

# KERANG, COHUNA AND PYRAMID HILL Catholic Parishes



## VISION-MISSION:

A welcoming faith-filled Community, guided by the Holy Spirit strengthened through the celebration of the Holy Mass, developing our strong and caring foundation.



### PRAYER FOR PARISH RENEWAL

Heavenly Father,  
we gather as a parish community,  
seeking renewal and transformation.

Guide us with  
your wisdom and grace,  
as we journey together in faith.

Renew our hearts, fill us with love,  
compassion, and hope.  
Inspire us to be instruments  
of your peace, and lights  
that shine in the darkness.

Grant us the wisdom and  
discernment,  
as we walk this path of renewal.  
Bless each parishioner  
with a willing spirit,  
to serve and build  
a vibrant parish family.

May our parish  
be a place of love and unity,  
Where your presence is felt,  
and your Word is lived.  
We ask this, through Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God** –  
pray for us

**St. Joseph**, pray for us.

**St. Patrick**, pray for us.

**St. Mary MacKillop**,  
pray for us.

This prayer is officially approved by  
Most Rev. Shane Mackinlay, DD,  
Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst



"Listen! You are  
to conceive  
and bear a son,  
and you must  
name him Jesus."

Luke 1:31

### OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S PRESENCE

Today the liturgical readings invite us to reflect on the presence of God in our midst. His presence is enlivening and reassuring. It is not the presence of the spy or of the judge that fills people with uneasiness and fear. Rather, God's presence among us is the source of our salvation. It is an undeserved gift that transforms our lives, filling them with hope and peace. But if we want to enjoy all these benefits, we are encouraged to respond adequately to God's presence in us. We can do this by opening our hearts to Him with gratitude and eagerness, following the example of Mary Most Holy who declares her total availability to do whatever God wants. May this be our disposition today as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

#### Fr. Dean Bongat

Parish Priest  
0401 337 433  
deanklayford@gmail.com

#### CHILD SAFETY OFFICERS

Kerang: Kyra Laughlin  
Cohuna: Peter Doyle  
Pyramid Hill: Anne Grogan

#### PARISH OFFICE WEDNESDAY

(9.00am - 5.00pm)

92 Nolan St. Kerang, VIC 3579

(03) 5452 1041

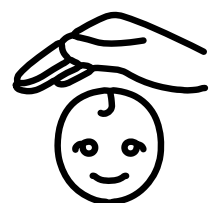
stpatker@bigpond.com

kerang@cdos.org.au

www.kerangcatholicparishes.com

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

We are a child safe parish. Any children young persons and vulnerable adults have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you are concerned about any form of abuse, or believe that someone is at significant risk, you should immediately raise your concerns with our Parish Child Safety Officers at (03) 54521041



AS YOU TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP, REMEMBER OUR PAST AND PRESENT ANCESTORS

**FIRST READING**

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

**A reading from the book of prophet Samuel***The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

*The Word of the Lord.***RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

**(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

**(R.)**

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever  
and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always;  
for him my covenant shall endure. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING**

Romans 16:25-27

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans***The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Word of the Lord.***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 1:26-38

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke***You will conceive and bear a son.*

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

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## SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Throughout the gospel of Luke, great importance is placed on the people in society who were regarded as the 'lesser ones'. The mission of Jesus, as described in Luke's gospel, is directed towards those who were unimportant in the eyes of society. In first century society, women were regarded as much less in status than men. So it is significant that the first revelation of Jesus is made to a woman, Mary. The angel Gabriel announces that Mary has won God's favour. For a woman to win God's favour would have been unimaginable to many Jews at the time, yet, through this woman God was revealed in human form.

## HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

### WHAT ABOUT JOSEPH?

Luke's account of the Annunciation (and indeed much of the infancy narrative) focuses its attention on Mary. But what of Joseph? How does he react to the news that his betrothed wife is pregnant? By Jewish Law and tradition, Mary could well have been stoned to death if Joseph had denounced her. Even if Joseph allowed people to think that he was the father of her child, this would have caused an enormous scandal - a breach of the sanctity of the betrothal vow. However, foreshadowing the compassion of Jesus himself, Joseph acts purely out of compassion and continues with his marriage to Mary.

## DIFFERENT VIEW

### VIRGIN BIRTHS

Some critics of Christian tradition argue that the account of the virgin conception and birth of Jesus is merely a literary device used to give status to Jesus' birth. At the time, it was not an uncommon device to accord a significant figure a heroic or even virginal birth. In Greek, Egyptian and even Roman legend, several characters are credited with virgin births. Some authors point to the fact that it is only the gospels of Matthew and Luke and none of the earlier writings that portray Mary as a virgin. The argument suggests that assigning Jesus a virgin birth was an attempt to place Jesus alongside other historical and legendary figures as a person of great status.



## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Why did the angel Gabriel send an email to Mary instead of visiting in person?

Because he heard she had an "immaculate Wi-Fi" connection!



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Greg Sunter

We have reached the final Sunday in the season of Advent - a time of preparing ourselves to recognise and celebrate Christ's presence in the world, both historically and in an ongoing, timeless way. This week's gospel account of the Annunciation is an ideal culmination to this season as we recall Mary's emphatic 'Yes' to all that was being asked of her. At the end of the Advent season of reflection and preparation to recognise Christ's presence in the world and in our lives, what better response could there be than to simply say, 'Yes'?

In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one's self ahead of others, Mary's selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. Even in her own time, Mary's decision must have been an enormously difficult one - one that had the potential to bring great shame on herself and Joseph. Yet, her decision is made swiftly and in faith. She trusts God absolutely and gives her life over into God's hands. That is perhaps the supreme act of faith; to say 'Yes' to God so completely that you are prepared to hand over direction and control of your own life.

Few of us tend to be visited by angels who lay out God's plan for us as clearly as Gabriel did for Mary. For most of us, it is a challenge to discern God's desire for us; to realise what it is that we are called to do and then give ourselves fully to that call. In the hustle and bustle of life, it is difficult to hear anything that God may be trying to ask of us. Perhaps the example of Mary's 'Yes' is a reminder to be still enough to hear the question in the first place!

## QUESTIONS FOR ADOLESCENTS

- Q. What was Mary's initial reaction to the appearance of the angel?
- Q. Why do you think Mary accepted God's will so readily?
- Q. Who do you know who has tried to live their life in response to God?
- Q. In what ways does God communicate a call or challenge to people today?

## QUESTIONS FOR ADULTS

- Q. What message is conveyed by Mary's 'Yes' to God in today's gospel?
- Q. How do you think Mary's family and friends may have reacted to her news?
- Q. To what aspects of your life do you need to say 'Yes'?
- Q. In what way, or in what direction, are you called by God?

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.



# ST. PATRICK'S PARISH - KERANG

90 Nolan Street, Kerang, Victoria, 3579

## ROSTERS

### This WEEK 24th December 2023

Welcomers:	<b>M Dagge &amp; G Mannix</b>
Comm/POF:	<b>M Dagge</b>
Reader:	<b>A Baulch</b>
Gifts:	<b>P &amp; J Bortolotto</b>
Ministers:	<b>F Kelly &amp; M Cummins</b>
Sick/Elderly:	<b>M Mowat &amp; G Prendergast (NH)</b>
Power Point:	<b>K Schlitz</b>
Musician:	<b>Alicia , Hank, Tony &amp; Maureen</b>

### This WEEK 24th December 2023 7.30pm

Commentator:	<b>C McCurdy</b>
Reader:	<b>R Kelly</b>
P.O.F.:	<b>L Morrow</b>
Procession of Baby	<b>Woodier Family</b>
Procession of Gifts	<b>Dagge Family</b>
Ministers:	<b>D Doyle &amp; M Cummins</b>
Power Point:	<b>K Laughlin</b>
Musician:	<b>Alicia , Hank, Tony Val &amp; Marie</b>

