

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARY'S MACLEAN



ST JOHNS CHURCH



ST MARYS CHURCH



ST JAMES CHURCH

Parish Administrator: Father Roland Agrisola
2 McIntyres Lane Maclean NSW 2463
Email: office@stmarysparish.org.au

Postal: PO Box 19 MACLEAN NSW 2463
Tel: 02 66 451188 **ABN** 43 360 517 680
Web: stmarysparish.org.au

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A: 30 NOVEMBER 2025

Dear brothers and sisters, as we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent we begin a new liturgical year and our spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word 'Advent' means coming. During this season of Advent, we reflect on the three comings of our Lord Jesus. Firstly, we celebrate and relive his first coming. The only begotten Son was sent by the Father to save the world by reconciling sinful humanity with God. Promised after the Fall of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15), the eternal Son became man, after a long preparation. Son of the eternal Father, he became man, a son of Adam, a true human being. A descendant of Abraham, Jesus of Nazareth belonged to the Jewish race. A descendant of David, Jesus is the fulfilment of the divine promise of an everlasting and universal kingship. As the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament writings affirm, his first coming was pre-announced. As such, the people expected and longed for his coming.

Secondly, we are invited to look ahead and prepare for his second coming, the Parousia. As he promised after his resurrection and return to the Father's heavenly glory, he will come again. Every Sunday, when reciting the Creed we renew our faith in his second glorious coming: The Crucified and Risen Jesus "ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end." The Gospel urges us to be vigilant in order to receive him at his glorious 'advent.'

Using three illustrations, Jesus underscores the necessity of vigilance. In the first, Jesus says that, like in the time Noah, those who were busy eating, drinking and enjoying themselves, that is, living unrighteous lives, all died when the flood came, while those who were vigilant and heeded God's words, were saved; so those who are attentive to God's word and cooperate with his grace will be saved from eternal destruction of hell. In the second, our Lord wants to emphasize the necessity of keeping their eyes open even in the most common and everyday situations in order to be able to notice the coming of the Lord. In the third, being vigilant is like being always ready for a possible burglary. The burglar does not announce the time of his coming and the householder has to be ready for action to prevent the burglary. Disciples must be vigilant because the Lord comes again at an hour we do not expect.

Finally, Advent is a reminder of the ongoing coming of our risen and exalted Saviour. Now sharing in the divine glory and power of the triune God, Jesus is now present and actively saving always and everywhere. In other words, he keeps coming. He comes and is closer to each of us than we to ourselves. He comes to offer his light and love – his internal graces that enlighten and encourage us. He comes and is present at all events of our lives. He comes and is present in all that happens in the Church. He comes and is actively saving in and through the sacraments. He comes and is present in and through people, who transformed and directed by him make present his pastoral care, his life-giving word, and his divine mercy.

Jesus has come, will come again, comes and keeps coming. But are we ready to recognise him when he comes? Are we attentive to his presence and offer of help in every event of our lives? Are we sensitive and obedient to his gentle prompting and guidance? Do we recognise his presence most especially in the Most Holy Eucharist – his presence among us in the appearances of bread and wine?



This Advent season is another opportunity afforded us to train our minds and hearts anew to be vigilant for his second glorious coming and his ongoing comings especially in the Eucharist.

Fr Roland

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 121:1-2.4-5.6-9.R. see v1*

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
‘Let us go to God’s house.’
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel’s law it is,
there to praise the Lord’s name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
‘Peace be to your homes!’
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!. (R.)

4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: ‘Peace upon you!’
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R.)

SECOND READING

Romans: 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below, gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE I OF ADVENT

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For he assumed at his first coming
the lowliness of human flesh,
and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago,
and opened for us the way to eternal salvation,
that, when he comes again in glory and majesty
and all is at last made
manifest,
we who watch for that day
may inherit the great promise
in which now we dare to hope.

And so, with Angels and
Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and
Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your
glory,
as without end we acclaim:

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

The first reading of the first Sunday of this liturgical year contains a vision of universal peace and an invitation to participate in that peace by fidelity to the word of God. This vision of the future describes the eschatological age of complete faithfulness to God and the peace and harmony among people that will

flow from it. Although the peace depicted here can come only from God, people do in fact play a very important role in its advent. Because this eschatological age has not yet come in its fullness, this vision is a promise, and an invitation that will continue to be relevant to each succeeding generation.

The responsorial psalm, a song of Zion, is an individual hymn of joy and praise of one who had the opportunity to go to the temple in Jerusalem. The city was built on Mount Zion, a hill that towered above much of the neighbouring low-lying terrain. This not only gave it a vantage point from which one could to survey the surrounding territory, an important asset in case of possible attack, but its height enabled it to be seen from a distance, thus creating the impression of watchfulness and protection. Peace, as spoken of here, incorporates more than the absence of war or

strife. It includes prosperity, well-being, and completeness. It is for this peace that the psalmist requests prayer.

