

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

## First Reading **Isaiah 11:1-10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

## Responsorial Psalm

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.**

- 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.)**
- In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. **(R.)**
- 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.)**
- 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 **Romans 15:4-9**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

## Gospel Acclamation **Luke 3:4, 6**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

## Gospel **Matthew 3:1-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.'



## Sacred Heart Catholic Parish, Moruya

Parish Priest: Fr. Joshua Scott PP VF  
Parish Secretary: Vickie Moore

PARISH OFFICE

36 Queen Street Moruya NSW 2537

Parish Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday—9.00 am - 2.00 pm

Phone: (02) 4474 0889

Email: moruya@cg.org.au

Website: www.cg.org.au/moruya



Year A

## 2nd Sunday of Advent 7th December 2025

### PREPARING THE WAY WITH HOPE

Dear Parishioners,

As we gather for the Second Sunday of Advent, the Gospel presents us with the striking figure of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness: *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!"* (Matthew 3:1–12). At first, John's voice can feel demanding—his words strong, his tone urgent. Yet beneath his call to repentance lies a message of profound **hope**: God is coming to meet His people, and He desires to transform our hearts with His mercy and love. John appears in the wilderness because that is often where God's people find themselves—places of uncertainty, dryness, longing, or searching. Many of us know those places well. And yet, the wilderness is precisely where God's grace begins to stir. John's proclamation reminds us that **God has not forgotten us**. He is approaching, gently but surely, to renew our lives from the inside out.

When John calls us to "prepare the way," he is not asking for perfection. He is inviting us to open even a small space in our hearts for Christ to enter. Advent is not about accomplishing great tasks; it is about letting God do something new within us. It is about softening what has become hard, healing what has grown wounded, and noticing the quiet ways God is already drawing near. John speaks of the One who is coming after him—One who is stronger, wiser, and full of the Holy Spirit. This is our hope: **Jesus is coming not to condemn, but to restore; not to frighten, but to set free; not to burden, but to bring peace**. His love is like a refining fire that warms, purifies, and renews.

In this second week of Advent, let John the Baptist's voice awaken not fear, but expectation. Let it encourage you to make room for Christ in the ordinary rhythm of your days. A simple prayer, an act of kindness, a gesture of forgiveness, a moment of stillness—these become the paths through which Jesus enters. May this Advent week fill your heart with hope as we prepare the way for the Lord who comes to bring life, peace, and joy.

With every blessing,  
**Father Josh**

### Sunday Mass

**Sacred Heart, Moruya**

36 Queen Street, Moruya

Sat. Vigil: 5.00pm

Sunday: 10.00am

**'The Pines', Tuross Head**

36 Craddock Rd, Tuross Head

Sunday: 8.00am

**St. Edmund's, Bodalla**

162 Princes Hwy, Bodalla

4th Sunday: 12 noon

### Weekday Mass

**Sacred Heart, Moruya**

Tuesday: 5.00pm

Wed, Thurs, Friday: 9.15am

**St Edmund's, Bodalla**

2nd Friday: 9.00am

### Syro-Malabar Rite Mass

**Sacred Heart, Moruya**

First Mondays: 6pm

### Confessions

**Sacred Heart, Moruya**

Tuesday: After Mass.

Saturday: 4.30pm - 4:50pm

### Adoration

**Sacred Heart, Moruya**

Fridays: 9:45am

(After 9.15 Mass)

### Rosary

Daily: After Mass

## NOTICES

### PARISH SCHOOLS

**ST MARY'S PRIMARY, MORUYA**  
 Johanna Wain  
 Principal  
 Ph: 02 4474 2817



**CARROLL COLLEGE, BROULEE**  
 Jacqui Heffernan  
 Principal  
 Ph: 02 4471 5600



### PARISH GROUPS

**St Vincent de Paul Conference**  
 37 Queen Street, Moruya  
 Phone: 02 6234 7404

**Caring Group Tuross Head**  
 Mob: 0497 315 534

**Moruya**  
 Please call the Parish Office

### Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon 8th —Immaculate Conception of the BVM  
 Tues 9th —St Juan Diego  
 Wed 10th— Our Lady of Loreto  
 Thurs 11th — St. Damusus I  
 Fri 12th — Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 Sat 13th — St Lucy  
 Sun 14th — 3rd Sunday of Advent

December is dedicated to the Advent of Christ



### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who offered condolences, prayers, and support at the death of my Grandfather, Murray.

Your kindness has strengthened me during a difficult time and helped me support my family in our grief. With gratitude,  
 Fr. Josh

### ADVENT WREATH—THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*“May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women.”*

— Pope Francis



### Reflection

The second candle of the Advent Wreath represents Peace. Often called the “Bethlehem Candle,” it reminds us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, where Christ would be born. This candle builds on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle: after centuries of waiting and longing, the promise of God’s peace is about to be fulfilled.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace who brings healing and reconciliation to the world.

