

Welcome to the HISTORIC PARISH OF ST AUGUSTINE, YASS

established 1838



*St. Augustine's Church
Built 1954*

Located in the Yass Valley the Parish covers a large area including
Bowning, 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



*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.

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 (<i>Chair</i>)	Michael Van Wanrooy	Welfare
Susan Bucknell	Jennie Fischer	Social Justice
Mandy Leahy	Lara Kirk	Ecumenism
Perry Healey	Genevieve Colbert	Education
Katarina O'Connor	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.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6th & 7th January 2024



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

- O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
- In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)
- For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH HOLY COMMUNION

will replace weekday Masses during January 2024

as Fr Peter will be on leave

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
	<i>(starts with 8:40am Rosary)</i>		

EXPOSITION

Will be held after the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion Services.

NURSING HOME/HOSTEL

Thomas Eccles Gardens (Linton)

2nd Tuesday of the month Yass 11:00 am

Horton/Warmington

4th Tuesday of the month Yass 11:00 am

**** There are no Masses in January 2024 as Fr Peter will be on leave.**

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.

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.



FROM FATHER PETER AT THE PRESBYTERY

1. On behalf of my family, I would like to thank all of you for joining our celebration last Sunday, both in the Church and after Mass. May God bless you and yours always.
2. After Helena Van den Bulk's funeral on Monday the 8th January I will be going on holiday. See you when I get back on the weekend of February 3rd and 4th.
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
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion will be held in the Chapel on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Saturday mornings will be Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion and held in St. Augustine's Church as usual.
Exposition will follow all of these services.
Please note that the first Anointing Mass for 2024 will be the 9.00am Mass on Saturday 3rd February.
3. **Some news from the Archdiocese:**
 - + **Archbishop Christopher Prowse** will be on his annual leave in January and our new Vicar General, Fr Richard Thompson, will be present in his absence.
 - + **Seminarians - Bran Grgic** – has enjoyed his time with Fr Mark Croker at Cooma. **Cinnil Thomas** has completed his 30-day retreat as part of the end of First Year programme. Both seminarians are now having a break before resuming their 2024 studies.
 - + **Nicholas Barry** – We welcome Nicholas into the Archdiocesan family as a seminarian for 2024. He will enter First Year at Good Shepherd Seminary in Homebush, Sydney. 24 year old Nicholas originally came from the Yass Parish and has been an RE and Music teacher at St Clare's. Please pray for Nicholas and all our seminarians.
4. Please keep Archbishop Francis Carroll, Bishop Pat Power and all our retired clergy in your prayers. There are some very senior clergy who are not in the best of health and are in need of our prayers.

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.

FEASTS OF THE WEEK: Mon.8 Jan Baptism of the Lord

Drawing from the Eastern tradition of Epiphany, the West has remembered the baptism of the Lord on the octave of the Epiphany since the eighth century. Formally introduced into the Roman calendar in 1960 on the Sunday after the Epiphany, it now concludes the Christmas season. Commemorates the revelation of Jesus as God's beloved Son, the Christ, anointed by the Spirit.

Did you know there are traditionally four kinds of prayer?

Sometimes it's hard to know where to start when we pray. That's why the Church proposes four basic prayers to help us get started:

Adoration is when we praise God;

Contrition is when we ask God's forgiveness;

Petition is when we ask God for a favour and

Thanksgiving is when we show God our gratitude.

We all ask God for things; but do we take time to thank and adore him.

Catholic Enquiry Centre

GOSPEL REFLECTION: The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king.

The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

Historical Context – The Magi

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

Greg Sunter – Liturgy Help



What's on the Parish Grape Vine?

January

Mon. 8th Father Peter on leave until Fri. 2nd February 2024.

February

Thu. 8th 9.30 am **School Opening Mass.**
Everyone welcome to attend.

Sun. 11th 10.15 am **Reconciliation Commitment Mass**
- St Augustine's Church
(Proposed date)

Tue. 13th 5.30 pm First PFC Meeting for 2024

Wed. 14th Ash Wednesday

9.30 am School Mass with distribution of Ashes

5.30 pm Parish Mass with distribution of Ashes

Tue. 20th 6.30 pm First PPC Meeting for 2024

March

Fri. 1st 10.00 am **World Day of Prayer.**
St Augustine's Parish to host this ecumenical prayer service. To be held in the Lovat Chapel. All welcome to attend.



Thu. 21st 6.30 pm **First Reconciliation**
- St Augustine's Church
(Proposed date)

April

Sun. 7th 10.15 am **Farewell Mass & Morning Tea for the Sisters of Mercy.**
- St Augustine's Church



Sun. 7th 10.15 am **First Eucharist Commitment Mass**
- St Augustine's Church
(Proposed date)

June

Sun. 2nd 10.30 am **Celebration of the Sacrament of First Eucharist.**
- St Augustine's Church - (Proposed date)

July

Sun. 28th 10.15 am **Confirmation Commitment Mass**
- St Augustine's Church
(Proposed date)

September

Sun. 22nd 10.30 am **Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation**
- St Augustine's Church - (Proposed date)

I am the vine you are the branches John 15: 5

FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE NEEDY PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN

Please bring along a donation of tinned food when coming to Mass to assist in this worthy cause.