Mowers for December:	<b>Dennis, Ross &amp; John Ginnivan</b>
Counters for Dec.:	<b>P &amp; K Laughlin</b>

## PRAYER FOR THE SICK

- Bernadette is going along OK. She has had 2 treatments and a few more to go but is in good spirits.
- Elderly and Residents of Northaven Community Aged Care, Glenarm Nursing Home and Kerang Community Hospital patients.

## DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Margaret Harrop, Teresa Dawns, Molly Batchelor, Wes Frantz, Stan Taylor, Lorna Smith, Letty Henery, Iris Langford-Jones, Kevin McCluskey, Lloyd Lindsay, Bishop Joe Grech, Jean Greenwood, Mary Treacy.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

WE JOYFULLY WELCOME THE NEW MEMBER(S) INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST!

## MASS SCHEDULES THIS WEEK

24-30 December 2023

* SUNDAY *	* Mass *	* 10.30am *
* SUNDAY *	* Christmas Eve Mass *	* 07.30pm *
* MONDAY *	* Christmas Day Mass *	* 10.30am *
* WEDNESDAY *	* NO Mass *	* *
* FRIDAY *	* NO Mass *	* *

## MASS SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK

* SUNDAY *	* 31 Dec 2023 *	* 10.30am *
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**KERANG BANK DETAILS**  
BSB: 083 543  
Acc. Number: 457 423 724  
Please let Marianne know if you are changing to Direct Deposits ie. How much and how often so we can then allocate you anew number.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT



Dear Parishioners, our church will be getting new carpet, and the installation is scheduled beginning on the 7th of January 2024.

- The Pyramid Hill Raffle draw has been rescheduled to December 23, 2023 during their PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY.
- Kindly remember to submit your survey form on or before December 31, 2023. If you haven't received a survey form yet, they are available in the foyer at the back of the Church. Your input is invaluable. Thank you for your participation.

# ST. MARY'S PARISH - COHUNA

93-95 King George Street, Cohuna, Victoria, 3568

## ROSTERS

### This WEEK 24th December 2023 8.30am

Comm/POF **Betty McLoughlan**  
Reader **Ileana Dayag**  
Gifts **Mullavey Family**  
Euch Minister: **Peter Doyle**  
Altar Clean Up **Irene Trezise**

### MASS SCHEDULES THIS WEEK

24-30 December 2023

* SUNDAY *	* Mass *	* 08.30am *
* SUNDAY *	* Christmas Eve Mass *	* 06.00pm *
* MONDAY *	* Christmas Day Mass in Kerang *	* 10.30am *

### This WEEK 24th December 2023 6.00pm

Comm/POF **Marg Main**  
Reader **Shaannie Webb**  
Gifts **Brian D'Silva**  
Euch Minister: **Jarrold Mullavey**  
Altar Clean Up **Pam Carmody**

### MASS SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK

* SUNDAY *	* 31 Dec 2023 *	* 08.30am *
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please SCAN this to fill out the FORM

## RECENTLY DECEASED

## DEATH ANNIVERSARY

- If you wish for a loved one to be prayed for please let me know and I can start a diary with all the names in it. Just need Month, Date and Name.

