Year B
First Sunday of Advent
29th November
Liturgical Colour: Violet

ST. WILLIAM'S CATHOLIC PARISH

PARISH TEAM

Clergy:
Fr.Nigel Sequeira PP
Phone: 3355 3690

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grovely@bne.catholic.net.au

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Camilla Horn (Wed-Thurs)
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St. William's - Amelia Crawfoot
Sacred Heart Church - Jeanette Chew

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Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

CHURCHES
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67Dawson Parade, Keperra
Ph 3355 3690

Sacred Heart Church
2-8 Camp Mountain Road, Samford Village
Ph 3355 3690

SCHOOLS
St.William'sSchool
67 Dawson Parade, Keperra4054
Ph 3355 5122 Fax 3354 3330

St. Andrew's School
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Mt. Maria College
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Please take your newsletter with you. God bless.



Stay Awake: A Watcher's Advent

Twenty years ago, I was leading a small country boarding school in Far North Queensland. We were between building programs at the time. New boarding facilities were being developed, but our students were still sleeping in old convent dormitories which, because of their age and construction, carried an increased safety risk.

So each night we provided a guardian to keep watch. A switch in the boarding house was connected to a security centre in the neighbouring city. Every hour, throughout the night, the guardian had to push the button to activate that switch. If the signal was not sent, the security centre would ring.

It wasn't about 'checking-up' on the guardian to catch them out. It was about adding an additional level of support for the guardian to help them in their critical task of 'keeping watch' while others slept. The students could rest because someone remained alert.

That experience comes back to me this First Sunday of Advent. Jesus describes a household in which the doorkeeper is entrusted with a particular responsibility for the entire household: "Stay awake!"

Advent calls us to a similar watchfulness. While much of the world may simply "sleep on", absorbed in busyness, distraction, or indifference, Christians are called to notice the signs of God's presence and activity among us; and announce what we see and hear.

But in this ministry of 'watchfulness' we are not left to our own devices. St. Paul reminds the Corinthians that, while they wait for Christ, God has already enriched them with the gifts they need and will keep them steady. God is faithful. The Spirit equips the community for its mission as it waits in hope.

Perhaps that is our Advent calling: to stay awake, trusting that God gives us what we need to recognise Christ when he comes, and through our compassion, hope, and service, to help others recognise Christ too.

Stay awake to Christ!

Luke Reed
Principal, Mt. Maria College

We, the parishioners of the Catholic Parishes of Grovely and Samford, acknowledge the Turrbal People who are the Traditional Custodians of this land.
We pay respect to the Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People present.

LITURGY TIMES

29th November to 5th December

Grovely	**St. William's (Mary MacKillop Centre)**
Tuesday	9:00am St. Andrew's School End of Year Mass, ***St. Andrew's OEC*** 5:30pm St. William's School Year 6 Graduation
Thursday St. Francis Xavier	9:00am Mass
Friday	9:00am St. William's School End of Year Mass
Next Weekend Masses	
Saturday	5:00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	7:00am Mass 9:00am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Samford	**Sacred Heart**
Thursday	6:00pm Liturgy of the Word with Communion
Next Weekend Mass	
Sunday	8:00am Mass

This Week's Readings:
First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

Next Week's Readings:
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

GROVELY

Baptisms

We joyfully announce the Baptisms of

Isabella Adams, Sienna Adams, Patrick Madden-Edwards, Jasaint-Jose Salum, Vincent Worthington, and Lily Worthington,

and welcome them to our faith community!

Come and join Faith Circle for an **Advent program, *The Way of the Heart*,** starting Monday, 30th November. We meet in Our Lady of Dolours Gathering Space at 9:30am for a 10:00am start. We gather every week to discuss the Sunday Gospel. Drop in for a cup of coffee; all are always welcome.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Cancelled with sincere apologies.

Christian Meditation Group

Friday 5:00pm
in the Parish Library
entrance via the
Parish Office



Mothers Prayers

Mothers and grandmothers are welcome to come and join in the joy of surrender in Mothers Prayers. Together on Wednesdays at 9:30am at the Parish Library for now. Enter via Parish Office.

SAMFORD

First Friday Coffee and chat

Ladies, let's meet for our coffee and chat on the verandah of Sacred Heart, 4th December from 9:30am. Please bring a small plate to share as we chat. Contact Cathy 0409 871 209.



Samford Rosary Circle

Wednesday 10:00am
Sacred Heart Church

Come and pray with us

COMBINED COMMUNITIES

thank you

Thank you to all of our wonderful Parishioners who have helped keep Mass ongoing through the disruptions. It is a testiment to our community that we can have many hands setting up, packing up, and organising to provide our Masses.