A basket for donations of non-perishable goods is placed at the back of the church.



Thank you.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2024 ARE AVAILABLE AT THE REAR OF THE CHURCH.

Please collect yours today

If you are not already a member of the Planned Giving Program, please consider joining. To arrange this 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

JAN – FEB 2024 | INTRODUCTORY CPE COURSE

Are you interested in growing your capacity to be fully present to others by learning how to offer effective pastoral and spiritual care?

An Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course is being offered online using Zoom in January/February 2024. This short 40-hour course will comprise of 6 sessions and run from 9am to 3.30pm, commencing Mon 29, then Tues 30, Wed 31 January, then Mon 5, Tues 6 and Mon 12 Feb.

Applications close on Thursday January 25, 2024. For more information please contact Barbara Hall at barbarahall1909@gmail.com or phone: **0418 413 731** - **See brochure on the Parish Notice Board**

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE) 400 HOUR FOUNDATIONAL UNIT

Are you drawn to

- Growing in knowledge, understanding and developing skills that will enable you to offer effective pastoral and spiritual care?
- Deepening your awareness of spirituality in your life and of people's spiritual needs, hopes and concerns during times of illness?
- Becoming more aware of your own values, attitudes and assumptions?

A CPE Foundational Unit will be offered as a blend of both online and in person sessions conducted on Wednesdays from February to June 2024. (Limited places are still available.)

Please contact Barbara Hall at barbarahall1909@gmail.com or phone: **0418 413 731** for more information and an application form.

See brochure on the Parish Notice Board

ENVIRONMENTAL SPIRITUALITY

'The Earth is indeed a precious gift of the Creator who, in designing its intrinsic order, has given us guidelines that assist us as stewards of his creation. Precisely from within this framework, the Church considers that matters concerning the environment and its protection are intimately linked with integral human development. In my recent encyclical, Caritas in Veritate, I referred to such questions recalling the "pressing moral need for renewed solidarity" not only between countries but also between individuals, since the natural environment is given by God to everyone, and so our use of it entails a personal responsibility towards humanity as a whole, particularly towards the poor and towards future generations.'

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, 26.8.09

Teacher: "Name six wild animals."

Student: "Four elephants and two lions."

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Gordon Wilson's daughter was killed by a bomb in Enniskillen in 1987. Instead of calling for revenge, he forgave her killers and began a campaign for peace and reconciliation. He said:
'I am a very ordinary sort of man.
I have few personal ambitions and no political aspirations.
I just want to live and let live.
Life has been kind to me in the main,
and I have tried to live by the Good Book.
I do not profess to be a good man, but I aim to be.
I would like to leave the world a better place than I found it,
but I have no exaggerated ideas of my ability to do so.
I have hitched my wagon to a star,
a star of hope, the star of Bethlehem.'

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

Anthony Hagerty, Brian O'Connor, Helena Van Den Bulk and Edna Crowe

Prayers for all those whose anniversary occurs at this time including:

*Glen Snowden (1/1), Brian Rosser (1/1),
Maureen Field (5/1), Noel Maher (5/1),
Alfred Warner (7/1), Toby Abbey (8/1),
Fay Renehan (10/1), Bruce Longley (11/1),
Frank Carey (12/1), Dr Ray Burn (12/1),
Barry Wales (16/1), Patricia Brown (17/1),
George Power (17/1), William Brassil (17/1),
John Warren (18/1), Patrick Cleary (20/1),
Robyn Rees (20/1), Phillip Ranyard (21/1),
Margaret Horne (22/1), Vincent Brown (22/1),
Jessica Patrick (23/1), Markus Gibson-Huck (24/1),
Peter Bell (24/1), Len Dawes (25/1), Tony Cooke (25/1),
Rachel Gorst (25/1), Brian O'Mara (28/1),
Edward Balnaves (28/1), Lily Delaney (28/1)
and Michael Hickey (29/1).*

Always In Our Hearts Loved and Remembered

ROSTERS

LITURGY

1 = 1st Reading & Responsorial Psalm
2 = 2nd Reading & Prayers of the Faithful 3 = Acolyte

2024

7 th Jan	Russell	Hill	1	TBA	2
	Anthony	O'Connell	3		
14 th Jan	Reg	Bucknell	1	Susan Bucknell	2
	Peter	Cleary	3		

ALTAR SERVER

7 th Jan	Fletcher	Lees	Imogen	Maher
14 th Jan	Grace	Miller	Lily	Butt

READINGS NEXT WEEK: 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

First Reading

Samuel 3: 3-10, 19

Samuel receives the Lord.

Second Reading

Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20

Our bodies are temples.

Gospel

John 1: 35-42

John identifies the Messiah, Peter responds.

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	Junita Van den Bulk	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