**COHUNA BANK DETAILS**  
BSB: 083 543  
Acc. Number: 4574 0718 5

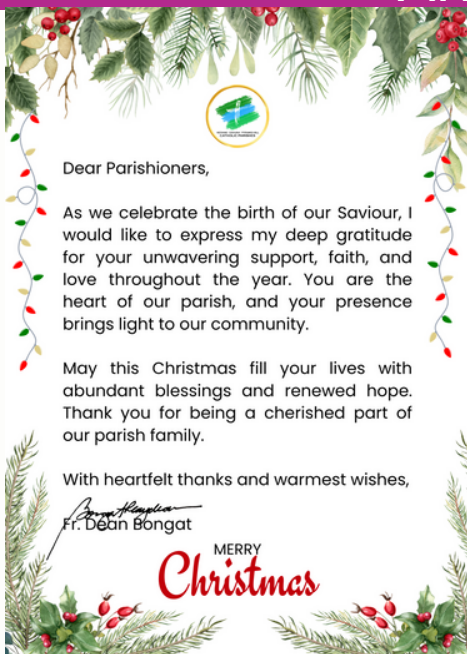
Please let Kylie or Marianne know if you are changing to Direct Deposits ie. How much and how often so we can then allocate you a new number.

**WE JOYFULLY WELCOME THE NEW MEMBER(S) INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST!**

## PRAYER FOR THE SICK

- Elderly and Residents of Cohuna Nursing Home and Retirement Village and patients in Cohuna Hospital

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT



- Every 1st SUNDAY of the Month** - all are welcome for a CUPPA after the Mass.
- If you wish to give your **Planned Giving by Direct Deposit** please see Kylie Doyle or ring Marianne (on Wednesday at (03) 54521041) to set up.
- The Pyramid Hill Raffle draw has been rescheduled to December 23, 2023 during their PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY.
- Could you please let Bernadette know if you are not available over the Christmas period as she is compiling the new rosters.**
- Kindly remember to submit your survey form on or before December 31, 2023. If you haven't received a survey form yet, they are available in the foyer at the back of the Church. Your input is invaluable. Thank you for your participation.**

# ST. PATRICK'S PARISH - PYRAMID HILL

5 Victoria Street, Pyramid Hill, Victoria, 3575

## ROSTERS

### This WEEK 23rd December 2023

Comm/POF      **Kate Wood**  
Reader          **Imelda Ross**  
Gifts            **S & S Magno**  
Euch Minister: **M Kelly**

### MASS SCHEDULES THIS WEEK

23-29 December 2023

\* SATURDAY \*      \* Mass \*      \* 06.30pm \*  
\* SATURDAY \*      \* Christmas Party \*      \* after the mass \*

### This WEEK 24th December 2023

Comm/POF      **Allarah Ceballos**  
Reader          **Rose Pavo**  
Gifts            **J Bermasa & J Balajadia**  
Baby Jesus      **Domingo Family**  
Euch Minister    **Colleen Hampson**



please SCAN this to fill out the FORM

### MASS SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK

\* SATURDAY \*      \* Mass \*      \* 06.30pm \*

## RECENTLY DECEASED

## PRAYER FOR THE SICK

- Margaret, Phil and all the sick members of the community

## DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Clem Grinter, Edward Ervin,  
Damian Devry, Charles Cunneen,  
Eugene Ryan, Kenneth Findlay.

### PYRAMID HILL BANK DETAILS

BSB: 083-693  
Acc. Number: 51-598-4571

Please let Rachel or Marianne know if you are changing to Direct Deposits ie. How much and how often so we can then allocate you anew number.

**WE JOYFULLY WELCOME THE NEW MEMBER(S) INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST!**

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT



- Please help us sell our **RAFFLE TICKETS** for the construction of our new toilet.
- If you wish to give your **Planned Giving by Direct Deposit** please see Rachel Cain or ring Marianne (on Wednesday at (03) 54521041) to set up.
- **PLAN-GIVING ENVELOPES** are now available. Please pick them up at the back
- **The our Raffle draw has been rescheduled to December 23, 2023 during our PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY.**

**Kindly remember to submit your survey form on or before December 31, 2023. If you haven't received a survey form yet, they are available in the foyer at the back of the Church. Your input is invaluable. Thank you for your participation.**





## ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL - KERANG

Principal: Mr. Chris Mitchell  
ph: (03) 5452 1426

St Joseph's School is open to all who seek a Catholic Education for their children and who are willing to support the values and purposes of Catholic Education.