### Lighting Prayer

God of peace, as we light this candle, fill our hearts with Your calm and stillness. Teach us to walk in Your ways, to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to work for peace in our homes, parish, and world. May the light of Christ bring unity and healing to all. Amen.

**BODALLA MASS:** This Friday, Mass will celebrated at St. Edmund’s in Bodalla at 9.15am. Everyone is welcome to join us for Mass and Morning tea afterwards.

**FIRST SATURDAY ANOINTING MASS:** This Saturday at 9am we will celebrate our monthly Anointing Mass, however **due to our Liturgy workshop the Mass will not be followed by confessions, adoration and benediction.**

**Recently Deceased:** Murray Scott (Fr. Josh’s Grandfather), Jean Calcutt, Caroline Nader, Robin Scobie, Diana Ebbelaar, Fr. Hugh Thomas CSsR.

**Those who are sick and housebound:** For those in Aged care facilities and in Moruya Hospital, for our sick and housebound parishioners, Gerry Ebbelaar, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysse, Jan Morris, Christopher Morris, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Sue and Rod McDonald, Han and Pauline de Grave, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Mark Wales, Jenny Hopkins, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Paul and Margaret Ryan, Rita and Doug Marion, Viola Collaran, Sylvia Heffernan, Rae and Peter Fishlock, Michael Irwin, Fr Greg Beath, Deacon Paul and Jo Rummery, John Heffernan, Mark Chatto, Noeleen Norman and Graham Beer.

## NOTICES

### ALL SOUL’S MONTH—THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who placed photos and names of loved ones on our All Souls’ altar throughout November. Your prayerful participation created a beautiful, communal remembrance of those who have gone before us. May God continue to comfort you and bless all whom we hold in loving memory.

### VINNIE’S GIVING TREE

At the front of the Church, near the pulpit, stands our Giving Tree—a simple but beautiful way to share Christmas joy with children who might otherwise go without. You’re warmly invited to take a tag and purchase a gift for a child in need. When you do, please note whether the gift is for a boy or girl and the intended age.

We ask that gifts remain unwrapped to help with smooth distribution. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and for bringing the hope of Christmas to those who need it most.



### KEVIN THE CHRISTMAS KOALA



This year we’re introducing a fun new Christmas initiative for our parish families: **Kevin the Christmas Koala!** Each week during Advent and Christmas, Kevin will quietly “wander” to a new spot in the church. Children (and the young at heart!) are invited to look for where Kevin has moved to each Sunday. His little adventures are a playful way to help us stay watchful and prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Keep an eye out—Kevin could be anywhere!

### GIVING AND RECEIVING

Direct Debit and Tap N Go are available. Thank you for your generosity. If possible, consider donating to the 1st and 2nd collections via direct debit.

#### 1ST COLLECTION – Supports Arch. Clergy

Direct Debit (include “Sacred Heart Parish”):

**BSB:** 062-786 | **Account:** 000029248 | **Reference:** Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya & Surname

#### 2ND COLLECTION – Supports the Parish

Direct Debit / Bank Deposit:

**BSB:** 062-786 | **Account:** 000014984 | **Reference:** Planned Giving # & Surname (current givers) or “Donation” (new givers)

### MORUYA ROSTERS

Mass	Readers		Ministers of Holy Communion		Counters	
	6th/7th December	13th/14th December	6th/7th December	13th/14th December	8 December	15 December
<b>SAT</b> 5pm	J. Heffernan C. Palise	M. Croese S. Heffernan	T. Cahill	F. Levi	T. Monaghan C. Gandy	G. Campbell D. Fee
<b>SUN</b> 10am	R. Zammit G. Strahlendorf	P. Pollock G. Gillett	J. Gillett	P. Angus		

**Parish Safeguarding Commitment:** At Sacred Heart Parish, we’re deeply committed to creating a safe, respectful, and caring environment for all children and vulnerable people. We believe everyone deserves to be heard, valued, and protected—and we work together with families to make sure their voices are always part of the conversation.

**Communicating Concerns:** Parishioners are encouraged to raise any concerns by contacting Father Josh or the Parish Office. For matters specifically related to safeguarding, please reach out to our Parish Safeguarding Officers—Pauline Parnell, Louise Strahlendorf, or Peter Hoban—via email at moruya.safeguarding@cg.org.au. Additionally, you may contact Maria Hicks, Manager of the Archdiocesan Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS), at ipss@cg.org.au or by phone on 02 6239 9806.