



Sacred Heart Church
Wodonga

WODONGA PARISH CENTRE

283 Beechworth Road
Wodonga Vic 3690:
Phone: 02 6024 3366

E-mail Address:

wodonga@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
www.wodongacatholicparish.com.au

OFFICE HOURS

9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Monday to Friday

PRESBYTERY

55 High Street Wodonga Vic

PARISH PRIEST

Father Junjun Amaya
0459-356-917

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Father Shibu
0432 591 551

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Sister Eileen Reardon
0458 327 554 (Mt Beauty)

WEEKEND MASSES

WODONGA

Sacred Heart Church

Saturday 6:00 pm.
Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am
4th Sunday of each month
Youth Mass 5:00 pm

TANGAMBALANGA

Our Lady Help of Christians
2nd & 4th Sunday 10:30 am

BETHANGA

St Francis

No Masses

DEDERANG

St Joseph's

1st & 3rd Sunday 10:30 am
5th Sunday 10:30 am
Liturgy of The Word
and Communion

MT BEAUTY

St Joseph's

1st to 4th Sunday 8:30 am
5th Sunday 8:30 am
Liturgy of The Word
and Communion

WEEKDAY MASS:

Sacred Heart Church
Monday: Liturgy of the Word
9:15 am

Mass: Tuesdays to Friday
9:15 am

St Augustine's Church
Saturday 9:30 am

RECONCILIATION:

Sacred Heart Church
Saturday 9:00 - 9:30 am
Country Churches
Before Masses

Wodonga Catholic Parish

Including Bethanga, Dederang, Mt Beauty and Tangambalanga Communities

~ YEAR A ~



~ YEAR A ~

December 22nd-2019-Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Message

If you were to make a perfect gift to our Lord Jesus- the birthday celebrant this Christmas, the reason for this season, the reason why there is Christmas in the first place, what would you give him? Just as we would stress on what kind of gifts we give to someone we loved and cared about, we would definitely be stressed on what kind of gift be perfectly suited to give to Jesus on the celebration of his birthday, I know I would. One way to help us look for that fitting gift for Jesus is to look first at the motive of God by giving us his only and beloved Son. John 3:16 captures it well: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

So LOVE is what motivates God to give us his only Son. Such is his love for us that he would even lay down his own life for us his friends. It's God's love that saves us from our sins. It's God's love that saves the world and which is being seen by *"all the ends of the earth as the saving power of God."* (Psalm 97[98]). God loved us so much that he did not just desire to become like us, he has decided to be one like us, not to put himself lower but to lift us up higher. In love, he willed to become part of our human story, in order for us to become part of the Divine story. Let us make our Christmas celebration then a celebration of LOVE: *God's love for us and our love for one another.* This would be a perfect gift for the child Jesus.

To celebrate God's love for us, we welcome Christ into our hearts as our way of thanksgiving to God for loving us even if at times we are not that lovely. We endeavour to provide a room, a place for Jesus in the 'inn of our hearts'. We endeavour to give time for him this Christmas. He should be the **main celebrant** in our Christmas celebrations.

If we take 'Christ' out of 'Christmas', we are left with 'mas', which does not mean a thing in English. In Spanish it means 'more'. Without Christ in our Christmas do's we might have more fun, more gifts, more presents, more parties, more food, but in the end, we would just end up asking for more or asking ourselves: *"What's the point of all of these?"*

To show our love of Jesus and our love for one another, it's as easy ABC:

Adore Christ this Christmas. Attend Christmas Masses and Liturgical services and worship.

Say grace and thanksgiving for the gift of food, family and friends during Christmas meals.

Be generous with our time, talent and treasures especially to those who are lost, those who have less, and those who are marginalized, neglected, those who are bearing life's burdens brought about by natural disasters and man-made violence, those who are discriminated because of language, race, religion, skin colour, and those who are persecuted because of their belief and convictions for the cause of justice, truth and peace. We can do all these by being:

Christlike in our attitudes and behavior's. Let us reflect on that humble scene of the child Jesus laying in the manger- 'the first motel' or 'the first king-sized bed', as someone says. Jesus Christ wasn't born from a rich or royal family. He chose to be born in a humble, simple ordinary human family, so that we could identify with him quite easily, so that we could get access to him as we are, without any royal protocols and pomposity. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes, so ordinary, to remind us that the real value of the gift is not so much on the fancy wrapping, or on the size of the gift, but on what is inside, what does it mean for the receiver and what does it cost for the giver.

