

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 Website: www.staug-yass.org.au

FATHER PETER MY, PARISH PRIEST

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



St. Augustine's Church
Built 1954



Original St. Augustine's Church
- The Lovat Chapel

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.

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.



NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

24th & 25th December, 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. (R.)

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

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.



NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) VIGIL MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

'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.)

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. (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!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed:
the Saviour of the world will be our king.

Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.





FROM FATHER PETER AT THE PRESBYTERY

1. Wishing everyone a holy Christmas and a happy New Year. A Christmas card is there for you in the bulletin. If you missed getting one there are a few more available at the back of the church.
2. 'Thank You' to all those who participated in the Yass Community Christmas Carols. The evening was enjoyed by everyone.
3. I will be taking my annual leave from Monday 8th January 2024 to Friday 2nd February 2024. There will be some visiting priests to celebrate the weekend Masses whilst I am away. They are:
Weekend of 13/14 January Fr. Richard Thompson, Vicar General
Weekend of 20/21 January Fr. James Anthony
Weekend of 27/28 January Fr. Troy Bobbin
Masses during the week will be replaced by the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion, celebrated by Peter Cleary and his team.
4. 'The Sisters of Mercy Farewell Mass' will be celebrated on Sunday 7th April 2024 at 10.15am. The Mass will be followed by Morning Tea. Please note your diaries.

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

LOVE ALWAYS TRIUMPHS

The birth of Jesus, the Light of the World, always triumphs over the darkness.

The hope and light of the First Christmas in the Gospels is proclaimed from the darkness of the night. There is a star that guides. There is the joyful light that the shepherds, the Magi, and all creation encounter in the humble stable.

The surrounding "night" is not simply due to the fact of no sun. It is because there is no Son (of God) in the hearts of some. There are those who plot the killing of the Christ Child. Jesus himself is clothed in cloths and placed in a wooden crib – all suggesting a future death on Calvary. There is no hospitality for the "Prince of Peace" here.

This pattern continues even today.

There is the continuing darkness of the wars in Ukraine, the Holy Land, Africa and other places. Let us not forget that war is always a defeat for humanity – here darkness is chosen over the light of love and peace-making.

There is also the challenge in Australia of re-imagining our relationships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people after the defeat of the Voice Referendum.

Also, with the upward trend of the cost of living, this Christmas will be tough for so many to provide the necessities of table and shelter for their loved ones.

Yet, in the midst of these many darknesses, dawns the triumph of Divine Love found in the birth of the Son of God – Jesus, love itself.

Let us in silence and adoration invite this Christmas light, that chases away the long darkness of loneliness and isolation, to triumph in our hearts, our families and our communities!

Let Christmas joy have a practical expression in helping others. Please give generously to the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal. It will assist greatly places of need throughout the world.

Happy Christmas and New Year to all!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

Apostolic Administrator, Military Ordinariate of Australia

Christmas 2023

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 31st DECEMBER

to celebrate

Father Peter's 30th 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)
95th Birthday

Father Joseph Cong Chinh Bui (Fr's brother)
30th Priesthood Anniversary

Father Peter Phong Bui (Fr's cousin)
40th Priesthood Anniversary

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

PLEASE JOIN THEM FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION.



GOSPEL REFLECTION - Scriptural context

Throughout the gospel of Luke, great importance is placed on the people in society who were regarded as the 'lesser ones'. The mission of Jesus, as described in Luke's gospel, is directed towards those who were unimportant in the eyes of society. In first century society, women were regarded as much less in status than men. So it is significant that the first revelation of Jesus is made to a woman, Mary. The angel Gabriel announces that Mary has won God's favour. For a woman to win God's favour would have been unimaginable to many Jews at the time, yet, through this woman God was revealed in human form.

Greg Sunter
Liturgy Help



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 their life saving assistance to refugees from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia and Myanmar in neighbouring refugee camps.
- International endeavours will include support towards: **efforts of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, in Ukraine, assisting people with evacuation, food and shelter; further student assistance for those in need at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land; and projects focused on helping the poor within the La Salette Matha Province in India.**
- Other contributions will be made to support **Diocesan projects within the Dioceses of Otuokpo, Nigeria, Africa, Thamarassery, India and Gizo in the Solomon Islands. Within Gizo, our contribution will support construction of a staff house for the clinical nurse at St Dominic's Parish, Sirovanga who provides much needed health care through the main mission centre in Sirovanga and in many coastal and mountain villages within the parish.**

Archbishops Christmas Appeal Support is Needed Please!

Donations can also be sent to:
Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2024

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.

Winner of the
St Augustine's Christmas Hamper Raffle
drawn on Tuesday 19 December 2023

was

A Cassels ticket no E29 (yellow).