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. - Galatians 6:10

Parish Calendar 2027

Planning is underway to collate dates for publication in our 2027 Parish Calendar. All Parish groups are invited to submit their dates as soon as possible. Please email any inclusions to Sue Graham: jgraham5@bigpond.net.au and, if Sacred Heart is your home, please see James & Mary.

Invitation

As Fr. Nigel prepares to leave our Parish in January, we give thanks for his faithful Ministry, friendship, and service to our community. Please save the date for his **Farewell Mass on Friday, 18th December at 6:00pm**, followed by a shared meal. Parishioners are invited to bring a plate to share as we gather in gratitude and fellowship. Parishioners who would like to contribute towards a farewell gift in support of Fr. Nigel's ongoing Ministry works are warmly invited to do so. Donations my be placed in a marked envelope and put into the weekend collections or into the Parish Account with reference 'Farewell Gift.' BSB 064 786 Acc 100029187 May God bless Fr. Nigel abundantly as he begins his new chapter of his Priestly Ministry.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 9:30-10:00am Our Lady of Dolours, Mitchelton
All are welcome

Faithful Departed

Recently Departed: Clementine Coates, Catherine Hickey, and Lester Pickering.

Anniversary: John Buchanan

We pray for the Sick

We pray for: Jane Fraser, Kathy Malcolm, Anne McKenna, Richard Lee, Maureen Campbell, William Lane, Fr. Denis Scanlan, and Michael Locke.

Please note All requests to have a Mass offered for someone, or newsletter requests for the name of recently deceased family members, prayers for the sick and anniversaries, need to be given to the Parish Office in writing. Forms and Mass request envelopes are available from the sacristy at all three churches, or from the Parish Office. Completed forms/envelopes can be given to the priest or handed in at the office.

A Vocation View

1st Sunday of Advent

It's Advent, almost Christmas!
A Season of dreams comes true.
Be on guard.
The Lord may call you to follow Him.

Pope's Prayer Intention for November
For the proper use of wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Triple Y Grovely is your radio station!

Last call! Last week to tune in to **Fr Denis Scanlan on social justice.**

Tune in via http://www.tripleygrovely.au or your radio app.
Sun 10:00pm Tues 11:00am Thu 1:00am
Fri 10pm & Sat 11:00am
Or click this link to download and listen

Faith Vibes with Fr Nigel
4:30-5:30pm Mondays

Last one for the year

This Week: The Mass

Thank you to all who gathered, shared, and learnt this year. You are a blessing to our Parish family.

FAITH MATTERS - GS

www.faith-matters-gsm.com.au

Advent is here – and more! It's the beginning of a new Church year.

Advent looks forward to Christmas – but not yet. With Advent comes joyful anticipation and all the excitement of celebrating the coming of God's Son, Jesus, in Bethlehem. Included in that anticipation is the prospect of a new start in our spiritual lives.

The Church in its wisdom reminds us in the Readings today that the second coming of our Saviour is also to come at some unknown time. We are told to be alert – keep awake – and so before the celebration of Christmas comes there is an opportunity to look at our lives to see how we are doing in our relationship with our loving God, and how we can become closer to God.

But how can we do this? Do we have time right now in all the flurry and busy-ness of getting ready for the big day? Presents to be thoughtfully purchased, and what about the food! The tree to be put up and decorated. There are people to visit and even maybe a great summer holiday in the offing.

Well, luckily, we don't have to do it all on our own. God is there with us already in all this fuss. We simply need to recognise His presence and bring Him into all this busy preparation. After all it's His birthday, isn't it? Can we look for moments for a quick conversation with Our Lord, a prayer, silent or aloud. Perhaps a thought and a prayer for others not as fortunate as we are. Or, looking beyond ourselves, we might be able to lend a cheerful helping hand for a neighbour perhaps? Send off that donation to a charity that you've been meaning to support. Developing a mindset of quietly including Our Lord and His Ways in everything we're doing is a good start.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Come join us in our joyful preparation for Jesus' birth
Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi 15th to 23rd December 2026.
A Filipino tradition of nine-day pre-Christmas celebration in joyful waiting and preparation for Jesus' birth in our hearts. It will be held nightly at
St. Flannan's Church, 194 Handford Rd, Zillmere.
Sunday to Friday, 6:30pm-Rosary; 7:00pm-Carols; 7:30pm-Holy Mass. Saturday, 7:15pm-Rosary; 7:30pm-Carols; 7:45pm Holy Mass.
For further info kindly text Cristy Hermoso on 0430 083 877 or text Emmanuel San Agustin on 0409 609 512.

