



KYABRAM CATHOLIC PARISH

St Augustine's - Kyabram ~ St Patrick's - Tongala

St Augustine's - Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620

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Parish Priest – Fr Uday Marneni ALCP/OSS

Donation QR

Second Sunday of Advent ~ Year A

Sunday 7 December 2025



Readings for
this week:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Readings for
next Sunday:

Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

MATER POPULI FIDELIS: HONORING MARY WITH FAITHFUL CLARITY

The Blessed Virgin Mary holds a tender and central place in the heart of every Catholic. She is our mother, our model, and our most powerful intercessor. Her images, titles, and prayers have adorned our churches, homes, and lives for centuries. But sometimes, in our great love for Mary, expressions of devotion can unintentionally blur the line between honouring her and misunderstanding her role in salvation.

That is why the Vatican recently released a new document titled *Mater Populi Fidelis* (“The Mother of the Faithful People”). Issued by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and approved by Pope Leo XIV, this note serves as pastoral guidance to clarify and reaffirm how we, as Catholics, should speak of Mary, not to diminish our love for her, but to deepen it in the light of sound theology.

This document is not a rebuke of Marian devotion. Quite the opposite: it reaffirms Mary’s role in salvation history and invites us to honour her in a way that is theologically accurate, Christ entered, and spiritually fruitful.

Clarifying Marian Titles and Language A central goal of *Mater Populi Fidelis* is to bring clarity to some of the titles and expressions we use when referring to the Blessed Mother. Over time, phrases like “Co-Redemptrix” and “Mediatrice of all graces” have become part of popular devotion. While such terms arose from piety and love, the document cautions against language that might place Mary on the same level as Christ or suggest that she is an independent source of grace.

For example, while the term “Mediatrice” can be used in a very specific theological context referring to Mary’s intercessory role, it should not be interpreted in a way that makes her a rival to Christ. Jesus Christ alone is the Redeemer and the sole Mediator between God and humanity (cf. 1 Timothy 2:5). Any participation Mary has in our salvation flows entirely from Him and through Him.

Mary’s Subordinate Yet Significant Role The document emphasizes that Mary’s cooperation in salvation is subordinate to Christ’s redemptive act. That is not a denial of her importance; rather, it beautifully expresses the truth that Mary is entirely dependent on Christ, just as we are. Her “yes” at the Annunciation allowed the Word to become flesh, and her presence at the foot of the Cross was an act of maternal solidarity. But all of this is part of God’s greater plan in Christ. As *Mater Populi Fidelis* notes, Christ is the only source of grace. Mary, through her faith, obedience, and maternal love, participates in God’s plan. Her intercession is powerful, but not because she is divine, but because she is uniquely united to her Son in his mission. She always leads us to Jesus, never away from him.

Mary as Mother of Faithful People The document proposes a powerful image of Mary that is both ancient and refreshingly simple: Mary as the “Mother of the Faithful People.” This image echoes the Gospel of John, where Jesus from the Cross says to the beloved disciple, “Behold, your mother” (John 19:27). This maternal relationship is the heart of Marian devotion. Mary is not a deity or a replacement for Christ; she is a mother. A mother who walks with us, intercedes for us, comforts us, and brings our needs to her Son. By refocusing our devotion on Mary’s maternal love, the Church invites us into a more intimate and grounded relationship with her, one that is doctrinally sound and spiritually rich.

Devotion with Discernment *Mater Populi Fidelis* also serves as a call to discernment, particularly for preachers, catechists, and spiritual writers. The language we use about Mary must reflect the truths of our faith. We are encouraged to avoid exaggerations or ambiguous phrases that could confuse the faithful or create stumbling blocks in ecumenical dialogue.

This clarity is not about restriction but about truth in love. Just as we would want to speak accurately and reverently about Christ, so too we must speak accurately and reverently about His mother.

