

### Parish Pastoral Council

Peter Cleary (*Chair*) Michael Van Wanrooy *Welfare*  
Susan Bucknell *Liturgy* Jennie Fischer *Social Justice*  
Mandy Leahy *Youth* Lara Kirk *Ecumenism*  
Perry Healey *and* Genevieve Colbert *Education*  
Katarina O'Connor *Social* Team *Maintenance*

**Ex Officio Members:** Fr. Peter Michael Green and Zuzy Webster

**Principal – Mt Carmel School** Michael Green  
**School Community Council** Amber Maher  
**Sacramental Team Leader** Anne Mattappallil

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of the land in which we meet.

We pay our respects to the Elders of the past, present and future.



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023



## 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!**

## BAPTISMS

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

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

## MARRIAGES

By appointment. Notice of five to six months is ideal.

## School Enrolments

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

## WEEKEND LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

**Saturday Vigil Mass** 6:00 pm Uniting Church Hall Murrumbateman  
**Sunday Mass** 8:30 am St Francis Xavier Church Gunning  
**Sunday Mass** 10.15 am St Augustine's Church Yass

### 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  
(starts with 8:40am Rosary)

### EXPOSITION

Saturday after 9:00am Mass until 10:00 am

### NURSING HOME/HOSTEL

#### Thomas Eccles Gardens (Linton)

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month Yass 11:00 am

#### Horton/Warmington

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month Yass 11:00 am

*Parishioners are invited to celebrate Mass with the residents at both locations. However, due to COVID/lockdowns, please check with each location first that you can attend.*

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday Yass 10:00 am - 10:30 am  
1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of Month Murrumbateman 5.15 pm - 5.45 pm  
Sundays Gunning 8:00 am - 8:15 am



## FROM FATHER PETER AT THE PRESBYTERY

1. On Wednesday 20 December in St. Augustine's Church commencing at 6.00pm there will be Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist for one hour.

***During adoration the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated with six priests in attendance for the hearing of confession.***

Please come to have an hour's adoration in preparation for Christmas.

The 5.30pm Mass will be celebrated in the Church on that day.

If it is of help to you, Goulburn Parish will celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation the previous evening, Tuesday 19 December, at 6.30 pm in Sts. Peter & Paul Old Cathedral.

2. All the staff and students at our Mt Carmel parish school are wished a most enjoyable and well-earned Christmas holiday break and look forward to your return in 2024.
3. I will be taking my annual leave from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024. Fr. Richard Thompson, Vicar General, will be celebrating the weekend Masses. Masses during the week will be replaced by the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion by Peter Cleary and his team.
4. 'The Sisters of Mercy Farewell Mass' will be celebrated on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 10.15am. The Mass will be followed by Morning Tea. Please note your diaries.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

© Fr Michael Tate  
Liturgy Help

AUGUST 2023 - AUGUST 2024



"It seemed good to us and the Holy Spirit"  
(Acts 15-28)

## YEAR OF THE Holy Spirit

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

O God, who by the light  
of the Holy Spirit,  
did instruct the hearts  
of the faithful,  
Grant that by the same  
Holy Spirit we may be  
truly wise and ever rejoice  
In his consolations.  
Through the same  
Christ Our Lord.

### Everyone is invited to a SPECIAL THANKSGIVING MASS

at 10.15 am

### AND MORNING TEA

In the church grounds  
on

### SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER

to celebrate

Father Peter's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination.

Father Peter's family will be there too, some of whom are also celebrating big events:

Mrs. Therese Thi Hue Doan (Fr's mother)  
95<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Father Joseph Cong Chinh Bui (Fr's brother)  
30<sup>th</sup> Priesthood Anniversary

Father Peter Phong Bui (Fr's cousin)  
40<sup>th</sup> Priesthood Anniversary

Sister Emma Thi Bich Tram Do (Fr's niece)  
20<sup>th</sup> Religious Profession Anniversary

**PLEASE JOIN THEM FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION.**



## Our Parish School – Mt. Carmel

### Christmas Concert

Congratulations to teachers and students for an outstanding Christmas concert. It was fabulous to have parents and friends be part of this celebration.



### ADVENT

Last Monday Kindergarten led a beautiful Advent Prayer Service for the second week of Advent. The second candle of Peace was lit as a symbol of the peace and goodwill to all that having faith in Jesus brings.





*This weekend we welcomed into our Church community:*

Lillian Rita

child of

Keith and Tara

## ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023

The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal for 2023 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 Ukraine, Syria, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and assisting Congolese refugees in Kenya.
- Contributions will be made to support **Diocesan projects within the Dioceses of Otukpo, Nigeria, Africa, Thamarassery, India and Bougainville in PNG.** Within Bougainville, our contribution will support the expansion and overhaul of St Joseph's College, Mabiri, to meet and manage the needs of an envisioned increase in students, many of whom, must board away from home.
- Other international endeavours will include support towards: **projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India; and further student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.**

An article with detail on this year's Archbishop's Christmas Appeal is also in the December edition of the Catholic Voice along with a Coupon for people wishing to send in their donation.