Paul speaks about the decisive time of fulfilment, the *kairós*, the period of transition from the present age of sin to the long-awaited age of fulfilment. He employs several images to characterise this division of time: 'this age' is like slumber, or night and darkness; 'the age to come' is like wakefulness, or day and light. The statement 'already but not yet' acknowledges that the age of

fulfilment has already dawned, but it has not yet been brought to completion. The new life that Christians are called to live is characterised as putting on clothing – armour, because they face spiritual warfare. To 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ' means to become identified with him.

The gospel reading is a lesson on the character of the parousia or future coming of the Son of Man. It addresses the sudden nature of this imminent time of fulfilment and of the need to be ready at all times for its dawning. In order to explain this, Jesus draws an analogy with one of the stories of ancient Jewish tradition, and then sketches two very ordinary experiences of life as demonstrations. He concludes with a kind of parable that teaches a lesson. All of these teaching devices follow the same twofold pattern: 1) the people had no idea of what was in store for them; 2) calamity befell them because they were unprepared. The message here is clear: 'Stay awake!' 'Be prepared!' © Dianne Bergant CSA



ONLINE GIVING

Internet donations to assist our parish are always welcome. Details for donating online via Electronic Funds Transfer BSB: 032582 Account Number: 810033 [Surname, parish envelope no]

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for the Sick: Miriam Scherger, Tony Murphy, Kathy Leseberg, Ava Blay, Donna Ellis, Jom Jose Akkarathakidiyil, Mark Thurbon, Alma Bailey, Mary Wiseman, Sue Gravalin, Ron Weekes, Margaret Donges, Pam Lewis, Matthew & Paul Gallagher, Chris Naismith, Trevor Nicolai, Graham Courte, Peter Burns, Matthew Tierney, Matt Mohorovic, Sharon Grayson, Dennis Cathedral, Allan Dick. **Recently Deceased:** Fran Eckersley, Anita Gooley, Laurel Johnson, Faye O'Brien, Fr Don O'Brien. **Anniversary:** Colin Campbell, Les Sinderberry. **Pray for:** Gordon & Kym Eckersley, Epifanio Sesaldo, Lenaiola Guerrero. All the suffering souls in Purgatory especially the dec'd members of F.O.S.S.

MASS TIMES:

Sunday Masses: Yamba: 5:30pm (SAT); Maclean: 8:30am (SUN); Iluka: 10:30am (SUN).

Weekday Masses: Wednesday, 9:30am: Yamba; Thursday, 10:00am: Iluka; Friday, 12:00nn, Maclean; First Saturday: 11:30am, Maclean.

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday, 11:00am, Maclean; 5:00pm, Yamba
Sunday, 8:00am, Maclean
Wednesday, 10:00am, Yamba
Thursday, 10:30am, Iluka

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

First Wednesday: 10:00am, Yamba
First Saturday: 12:00pm, Maclean

MINISTRY ROSTER: 6/7 DECEMBER 2025

Readers: Yamba: M Dee/B Cullen; Maclean: C Newton/R Wiseman; Iluka: C Leseberg.

Commentators: Yamba: F Robertson, Maclean: J de Roos, Iluka: T Sullivan. **E Communion:** Maclean: J Moloney.

READINGS: 6/7 DECEMBER 2025

First: Isaiah 11:1-10; **Second:** Romans 15:4-9; **Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12.

NEWS & EVENTS

Emergency contact: In case of emergency outside of parish office hours, contact Fr Roland 0401 508 812.

Baptisms: We joyfully welcome Jimmy into the Family of God, who was baptised in our parish this weekend.

Halle McClymont's Bake Sale Fundraiser: This weekend, Halle will hold a bake sale fundraiser at Maclean after 8:30am Mass under the portico, to raise

money to support her missionary year with NET Ministries in 2026. A variety of baked goods will be available, including some dietary options.

50th Anniversary of St James Church: A Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated at 9:30am followed by a morning tea during which students of St James Primary will entertain us with their singing.

First Saturday Devotion: Next Saturday, 6 December, the first Saturday devotion at St Mary's Maclean will begin at 11:00am with the praying of the Rosary, followed by Mass and Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

Thank you: A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped organise and prepare our parish morning tea last Sunday. Your generosity, time and effort created a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and celebration within our parish.

Parish Pastoral Council: A meeting of those who have expressed interest to join the parish pastoral council will be held at 5:00PM on 11 December in the Cranny Room, Maclean.

St James Church Mass changes: The 5:30PM Mass in Yamba on 13 December will be held at St James Primary School Hall. The 9:30am Mass on Wednesday 10 December will be held in the Ted Howe Room. St James Church will be closed for renovations from 7 to 15 December.

Caritas Australia—be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas: This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to “be a light in the darkness” for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/>

Christmas Masses:

24 December Christmas Vigil Masses:

4:00PM St John's Iluka
5:30PM St Mary's Maclean
7:00PM St James' Yamba

25 December: Christmas Day Masses

8:00AM: St Mary's Maclean
9:30AM: St James' Yamba

Found: Cygnet ring found outside St James Church Yamba on Saturday 22 November. Please contact Fran on 0401 303 522.