Congratulations!

F O M A P W Q Q B L B E U W E
L F F J V I N N R U M D W G A
P N X V V N J W S H E E P E P
N K D M A N G E R Y D L E U D
D T P C N A Z A R E T H E S K
H A H P W J O S E P H Q C V I
W J J A B T P X Z Y U W U A P
D L W F V T T R T B B O U N Q
A F U V T R A V E L E D Z G A
Y H Y S T T I A P J L U J E W
E L E Z Z N X X H E O N C L Q
I N C H R I S T I S Z A B S D
K U L E H A P P Y U P E A C E
L Y B K W V Z Y D S H F M U V
P R X E N G A G E D H Z W M N

FOR THE KIDS

Try to find these words:

Christ, Jesus, Joseph,

Nazareth, Angels, engaged,

happy, inn, manger, peace,

sheep traveled

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

Sun 24th December

5.00 pm Vigil

St Francis Xavier

Gunning

7.00 pm Vigil

Mount Carmel School Grounds

Yass

**** PLEASE NOTE:**

**Parishioners please bring your own chair for the 7pm Vigil Mass
as the school can provide only a limited number of chairs.**

11.00 pm Vigil

St Brigid's (Vietnamese)

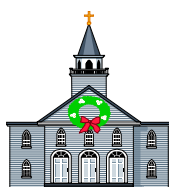
Dickson, ACT

Mon 25th December

10.15 am

St Augustine's Church

Yass



COMMUNION REFLECTION

Sometimes people expect something extraordinary,
or even miraculous, to happen at Christmas.
But when Christ came on earth,
he came clothed, not in the extraordinary,
but in the ordinary.
He came dressed in the cloak
of our weak, fragile, mortal humanity.
*They wrapped the baby in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger.*
Like an acorn that falls to the earth,
silently and unheralded,
in a remote corner of the forest,
and which grows into a great oak tree,
so from these lowly origins Jesus grew up
to show us the greatness of our humanity.



MAKING DONATIONS

- **On the plate during Mass** – cash & Planned Giving envelopes.
- **Planned Giving Envelopes** – become a member and obtain your envelopes by contacting Zuzy at the Parish Office.
- **'Tap Machine'** – (Smart Terminal) Located at the back of the church. Set up for \$5, \$10 or \$20 donations with an option for other amounts. *(These donations are split 30% to the 1st Collection and 70% to the 2nd Collection).*
- **EFT** - Using your home computer or phone. In making donations ***it is very important to put Yass as the reference and if PG please add your envelope number and surname.***

Bank Details are:-

1st Collection

To the Archdiocese:- (support of Parish Priests)

BSB: 062-786
Account No: 000019611
Account Name: St Augustine's Parish, Yass Presbytery

2nd Collection

For the Parish:- (to assist in operating expenses, eg. gas, electricity, rates, wages etc.)

BSB: 062-786
Account No: 000013002
Account Name: St Augustine's Parish, Church Yass

- **CREDIT CARD** on regular basis. (Contact Zuzy at the Parish Office to arrange this).

Thank you for your donations

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED



Recently Deceased

Helena Van Den Bulk and Edna Crowe

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 st Reading & Responsorial Psalm			
2	=	2 nd Reading & Prayers of the Faithful	3	=	Acolyte
24 th Dec	Christmas	Roster	1, 2, 3		
25 th Dec	Sue	Morrissey	1	Joe	Morrissey 2
	Greg	Minahan	3		
31 st Dec	Alan	Oakey	1	Irene	Carr 2
	Greg	Minahan	3		
2024					
7 th Jan	Russell	Hill	1	Kate	Walker 2
	Peter	Walker	3		

ALTAR SERVER

24 th Dec	Christmas	Roster			
25 th Dec	Reima,,	Rithika & Ronith	Joseph		
31 st Dec	Louis	Green	Heath	Wood	Ronith Joseph
2024					
7 th Jan	Fletcher	Lees	Imogen	Maher	

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

First Reading

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14

Kindness and respect for parents is urged.

Second Reading

Colossians 33: 12-21

What is expected of the chosen God.

Gospel

Luke 2: 22-40

Jesus is presented at the Temple by Mary and Joseph.

Please reflect on these readings over the coming week

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

B & V Engineering & Workwear		6226 2422
Designing Windows	Cathy Cleary	6226 2012
Priceline Pharmacy	Andrew Douglas	6226 1003
Ray White Rural Canberra/Yass	George & Simon Southwell	0429 838 345 / 0427 755 997
Woolaroo Merino Stud	James, Charles, Jack & Peter Walker	6226 1104
Yass Earthmovers	Andrew Field	0428 630 111