## Financially Speaking



### Collections Received in November 2023

**1<sup>st</sup> Collection:** \$2,267.70  
(includes 30% share from the Tap Machine and Baptism donations)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection:** \$6,488.10  
**Includes:**  
Loose at Mass, Planned Giving, EFT, Direct Debits and Credit Card and Smart Terminal (Tap Machine).

*Thank you very much for your donations.*



## MUSIC MINISTRY NEEDED SINGERS AND MUSICIANS FOR CHRISTMAS



If any parishioners would like to be part of the choir for Christmas, please phone Anne Eade on 0407 940 043 or the Parish Office.  
Practice will be before Mass each Sunday.

## CHRISTMAS CLEAN - CHURCH ALTAR AREA

**Monday 18 December 2023 9.30am**

Your help would be appreciated if you could come on the day.

## PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2023

ARE AVAILABLE AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH

Please collect yours today



*With many thanks.*

*If you are not already a member of the Planned Giving Program, please consider joining. To arrange this please contact Zuzy at the Parish Office on a Monday or Tuesday.*

## Tribunal of the Catholic Church

Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Canberra Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.

For further information please phone the Canberra Office of the Tribunal Office on **6239 9813** or email [tribunal@cg.org.au](mailto:tribunal@cg.org.au)

## The Colour of Rose

'The colour rose is used as a symbol of preparation in the liturgy on the third Sunday of Advent. God our Father, looking in sorrow on the way man walked from him, wished to send us his most beloved, his Son. And all to save us from sin, to open for us the gates of heaven, and to show us the way to true happiness. With Christmas we discover that God watches over us, he is close to us, he loves us personally, unconditionally. We are his children.'

*Catholic Enquiry Centre*

## MASS TIMES



**Saturday** 23.12.2023  
4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Advent 6pm

**Sunday** 24.12.2023

*Christmas Day Vigil* 5pm  
7pm  
11pm

**Monday** 25.12.2023

*Christmas Day* 10.15am

*Vigil Mass*  
Uniting Church Hall

### No Sunday Morning Masses

St Francis Xavier  
Mount Carmel School Grounds  
St Brigid's (Vietnamese)

Murrumbateman

Gunning  
Yass  
Dickson ACT



## RECONCILIATION TIMES

**Wednesday** 20.12.2023  
6pm

**Saturday** 23.12.2023  
10am -10.30am  
5.15pm-5.45pm

Second Rite St Augustine's

St Augustine's  
Uniting Church

Yass

Yass  
Murrumbateman

## 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.

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

### First Reading

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

The Lord speaks to Nathan

### Second Reading

Romans 16: 25-27

God strengthens the Gentiles in their understanding of the Gospel.

### Gospel

Luke 1: 26-38

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

*Please reflect on these readings over the coming week*

## PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED



### Recently Deceased

Edna Crowe, Warren Wales, Frank Dorris,  
and Therese Cullen

### 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), Judith Whittaker (1/12),  
Beulah (Bubbles) Garry (3/12), Neville Bonnette (5/12),  
William Freebody (5/12), Geraldine Smith (6/12)  
Rae O'Brien (8/12), Mary Wicks (8/12), 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

### LITURGY

1 = 1<sup>st</sup> Reading & Responsorial Psalm

2 = 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading & Prayers of the Faithful

3 = Acolyte

17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Linda Swadling	1	Eva	Karakotas	2
	Russell Hill	3			
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Roster	1, 2, 3			
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Sue Morrissey	1	Joe	Morrissey	2
	Greg Minahan	3			

### ALTAR SERVER

17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Charlotte Hardy	Alicia Hardy	Imogen Maher
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Roster		
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reima, Rithika and Ronith Joseph		

### ALTAR CLEANERS

18<sup>th</sup> Dec CHRISTMAS CLEAN – 9.30am  
PLEASE COME IF YOU CAN.

## 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



Andrew Field  
**0428 630 111**

11 LAIDLAW STREET YASS NSW 2582  
OFFICE: 6226 1466 FAX: 6226 3437  
EMAIL: yassearthmovers@ozemail.com.au

## MAKING A DONATION TO THE PARISH



Located at the back of the church is a 'Tap Machine' setup  
for donations using your debit card or credit card.  
Try it out, if this is a more suitable way of giving for you.

**The plate for donations during Mass will still be used.  
Also, donations can be made using Planned Giving  
Envelopes, EFT and Credit Card on a regular basis  
(contact the Parish Office, talk to Zuzy who can arrange  
this for you).**

*Thank you for your generosity and support.*

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

Yass Earthmovers, Yass Learners, B & V Engineering, Woolaroo Merino Stud, Priceline Pharmacy Yass,  
Designing Windows and Ray White Rural Yass