Friends, Christmas is not just a *holiday* but a *holy day*. It's not just about *giving* presents but *being* present. It's not just about *partying* but *praying*. It's not just about *giving cards* but *care giving*. It's not just about *fun with friends*, but *friendship with God*. It's not just *shopping* but *worshipping* our Saviour- **Jesus Christ**.

Christmas therefore is giving thanks to God for loving us unconditionally as well as showing and sharing our love of God and our love for all of God's creatures without counting the cost.

Let us endeavour to do all these because this would be a fitting gift to the birthday celebrant this Christmas. Let us do these and see what difference does this Christmas make in our lives.

With Fr Shibu & Seminarian Dominic, I wish you all a very happy, solemn Christmas season and a grace-filled new year! Drive safely, drink moderately.

Fr Junjun

Recent Deaths: Daniel Seymour, Austin Fagan Chobart (Margaret Cameron's brother)

Anniversaries: Joan Henderson, John and Barbara March, John and Helen Haskell, Anne Willcox

Sick: John Thornley, Jean-Charles Msula-Munga, Zak Oliver, Salome Ramirez, Ric Glavocih, Mary Shaddock, Ricky Ellul, John Radcliffe, parishioners who are ill, their families & Carers.

The Wodonga Branch of the K nights of the Southern Cross.

Thank everyone who has supported them in their endeavors' over the past year and look forward to serving the Parish in 2020. May the Joy and Peace of Christmas be with you all.

PLEASE NOTE:

Mass will be celebrated on the 26th and 27th of December at Sacred Heart Church at 9:15am

Mass will also be celebrated, at St Augustine's Church Saturday the 28th of December 9:30am.

Piety Stall Now in Stock

Calendars, Christmas cards, Advent wreathes and small gifts suitable for the Festive Season. The pre-ordered Daily Mass Books and Copies of Break Open The Word are available and plentiful.

Christmas Eve Family Mass:

If your child or grandchild would like to be involved in the Christmas Eve Nativity please contact Timele Stewart 0420 976 550 OR Anna Moran 0400 434 285.



A Safe Parish: Around our parish center and churches are various notices and information in regards to keeping our parish safe. Please be aware the child safety notices and the exit plans **must not** be covered by other notices and must be in clear view at all times. If you happen to see these notices covered please uncover them or let me know. Thank you, Sonni.

Wodonga Catholic Parish Child Safety Officers.

Jacinta Bartlett 0418470532 & Sonia La Motte-Schubert 60243366. Towards Healing help line 1800 816 030 (free call) Lifeline is a non-profit Organisation FREE 24-hour Crisis Support Phone: 13 11 14

Caritas Australia Global Gifts:

This Christmas you can **'be an angel'** by giving a Caritas Global Gift. For friends and family, who like you, know they don't need more 'things', your gift can help provide clean water, food or sustainable livelihoods - things we so often take for granted here in Australia. In return for your donation toward your chosen gift, you receive a beautiful card or e-card to give to your loved one showing you have made a contribution on their behalf.

Purchase online at www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts or phone 1800 024 413.

Ecumenical Prayer Service: The 1st Saturday of each month @ 8am - St Augustine's Church .

Filipino Mass & El Shaddai Gawain: The 4th Saturday of **DECEMBER** @ 4 pm - St Augustine's Church.

Vietnamese Mass: For DECEMBER

Please contact Mark Ph: 0402076470

Indian Mass: Christmas Eve Mass 24th Dec @ 9:00pm St Augustine's Church.

Catholic Theological College

2020 Study Options Now Available!

The Parish and Pastoral Ministry in a New Environment

Parish life today is facing many new opportunities and challenges. The parish of the future will be built on the missionary creativity of people and priests working together in a changed social and ecclesial environment. Fr Brendan Reed, author of *Engaging with the Hopes of Parishes*, will be teaching this new unit. This will be beneficial for anyone involved in parish, parish councils, parish teams and parish ministry.

It will be particularly of use to those wishing to engage in parish life in light of the 2020 Plenary Council. 12, 14, 19 March; 30 April; 2, 23 May + online learning (12 hours equivalent) **Church History**

Discover more about the Church's story and the journey of faith across the centuries. **Units include:**

The Spirit of Trent and the Mystery of Vatican II – Semester 1, Wednesday 6-9pm.

Two Centuries of Catholic Experience in Australia – Winter Intensive, 29/6, 1/7, 3/7, 6/7, 8/7, 10/7 9.30-4.30pm

The Reformation in the British Isles – Saturday Intensive, Semester 1: 7/3, 14/3 18/4, 2/5. Semester 2: 1/8, 29/8, 12/9, 10/10 10-3.00pm.