The school conducts events such as 'Come & See St Joseph's' in Term 2 and 'Flying into Foundation' in Term 3 each year and families are always welcome to book a school tour with the principal at anytime.

Enrolment enquiries are welcome and interested families are asked to contact the school office on (03)54521426 or [admin@sjkerang.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@sjkerang.catholic.edu.au)



**DURING THE BOOK PARADE**

**ST. MARY'S COHUNA**  
Principal: Mr. Jarrod Mullavey Phone: (03) 5456 2062

## ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL-COHUNA

Principal: Mr. Jarrod Mullavey  
ph: (03) 5456 2062

At St. Patrick's, we love being part of the Pyramid Hill Parish and wider community. We provide a contemporary curriculum that develops the intellect, imagination, spirituality, social skills, wellbeing and physical growth of each learner, in the context of the Catholic faith tradition. Our school is currently taking enrolments and enquiries from interested families are welcome at any time. Please contact the school via email at [principal@sppyramidhill.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sppyramidhill.catholic.edu.au) or by phone on 54557220 to arrange a visit or a brochure.



## ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL-PYRAMID HILL

Principal: Mr. John O'Connor  
ph: (03) 5455 7220



# His name will be Jesus

4th Sunday of Advent, Year B

Draw a picture of yourself doing something special for your family or friends during Christmas

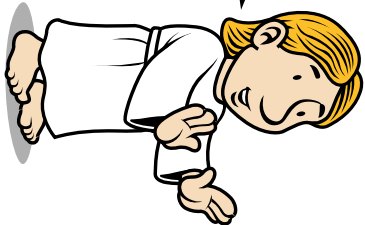


In the story of the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells Mary that God has chosen her to bring his Son into the world. What are some ways that we can bring Christ into the world for others?



Use the words below to find out what the angel Gabriel and the Blessed Virgin Mary are saying to each other.

favoured one!  
The \_\_\_\_\_ is with you.  
Don't be \_\_\_\_\_!  
God is \_\_\_\_\_  
with you. You shall  
have a \_\_\_\_\_ and his  
name will be \_\_\_\_\_.



I am the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord!  
Let this  
\_\_\_\_\_ as you  
have said.

Jesus afraid happen servant Lord Greetings pleased son

KERANG, COHUNA & PYRAMID HILL  
CATHOLIC PARISHES

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

### CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES

15 DECEMBER 2023	6.30PM	KERANG CHURCH
16 DECEMBER 2023	6.30PM	PYRAMID HILL CHURCH
17 DECEMBER 2023	6.30PM	KERANG CHURCH
18 DECEMBER 2023	6.30PM	COHUNA CHURCH
19 DECEMBER 2023	6.30PM	COHUNA CHURCH
20 DECEMBER 2023	6.30PM	COHUNA CHURCH
21 DECEMBER 2023	5.30PM	SERPENTINE CHURCH
22 DECEMBER 2023	6.30PM	PYRAMID HILL CHURCH
23 DECEMBER 2023	6.30PM	PYRAMID HILL CHURCH

### 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24 DECEMBER 2023	8.30AM	COHUNA CHURCH
24 DECEMBER 2023	10.30AM	KERANG CHURCH

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

24 DECEMBER 2023	6.00PM	COHUNA CHURCH
24 DECEMBER 2023	7.30PM	KERANG CHURCH
24 DECEMBER 2023	4.30PM	PYRAMID HILL CHURCH

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

25 DECEMBER 2023  
10.30AM  
KERANG CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your unwavering support, faith, and love throughout the year. You are the heart of our parish, and your presence brings light to our community.

May this Christmas fill your lives with abundant blessings and renewed hope. Thank you for being a cherished part of our parish family.

With heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes,

*Fr. Dean Bongat*  
Fr. Dean Bongat

MERRY  
*Christmas*