2026 Grovely Parish Christmas Hamper Appeal
REMINDER

Christmas Hampers are due back **NEXT weekend: 5th & 6th December**.
Please deliver your Hamper to the Daley Centre during the times listed in the information sheet provided in your hamper envelopes.
Thank you for your generous support of this year's Hamper Appeal. For further queries, please contact the Hamper Team on the contact details listed below.
The Hamper Team: Brendan & Maree Carlin, Shirley Jones, Paul & Sue Hender, Marianne Lucas
Contacts: Grovely: Brendan 0431 919 400 E:bmcarlin@tpg.com.au
Samford: Marianne

SVDP Piety Shop
Advent Reflection Books

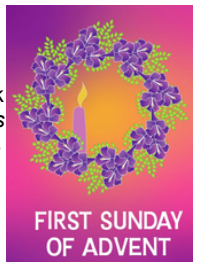
GROVELY: Advent books, Christmas cards and Columban Calendars available after 7:00am and 9:00am Masses.

SAMFORD: Advent books, Christmas cards, Columban Calendars and Christmas items available! See James and Mary.

Your Parish SVDP Conference is grateful for your support.

Family Advent Resources

You are invited to collect the first Children's Advent Pack today, and also an *Acts of Kindness* Christmas bauble, with great suggestions of simple acts of preparation.



St William's Parish 29th November to 5th December			
Monday	9:30am	Faith Circle	OLD Gathering Space
	7:00 pm	SVDP	Daley Centre
Tuesday	9:30am	Playgroup	Daley Centre
Wednesday	9:30 am	Mothers Prayers	Parish library
	10:00 am	Samford Rosary Circle	Sacred Heart
	11:00 am	Evergreens Exercise	Daley Centre
Thursday	7:00pm	Baptism Preparation	Daley Centre
Friday	5:00pm	Christian Meditation	Parish library





Advent Report from the Community

Your newsletter reporter has been out and about in our community this week, and asked these questions: "**What is hope?**", and "**How do you show hope?**"

Parent of three teenagers: Hope to me is knowing that there is always light at the end of the tunnel. That, even though the road may be dark, stormy, and taking you through the deep forest, there is always brightness, sun, and beaches at the end. I also think that practising hope means seeing the lightness at any stage, even when it is hard. The bird at the window, the kindness of the stranger, the joy in a young child's smile, the comfort in a warm cup of tea. Noticing these things allows us to try to keep positive that good will happen and peace will be found.

Great-grandfather in his 80s: Hope to me is to be positive about future outcomes. To desire best. Never to be negative. We hope in the Lord that all will be well for ourselves and our loved ones. It's like I pray daily that my family will come to know the Lord and that they will do His will.

17-year-old girl: To me hope means having a support system around me, knowing that when I look around they all believe in me when my hope may be low. Hope is finally learning to love myself and knowing when to put myself first. Hope is knowing how to rid the bad energy from my life even if it may take a toll on me; after all, the other side will become bright once you free yourself. Hope is knowing what waits on the other side and doing my best to get there. And, most importantly, hope is provide by the love of my family and the constant reminders to have hope in myself. **Hope is love, and love is power. And God is love.**

B*usinesswoman:* Straight from the heart though, hope is possible because of faith. My faith allows me to hope, as does my trust in God. I KNOW that hard times pass, challenges will be overcome, and what I wish for the world and those I love will come. Hope and faith are so interconnected for me. Faith allows me to pray in hope and gives me the space and time I need to work out how to play my part in bringing about the change Hope calls for. When I pray, I sit with my hopes, and I talk with Jesus (mostly) about the practical things I can do to make them a reality.

Until next week - NOW YOUR TURN - Ask the question of yourself - Happy Advent!

EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION FILLED WITH GREAT COMPANY, FOOD AND CHEERFUL ENTERTAINMENT AT THE...

ST WILLIAM'S

MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

25 DECEMBER 2026
12 NOON - 3 PM
ST MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE
67 DAWSON PARADE, GROVELY

To book you ticket before 18 Dec, contact the Parish Office on 3355 3690.
Bookings are essential for catering purposes.
A contribtion of $25 per person is appreicated but not essential.
If you would like to volunteer to assist with set up and cleaning on 23 and 26 December, or at the lunch, please phone the Parish Office.

Wake Up and Be Ready

The readings for the First Sunday of Advent Year B tell us to stay alert and trust in God. Isaiah calls out to the Lord for mercy and guidance. Paul reminds us that God gives us strength and grace while we wait. Jesus teaches us to keep watch and stay ready for His return.

This Sunday reminds us that faith is active. We are not called to wait quietly but to live each day with purpose. Advent is a time to pray, to be kind, and to notice the needs of others. God's love is near, and He calls us to be ready to welcome Him.