A Call to Deeper Devotion In short, *Mater Populi Fidelis* is not a rejection of traditional Marian devotion. It is a reminder that true love always seeks truth. When we honour Mary correctly, we glorify Christ more fully. When we pray the Rosary, celebrate her feast days, or seek her intercession, we are not turning from Jesus; we are drawing closer to him through the one who first bore him in her womb and in her heart. Let us continue to love Mary as our mother, our intercessor, and our model of faith. And let us do so with a renewed understanding, so that our devotion may be both heartfelt and faithful.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Noreen Gallardo, Shane Boyd, Milly Perry, Matt Carver, Olive McElroy, Frances Corso, Philip Bowman, Kady Mitchell-Treacy.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Finola Price, Alvin Brunt

(Please email or contact the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list)

ROSTERS

Saturday 13 December at 6pm

Commentator – W Mulcahy

Lector – N Watt

Special Minister – L Moran

Sunday 14 December 8.30am

Commentator – B Elliott

Lector – J Chant

Special Minister – M O'Shea

Sunday 21 December 8.30am

Commentator – C Cabaraban

Lector – A Shaw

Special Minister – A Ryan

PLATE AND ENVELOPE COLLECTION

Last weekend Collection: \$ 855.05

Thank you for your generosity and support for our Parish. May God bless you, always.

PARISH DETAILS

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Uday Kumar Marneni ALCP/OSS

PARISH SECRETARY

Vicki Arnel – 0417 147 695

PARISH PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mary Zobec – 0427 190 282

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am-4pm

PRINCIPALS

St Augustine's College -Tim Campbell – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary - Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

MASS TIMES

KYABRAM

Week Day: Tuesday Rosary 4pm, Mass 4.15pm & Thursday 9.15am

Saturday: 2nd and 4th weekend of month: 6pm EDT (5pm EST)

Sunday: 8.30am

TONGALA: First Sunday of month 11.30am

RECONCILIATION: Second Saturday (Weekend) of month 30 mins before Mass in St Augustine's Church.

ANointing Mass: First Thursday of the month at 10am in St Augustine's Church.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR DIARY

DECEMBER

- * Monthly working bee Saturday 6th December 9.30am.
- * Farewell morning tea following 8.30am Mass on Sunday 7th December for Maurie and Angela Finn
- * St Patrick's graduation Mass Thursday 11th December at 9am.
- * Communal Reconciliation Thursday 11th December 6pm
- * Children's Mass & Christmas party 13th December 6pm
- * Misa De Gallo Mass Tue 16th December - 6.30pm
- * Misa De Gallo Mass Thu 18th December - 6.30pm
- * Misa De Gallo Mass at St Brendan's Shepparton 6am

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH MEETING

Following the 11.30am liturgy on 7 December, a meeting will be held in the church to discuss a change of use proposal for the church. Interested parishioners are invited to attend.

ST VINNIES CHRISTMAS HAMPER FOODS

This year St Vincent de Paul conference would be so grateful to receive any non-perishable Christmas foods (shortbread, puddings, cakes, lollies etc) to help us provide special Christmas treats to our local families in need. Our last day for collection pickup is the 13/14 December. Christmas is a season of kindness, and these hampers are a way to let families know they are valued and supported. Donation envelopes will be available.

FAREWELL TO MAURIE AND ANGELA FINN

A farewell morning tea will follow 8.30am Mass on Sunday 7th December for Maurie and Angela Finn. Maurie and Angela have lived in our parish for many years and contributed generously to our parish community through many ministries. You are invited to celebrate their dedication and wish them farewell as they continue with their retirement in Yea.

MASS TIME TABLE

Weekly Masses

Sun 7th December - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 9th December - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 11th December - St Patrick's Graduation Mass 9am

Thu 11th December - Communal Reconciliation 6pm

Sat 13th December - 6pm Childrens Christmas Mass

Sun 14th December - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 16th December - 6.30pm Misa De Gallo Mass

Thu 18th December - 6.30pm Misa De Gallo Mass

Sun 21st December - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 23rd December - 6.30pm Misa De Gallo Mass

Wed 24th December – 8pm Mass after 7.30pm Carols

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION

Communal Reconciliation will be held on Thursday 11th December at 6pm.

LADIES CUPPA AND CHAT

Ladies you are invited to Cuppa and Chat at Fauna Park Café on Wednesday 10th December at 2pm. If you need a ride, please contact Mary Elliott on 0427 822 754.

ADVENT

Advent is a special time of preparation as we await the coming of Jesus at Christmas. To help us reflect and prepare, Advent reflection and discussion sessions will be held on **Mondays—8th, 15th, and 22nd December at 4:00 pm in the church**. All are warmly invited to come along and share in this time of prayer and reflection.

