

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Albury

23rd December 2018
4th Sunday of Advent (Year C/1)

Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. (Hebrews 10: 7)

These are among the most important words in the Scriptures. They encapsulate the life and mission of Jesus sent to redeem and save us, and they encapsulate the life and mission of every Christian: to conform our human will to the divine will of God - from which everything else flows.



Echoing King David's words (cf. Psalm 40: 6-8), the author of Hebrews explains how it is not our offerings and sacrifices - as good and necessary as these are to help deepen our interior life of prayer and holiness - that are most pleasing to God, but our desire to do God's Will and our obedience in following it. This is also one of the hardest things for the Christian to do, but paradoxically, only in doing so do we find our true happiness and lasting peace.

It is also why, as today's Gospel reminds us, that Mary is blessed. She believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled. She conformed her will to his, even when she did not understand it, and therein, discovered true blessedness. Before she could conceive Jesus in flesh in her womb, she first had to conceive him in faith in her heart. We, too, must first believe in faith even when we do not understand, before we can believe that Jesus, the man, is truly God - the only Saviour of the world.

Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Mass Times

Vigil (Saturday) 5.00pm
Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am, 5.30pm
Latin Mass 12.00pm

Sacrament of Penance, Reconciliation

Saturdays 10.00am-11.00am & 4.00-4.45pm
Every First Thursday 9.00am-9.25am
Also 30 mins prior to Sunday morning Masses

Anointing of the Sick

During 9.30am Mass Every First Thursday
and during visits to the sick

Divine Mercy Devotion & Benediction

Every 4th Sunday, 3pm

Daily Mass Times

Monday to Friday 7.00am
Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am
First Friday 5.30pm
Saturday 9.30am

Special Christmas/ New Year Schedule

Every day at 9.30am only

Parish Priest
Fr Joel Wallace

Assistant Priest
Fr Marco Killingsworth

Presbytery Secretary Mrs Jean Percy

515 Smollett Street (PO Box 553) Albury NSW 2640

Ph 02 6041 2588 or 0400603211 | Fax 02 6041 1750 | Email admin@stpatricksalbury.org.au

www.stpatricksalbury.org.au

FIRST READING: MICAH 5:1-4

'The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his
Power to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

*You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.*

*You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the
Book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'*

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the servant of the Lord:
May his will for me be done.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Mary, our Mother, help us to believe as you did, that the promise made to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Lord Jesus, open my eyes to see in you - the tiny, vulnerable Babe of Bethlehem - the true God and Saviour of the world who holds my life in your hands. Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. Amen.



Weekday Masses:**Mon:** 24th December**Tues:** Christmas Day**Wed:** St Stephen, Martyr**Thurs:** St John, Apostle**Fri:** Holy Innocents, Martyrs**Sat:** 5th Day in the Octave**Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:**

Jim Kee, John Keane, Pat Smith, Bron Smithwick, Byron Carter, Sr Pat, Angela Ryan, Patricia Hickey, Patrick Lockwood, Jennifer Speth, Joan Maloney, Peter Kingston, Fr Tony Loth, Archbishop Frank Carroll, Joan McLaurin, John Harrold, Pam Ray, Brian Blattman, Fr Peter Thompson, John Romeo, David Burke, Kelly Jansen, John Dwyer, Rory O'Connor, Miguel Cayari, Margaret Esler, Betty Muntz, Kath Thistleton, Rick Williams, Vivienne Baker, Zoltan Tar, Herman Logue, Sophie Howard, Gwen Rowe, Grace Van-Gaans, Kerrie Mulcahy, Anne Anderson, Danica Peric, Anne Spence, Bridgette Veneris, Lyn Tait, Pat l'Anson, Nora Hill, Anna Toth, Ivan Mejak, Will Carland, Reg l'Anson, Kathy Robison, Ghislaine Valmont and also those we include in the offering of our Masses.

Grant eternal life to:

Fr Jim Victory, Patrick Tait, Mary Rebecchi, James Parnell, Tony Peric, Holly Hewson and all of those who have died. *Requiescat in Pace.*

Anniversaries:

Ann Ferguson and for all of our loved ones whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Matija and Philip Gasperov, Deceased members of the Ferguson Family, Bert & Andrew Scammell and all of our loved ones who have died.

