



Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gatton Laidley

Phone: 07 5465 3131 Email: gatton@bne.catholic.net.au

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A) November 27th 2022

Mass Times

Saturday 26 November

6 pm Gatton

Sunday 27 November

7 am Forest Hill

9 am Laidley

Tuesday 29 November

4:30pm Rosary

5 pm Forest Hill

Wed'day 30 November

7:30am Rosary

8 am Gatton

Saturday 3 December

6 pm Laidley

Sunday 4 December

7 am Glenore Gve

9 am Gatton

Mass Centres

St Joseph's

10 Hunt Street
Forest Hill

St Mary's

15 Maitland Street
Gatton

St Therese's

8 Brightview Road
Glenore Grove

St Patrick's

1-3 John St South
Laidley

“Come Lord JESUS and Fill us with Your LOVE”

Advent is a season of waiting and expectation for Christmas – the birth of Christ, the Nativity of Our Lord. We prepare our homes and hearts for four weeks before Christmas. Advent is also the beginning of a **new Liturgical Season** – it concludes a long period of Ordinary Time and leads us into the new church year with hope and patience. Take time this week to **create a plan** that will help you **prepare the way** for the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. As with all new beginnings, this season is intended to **RENEW our joy, hope, faith and love**.

We can take our focus off of the crazy hustle that can be associated with the Christmas season that often threatens to produce more hassle than delight. Advent is a **chance to focus** our thoughts on **the gift God has given us** in his son Jesus.

The **first Sunday** of Advent gives us the **opportunity** to centre our **thoughts on hope**. This **candle of hope** symbolizes promises delivered through the prophets from God as well as the hope we have in Christ. God **crafted** a great rescue plan that He lays out in **Scripture**.

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity; let's **stir up in our hearts and homes** a sense of anticipation with a prayer that **hope would rise up** in our lives in a **tangible and life-giving** way. **Let us renew** our sense of **holy anticipation!** A time we **JOYFULLY await to celebrate** the BIRTH of our Lord and King.

As we light the candle of **HOPE**, we pray ...

Loving God,

we thank you for the hope you give us.

Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming

by being open to seeing the light of Christ in others.

We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem,

Jesus our Lord.

Amen



Responsorial Psalm: First Sunday of Advent

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS THIS ADVENT

If we allow the beautiful words of our **Parish Mission** to guide our footsteps this Advent, our hearts will be changed through this time of waiting and expectation.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish exists so that all generations come to develop an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ, become His hands and feet in the community, and live and spread the Word of God to bring fullness of life to all.

In the busyness of life, how do we intentionally find ways to connect with God? It is always good to hear people share about their latest prayer App, or their favourite podcast series ... or their simple testimony on how they "hear" the sweet and loving voice of God. "Pray as you Go" (Jesuit) has always been a favourite App for people, and also the "Three Minute Retreat" from Loyola Press.

But what about when we want to be "technology free"?

Our hands are always with us, and while we use them tirelessly in the service of others for the glory of God, they are also perfect for our quiet moments that we share with God. Pope Francis often talks about the "**Five Finger Prayer**" – it is such a simple way to be intentional in prayer, focusing on a category for each finger.

With our **THUMB** we pray for those closest to us ... *our dear ones*

With our **INDEX** finger we pray for those who give us *direction*

With our **MIDDLE** finger we pray for those *leaders* who make

Important decisions that shape our community and our world

With our **RING** finger we pray for the *weakest and most vulnerable*

With our **LITTLE** finger we pray for *ourselves*.



In this time of ADVENT, as we wait expectantly, this may be a time to use the daily **Examen** as a way to deepen our relationship with God on a path to holiness.

We can also use our five fingers as a guide for making this daily examen.

Just as we give the THUMBS up when things are good, we can use our **THUMB** to help us think about everything that has been *good* in our day and to *thank God* for those moments.

Our **INDEX** finger is often used for pointing at things – we can use our **INDEX** finger to look back on our day and see where we have *encountered God* during the day. Think about why this happened ... what has God pointed out to us?

Our **MIDDLE** finger stands out ... use this finger to think about the *moments that have stood out* during the day – why have they stood out – were they good or bad? Review your day, almost as a movie, with the Holy Spirit as your companion.

Our **RING** finger is often about promises and *commitment*. What do you need God's help with to keep your promises and manage your responsibilities. This finger is an invitation to have a heart-to-heart conversation with the God who loves us.

Our **LITTLE** fingers are often used to *balance* things when we are holding something. Reflect upon the balance in your life, what's helpful and what isn't ... the joy and the challenges.

What do we need to *say sorry* for? What *changes* do we need to make?

COMMUNITY NEWS and UPCOMING EVENTS

COULD YOU ASSIST WITH RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN 2023?