CARITAS APPEAL FOR PHILIPPINES & VIETNAM

As you would know from the news, a series of catastrophic weather events have struck the Philippines and Vietnam, leaving communities devastated. Many lives have been lost, thousands of people are missing, and more than a million people evacuated with nothing. Caritas partners are providing emergency assistance. **We will be having a leaving collection on Sunday 7 December**. Donations can also be made at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413.

MISA DE GALLO-SIMBANG GABI

Simbang Gabi, the beloved Filipino nine-day novena leading to Christmas is a time of preparation of our hearts for the coming of Christ. Rooted in a rich tradition of faith and celebration these Masses help us enter more deeply into the spirit of Advent. Fr Uday will celebrate these masses on Tuesday 16th, Thursday 18th and Tuesday 23rd December at 6.30pm. Please join for supper and fellowship following each Mass and bring a plate to share. Please note that there will be **no** 4.15pm mass on the Tuesdays.

ST PATRICKS GRADUATION MASS

St Patrick's graduation Mass will be Thursday 11th December at 9am. Congratulations to all Year 6 students as they have reached this important milestone. Please pray for them as they embark on a new chapter in their new schools.

CHILDREN'S MASS AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for a joyful celebration Mass on Saturday 13th December at 6pm followed by dinner and fun activities for children. Families are warmly invited to come along. RSVP to the Office 5852 1026 or Mary 0427 190 282. Come and share in the Spirit of Christmas with our parish community.

OLOP(LOOP) WORKING BEE

The next working bee is this Monday 8th December at 9.30am, many hands make light work, if you would like to come along a give a hand.

GLUTEN FREE

Please note that gluten free hosts are available to parishioners who are gluten intolerant. Please see the sacristans Annette or Marg or Fr before Mass. For further queries contact Mary at the parish office 5852 1026.

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CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with one of our Parish Child safety officers Mary Zobec 0427 190 282 or Annette Ryan 0408 502 858.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we come to worship, we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honored. May we join and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith and reconciliation.

I see in my neighbor the Person of Jesus Christ. - Saint Gerard Majella

Breaking Open the Word

CHANGE ONE'S THINKING

Today, John the Baptist arrives to assist us in our Advent preparation. Matthew presents him as a figure from Israel's wilderness. From this setting John invites Matthew's audience, and us, to repentance. There are three things about the Gospel's opening verses that are important to note. First, the 'wilderness' was a place of nothingness. Israel encountered God in its forty year's desert wanderings. Often our own lives are filled with desert wanderings and nothingness. We sometimes feel the loneliness of our lives and perhaps, at times, directionless. Contemplating our personal wilderness can be a fruitful place to begin our Advent preparation.

Second, from the wilderness comes the call to repentance. John says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This is a powerful message. The word, 'repent' comes from the Greek, 'metanoia', a combination of two Greek words, 'meta' + 'noia'. 'Meta' is the basic root word in English linked to 'change' (metamorphosis, metabolism). 'Noia' is the root for the English 'knowledge'. In other words, John's first call to 'repent' literally means (from the Greek) to 'change one's thinking', to be open minded and not hard hearted. It is a challenging call to us as we enter into this new time of the year.

Third, John reminds us to be aware that 'the kingdom of heaven has come near'. It is not distant but close and present; it is among us, a repetitive theme throughout the Gospel, flagged in two Sunday's time, in the birth of the child called 'Emmanuel', 'God with us'. We need today, more than ever, this God to be with us.

Fr Michael Trainor

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

7 DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

Isa 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay; but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PS

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v. 7

R. Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. May his name be blessed for ever / and endure like the sun. / Every tribe shall be blessed in him. / all nations bless his name. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia! / Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. / Alleluia!



Kyabram Community Carols

KYABRAM MEMORIAL GARDENS

THURSDAY - 18TH DECEMBER, 2025

PRE-CAROLS ACTIVITIES FROM 5PM
CAROLS FROM 7:30PM

Christmas Carols
Kid's Activities
Food Trucks
Fireworks

Run by the Kyabram
Minister's Fellowship



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Christmas Concert

Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo



Sunday, 7 December 2025, 3pm



Featuring combined Choirs of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Marist College and St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo led by Paul Taylor, Sarah Gould, Rohan Philips, with St Patrick's Cathedral Brass, Melbourne, led by Dennis Freeman, accompanied by Mark Slavec (Organist).

Admission: Free