Baptisms:

Alby Quinn, lylah Costin

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School Newsletter:

web.spaww.catholic.edu.au

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable People:

<http://safeguarding.wagga.catholic.org.au>

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE**PLEASE NOTE MIDNIGHT MASS TIMETABLE**

CHANGES! Due to numbers attending and lack of space in the Adoration Chapel, the English Midnight Mass Liturgy will be held at 10pm and the Latin Midnight Mass will be held at 12am. See updated Schedule.

N.B. All daily Masses after Christmas are at 9.30am only.

THE UGANDA KIDS

Charity in Australia and Uganda would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the well-being of so many children and families over the past twelve months and wishes you a Happy and Holy Christmas and New Year.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE RAFFLE

The Catholic Women's League would like to thank all parishioners who supported their Christmas raffle this year. The winner of the hamper was Mary Keane. The raffle raised \$580.00 to go towards the good works of the League.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Monthly every **second** Tuesday at 6pm in the Church.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION and RCIA combined

Now monthly at 7pm 3rd Mondays of the month.

URGENTLY NEEDED

Volunteer workers – Balgo and La Grange/Bidyadanga Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church in the Kimberley. For further details, please contact Volunteer Coordinator: Anneliese Rohr 08 9192 1060, Email: volunteers@broomedioocese.org Mail: PO Box 76, BROOME, WA 6725.

PLANNED GIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

To contribute to Parish Planned Giving (2nd Collection) by direct debit:

Bank: CBA, BSB: 066 789, A/c: 100003749

Ref: Name and/or envelope number

For online donations to the Parish:

BSB: 062614, A/c: 10380865

NO COST COUNSELLING

Leonie (Nonie) McClelland has offered her services as a volunteer qualified counsellor for members of St Patrick's Parish. Please phone 6021 6868 to arrange a suitable time and place.

HELP NEEDED

An elderly lady from Lavington is in need of a lift to 10.00am Sunday Mass for the next six weeks. If anyone is able to help, please call the parish office on 6041 2588.

YOUNG ADULTS

Esencia Young Adults - Every Wednesday night from 7pm. (18+) Current topic is Discipleship centred on the Catechism and Sacred traditions. Contact Joseph Slee 0468546969.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**VACANT HOURS COMING UP**

Sat 24th 1-2am, 10-11am

Sun 25th 12-1am, 1-2am

PERMANENT HOURS

Sat: 1am

Sun: 12-1am, 1-2am

Mon 10-11pm, 11-12pm

Tues 7-8pm

SCHOOL OF PRAYER

Based on the prayerful reading of Sacred Scripture. Starts with the Ten Commandments. 7-8.30pm at Esencia Cafe Tuesdays fortnightly. Contact Regina 0407 935 815.

SECURITY NOTE

BEHAVIOUR REPORTING: FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE YOUNG AND MOST VULNERABLE.

Please forward security concerns or complaints to: concerns@stpatricksalbury.org.au

NURSING HOMES

Please let the parish office know if you are aware of anyone who is in a nursing home and would like to receive pastoral care. Next Week's Masses are at Della Court and Riverwood.

NEW PARISH WEBSITE

Now online. www.stpatricksalbury.org.au

DEVOTIONAL/SACRAMENTAL GOODS

Church Stores Sydney is helping our Parish Office to be able to retail small piety goods and order larger items overnight from Sydney.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Volunteers are needed to help with the operation of the screens during Mass. Basic computer skills required.

**Women's Life Centre:**

www.womenslifecentrealbury.org.au

24 HOUR HELPLINE 02 6040 7910

or

0423 004 904

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ACOLYTES

5.00pm (Vigil) Luis Flores
 8.00am Thomas Thomas
 10.00am Volunteer needed
 5.30pm Chris Ryan

LECTORS

5.00pm (Vigil) Anne McSpadden, Trish Dean
 8.00am Peter Jansen, Sarah Horton
 10.00am Frank Percy, Stefany George
 5.30pm Marko Thomas, Verity

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

5.00pm (Vigil) Volunteer Please
 8.00am Helen Sandral
 10.00am Frank Percy
 5.30pm Volunteer Please

TEA & COFFEE

8.00am Judy & Peter Jansen
 10.00am Claire McManus

FLOWER ROSTER: 19-30th December

Marg Merkensteyn, Jean Percy

LITURGY SLIDES

(Please arrange a replacement if you are unavailable)

5.00pm Burton Family
 8.00am Volunteer Required
 10.00am Jacinta Churcher
 5.30pm Leones Family

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