The Co-ordinator for the Gatton State School is seeking volunteers to be instructors or helpers for one or two classes a week. If you could assist in this rewarding role, please contact Margaret Saunders 0429 090 805.

CATHOLIC LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Friday 11:30am
2nd
December

QN Hotel, Patrick Street, Laidley

All ladies from Our Lady of the Valley Parish are invited to attend this fun filled lunch to celebrate the Christmas season.

ADVENT RETREAT

Saturday 2:00pm
10th
December

Community Centre Gatton

“Do you have the heart of the disciple”? Together we can reflect on John the Baptist as he simplified his life, and stilled himself to respond to God's call and what that means for us today as we journey in faith.

2022 THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Saturday Mass
10th 6:00pm
December BBQ
7:00pm

Community Centre Gatton

An evening of celebration as we say **THANK YOU** to Father Noy for his friendship and pastoral ministry.

There will be a BBQ and we are requesting **donations of food** for this evening – a list has been compiled and will be at all churches for the next two weeks.

Items needed include: BBQ essentials – meat, bread rolls and salads; Slices or pre-cut dessert items.

BYO Drinks plus tea and coffee available.

Please **RSVP** if you will be attending by advising the monitor at all churches. Thank you!

If you would like to **make a donation towards a farewell gift**, please place your donation in an envelope marked “farewell gift”. We will be presenting a special gift to Father Noy on this evening.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Thurs 15th December 9:00am **St Patrick's Laidley**
Friday 16th December 6:00pm **St Mary's Gatton**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Calling all children who would like to take part in the Christmas pageant before the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. Please phone the office to include your child/grandchild/visitors in this fun production.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 24th December 6pm Gatton 8pm Glenore Grove
Sunday 25th December 7am Forest Hill 9am Laidley

OUR PARISH

Parish Priest:

Father Noychan
Antony MCBS
A/ Hrs: 5462 5374

Parish Manager

Christine Pingel

Parish Office:

37 John Street
South, Laidley

Days of operation
may vary – please
phone in advance.

Postal Address:

P O Box 6
Gatton Q 4343

Phone:

07 5465 3131

Email:

gatton@bne.
catholic.net.au

Facebook:

Our Lady of the
Valley Catholic
Parish

Website:

www.olv.org.au

Safeguarding:

Complaints and
Disclosures

Phone: STOPLINE

1300 304 550

SCHOOLS

OLGC Gatton
5460 2999

OLGC Kindy
5462 4810

OLGC OSHC
0487 001 722

St Mary's Laidley
5465 1240

Sophia College
5411 3400

WE PRAY FOR ...

THE SICK:

Janene Cornelius, Warren Forbes, Mark Wendt, Michael Trail, Shannon Gilchrist, Barry Crosby, Colleen Scheiwe, Edilberta Parcell, Biddy Dwyer, Marilyn Didsman, Catherine Dormer, Mary & Lionel Dusart, Lucy Kimmings, Lorraine Sells, Vivian Moore, Clara Hutchinson, Elizabeth Marten, Judy McGlade, Pat Pingel, Elisabeth Maltry, Sienna Beutel

If parishioners would like a sick person prayed for, please ask their permission. Names will be included for ONE MONTH.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Myrla Prianes, Bill McNeil, Reg Jackson, Maureen Kowaltzke-Wood

ANNIVERSARIES:

Brian Bruce, Veronica Mischke, Margaret Reynolds, Herbert Doyle, Aldo Sceresini, Rose Bartlett, James Ford, John Parish, Catherine McLeary, Michael Luck, Florence Quade, Thomas Taylor, Douglas Pomerence, Josie Martindale, John Brennan, Dale Bachmann, Stan Nawratzki, Cecilia Luck, Cecilia Crowley, Harry Osborne

ADVENT BOOK & GOD'S WORD 2023 – NOW AVAILABLE

Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life.

A companion on the journey to **pray**, to **share**, to **grow** in God's love and be **nourished** by the Word of God. Limited stock available \$ 15

"Heart of a Disciple" is a new **28 day reflection resource** for Advent and some copies are still available – only \$ 5.



THAT CATHOLIC SHOP catalogues available

That Catholic Shop is an initiative of Aid to the Church in Need.

Copies of their Christmas Catalogue is now at the churches

and include many Catholic and faith-inspired products.

All proceeds assist the work and mission of

Aid to the Church in Need throughout the world.

You can also visit their online store

www.thatcatholicshop.com



ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN

Thank you so much for your generous support of the Annual Catholic Campaign. Our parish donated **\$ 1,670.90** during the Appeal and others made a commitment for regular donations.

Your support enables these agencies to continue to reach out to those in need, bringing hope, and showing the love of Christ.