Contact the Academic Records Office for all study options and further information. +61 3 9412 3309 AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au

278 Vitoria Parade, East Melbourne

ctc@ctc.edu.au

WODONGA ROSTERS: 29TH DECEMBER

SACRED HEART CLEANING: Marg McEvoy, Brigita Hore

SACRED HEART ALTAR: **Volunteers needed PLEASE**

MASS TIMES: **6.00 pm** **8.30 am** **10.30 am**

ALTAR SERVERS Peter, Michael, David.

Lector 1: Ross Black

Lector 2: Carmel Arden

ALTAR SERVERS Edward, Henry, Jess, Mac, Oliver, Billy, Tommy

Lector 1: Kath Crothers

Lector 2: Diana McKinley

ALTAR SERVERS Honorina, Eliza

Lector 1: Judy D'Astoli

Lector 2: Cristy Fraser

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS 29TH DECEMBER

6.00pm: Cathy Campbell, Erris Black, Amilia Dealtry, Denise Piergrosse, Michael McLinden

8.30am: John Barrat, Lucette Brown, Michael Iverson, Bronwyn Wighton, Sharon Bone

10.30am Jean Tabra, Ampy Clark, Maree Kelly, Phillip Stewart

Children's Liturgy:

8.30 am Mass: School Holidays

10:30 am Mass: School Holidays

COUNTERS: THIS WEEK

THIS WEEK: TEAM 2: Val Mulqueeny, Zennon McCarty, Chris Venning, Rob Saric

NEXT WEEK: TEAM 3: Helen Collins, Bernie & Julie Jones, Gerard Peeters

MT BEAUTY ROSTERS: 29 TH DECEMBER

LECTOR: Roseanna

Backup: Gail

COMMENTATOR: Barb

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Bruce

Mowing: Bruce

DEDERANG ROSTERS: 29 TH DECEMBER

FIRST / SECOND READING: Sharon Coulston

WELCOME/PSALM/PRAYER OF FAITHFUL: Diane Goonan

POWERPOINT: Madison Coulston

OFFERTORY: Read

CLEANING ROSTER: Mary Read



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-24



This is how Jesus Christ came to be born.

His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said

'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Readings this week

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

Readings next week:

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Responsorial Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia,

Prayer of the Faithful:

Lord, hear our prayer!

Acknowledgement of Country:

We, Wodonga Catholic Parish, acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land where our churches, schools and buildings are located. We pay our respect to the Aboriginal people and Elders past and present whose spirits dwell in this land. May the spirit of this ancient land be always with us.



Need Parish Info Quickly ?

Wodonga Catholic Parish Facebook
facebook.com/wodongacatholicparish

OR Wodonga Parish youth page @
facebook.com/wodongaparishyouth

Wodonga Catholic Parish Christmas Mass Times- 2019



Filipino Christmas Novena Mass

December **21st** - Sacred Heart Church 6.00 pm
December **22nd & 23rd**- St Augustine's Church 7:00 pm

Individual Reconciliation

Sacred Heart Church Wodonga
Friday December **20th** 9:45 -10:15 am
Saturday December **21st** 9:00 -10:00 am



Christmas Eve Mass Times

Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

Family Christmas Eve Mass:

December **24th** 6:00 pm *Children's Mass & Nativity Celebration*

Sacred Heart Church Wodonga

December **24th** 8.30 pm

Our Lady Help of Christians, Tangambalanga

December **24th** 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart Church, Wodonga 8:30 & 10:30 am

St Joseph's Church, Mt Beauty 8:30 am

St Joseph's Church, Dederang 10:30 am



Christmas Tree of Remembrance



Parishioners are invited to remember deceased family members and friends by writing a message

on the cards provided and hanging them on the Christmas tree in the foyer of Sacred Heart Church.

Wodonga Catholic Parish Gift Shop Now in Stock

Calendars, Christmas cards, Advent wreathes and small gifts suitable for the Festive Season.

The pre-ordered Daily Mass Books and Copies of Break Open The Word are available and plentiful.

Support from our volunteer stallholders would be gratefully accepted.

The Filipino Community of Albury/Wodonga invites you all to...

Simbang Gabi sa Wodonga 2019

What better way to prepare for Christmas than with 9 evening masses... Join us as we celebrate this beautiful Filipino Tradition in preparation for the Birth of Our Lord..



Please Bring your favorite dish to share after the Mass at St Augustine's Church , 55 High St Wodonga

Mass Schedule:



(Sat)-	Dec 21	(7pm)	- Fr Novie
(Sun)-	Dec 22	(7pm)	- Fr Junray
(Mon)-	Dec 23	(7pm)	- Fr Dean