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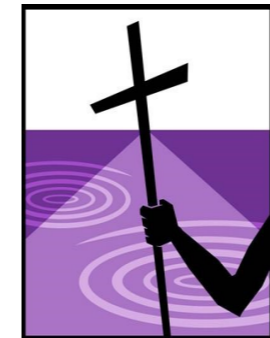
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St Anthony's Parish Picton

Bargo – Balmoral – Buxton – Couridjah –
Douglas Park – Lakesland – Menangle –
Picton – Pheasants Nest – Tahmoor –
Thirlmere – Wilton – Yanderra

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Tien
Married Deacon: Rodney Mackrill, jnr



Parish Bulletin THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT—YEAR B 17 December 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice:
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I exult for joy in the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING: Thes 5:16-24
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soil and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
And behold the joy

Next week's readings:
Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year B
Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Rom 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH—TAHMOOR

Saturday Vigil—6.00 pm
Sunday—8.30am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Tuesday -	5.00 pm—Adoration
	5.30 pm—Tahmoor
Wednesday -	8.30 am — Tahmoor
Thursday -	8.30 am — Tahmoor
Friday—	8.30 am - Tahmoor

*Arabic Mass 6pm, every 2nd Friday—
December dates: 22nd*

Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday 5.00—5.30pm

Baptism and Marriage
Please contact the parish office.

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday & Thursday 9am—3pm
Wednesday 9am—1pm
Parish Phone 4683 2230
Fr Peter 0406 001 540
20 Stratford Road, Tahmoor 2573
Email: picton@dow.org.au
Website: www.stanthonypicton.org.au



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

2ND RITE RECONCILIATION:
6.00pm – Friday 15 December – Tahmoor

CHRISTMAS EVE: Sunday 24 December
5.30pm – St Patrick's Menangle
6.00pm – Tahmoor
7.00pm – St Mary's Towers Douglas Park

CHRISTMAS DAY: Monday 25 December
8.30am – Tahmoor
9.00am – St Mary's Towers Douglas Park

PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:

Lord grant them eternal peace & joy and to their families and friends strength and comfort

ANNIVERSARY:

RECENTLY DECEASED :

PRAY FOR THE SICK Archie McGregor, Eva Bastac, Debbie James, Jean Le Roux, Marie Darlington, Christine Jupe, Graeme Menser, Ross Spirou, Mauro Mariano, Melony Cox, Joanne McMahon, Daniel Clarke, James McNeil, Stephanie Macnamara, Elizabeth Linsell

ACOLYTES THIS WEEK NEXT WEEK

VIGIL JOHN RYAN
8.30AM KEVIN DEVINE

READERS

VIGIL: LISA BRUFFER GAIL HANGER
8.30AM MAREE GALEA MARG FOLDES

CLEANERS: PAULINE BUTTIGIEG THERESE NEILSON
MARYANNE BUTTIGIEG CHRIS NEILSON

FLOWERS: NO FLOWERS SUE SPITERI

SACRISTY: MARY GILBERT

MORNING TEA:
MARY GILBERT CHRISTMAS EVE

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE PARISH

Your financial support of St Anthony's Parish is always appreciated and much needed.

Direct debits can be set up to deposit into the parish account:

Bank details
Account name—St. Anthony's Parish
BSB—066-711
Account number—001783
Reference—Name/collections

To set up a direct debit using your credit card please contact the office.

EFTPOS—Tap and Go
We now have Tap and Go at the back of the church.

Cash/Envelopes
If you wish to use envelopes, please contact the office on 46832230 or picton@dow.org.au Place your envelopes on either the first or second collection plate.

THANK YOU FRANK BUGEJA

A huge thank you to Frank who created the Parish website 15 years ago AND has maintained it ever since!

Frank will be finishing up in this important role at the end of 2023.

We thank Frank for his time and talent in giving to our Parish.

Please be advised that the parish office phone is currently not working, all calls are being diverted to a mobile, your call will be returned.

PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Parish is in need of a qualified **Electrician** to undertake periodic inspections of Church property. Also we are in need of someone with the experience to help build/create a new **parish website**.

If you would like to volunteer some time for these valuable activities, please contact the church office.

COME & SEE, GO & MAKE - a vision for Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong by Bishop Brian Mascord

The beating heart of the parish is the person of Jesus, made present in Word, Sacrament, and the living community of believers. This heart beats with the words "come and see", and "go and make". Come and see! Encounter the person of Jesus, be transformed and renewed, and become disciples. Go and make! Share the joyous Good News with a world that does not know, or has forgotten Christ—our Lord Jesus is King, not by violence, force, or coercion, but by an invitation of love, mercy and grace! The following are available from the foyer of the church.

- *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes*—the vision I have developed which I now invite you to prayerfully read.
- *Principles and Foundations*—a short explanation of key principles described in the vision document.
- *Go Deeper*—a short compendium of additional reading on key concepts discussed in the vision.

THE SIGN' ADVENT BOOKLETS

The Advent Program is a pocket-sized book that includes daily reflections from the beginning of Advent to the Baptism of the Lord. There is a limited number of copies available for \$4 each from the Piety Stall .

POSITIONS VACANT—DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG CCD Administration and Support Officer

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for This position. Appropriate skills and a passion for the work of SRE Catechists in State schools is essential.

Applications close on Wednesday, 10 January 2024.

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: <https://dow/sh/ccdadminpv>

For enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Youth Ministry Leader in the Diocese of Wollongong.

Applications close on Friday, 12 January 2024.

For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/

or for enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

EXCITING NEWS! **"IT'S WHO WE ARE" VIDEO**

Our newest "It's Who We Are" video has been launched. Narrated by our beloved Bishop Brian, this uplifting sub-three-minute clip illuminates the remarkable people and everyday works within our diocese.

It celebrates all that is "Good News" in our diocese and features many of our Clergy, Seminarians, Parishes, Schools, CatholicCare programs and more!

To view, please visit our website:

<https://www.dow.org.au/about-us/> and/or our FB page <https://fb.watch/oOktvOG8-6>

Many thanks to all who participated in its production, and to those parishes who have already liked it and shared it on their Facebook page, played it at their Masses, or have included it on their website.

PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY 11 – 21 JUNE 2024 Father Christopher Sarkis, Parish Priest of Rosemeadow, will be the Chaplain accompanying Harvest

Journeys Eastern Europe Pilgrimage of Mercy in June 2024, visiting Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. It includes the Shrines of Divine Mercy, the Black Madonna of Czestochowa and the Infant of Prague. It visits places of importance to St John Paul II, St. Faustina and St. Maximillian Kolbe, among others.

Optional Extension: There is also an optional 6 night/7-day extension (21 – 27 June) to Bavaria and Austria. It will include the Marian Shrine of Altotting, as well as Markt in Bavaria; Salzburg of the Sound of Music fame and the hometown of Mozart; and the historic, cultural, and artistic city of Vienna in Austria. We will also visit various other shrines and attractions along with some spectacular churches and monasteries. Enquiries: 4628 1385 or directly at: harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimageof-mercy.

CATHOLICCARE are currently looking for **Community Support Workers**. Becoming a Catholic-Care Community Support Worker will give you a career that you love, whilst providing a valuable connection to people living with a disability or the aged in our Diocese. If you want to find out more about becoming a Community Support Worker go to: catholiccare.dow.org.au/get-involved/careers/ or call 4227 1122

The Journey, 17 December 2023 – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast

On The Journey This Week: Fr William Loh asks: have you ever felt like someone crying out in a spiritual wilderness? Mother Hilda has a prayer tip that will put love into the world right now. Plus, Fr Tony Percy and more Advent reflections. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

REFLECTION by FR MICHAEL TATE

Witness to the Light

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.