



The Buzz is designed to give you a glimpse of some of the many activities happening across the seven parishes of the South Coast Deanery as well as providing information and/or references to the many programs, resources, etc in adult faith education and development.

The Season of Advent

The season of Advent signals that Christmas is approaching. Advent invites us to explore a deeper theological and spiritual understanding of the Nativity. The first main theme is the mystery of the Incarnation, Christ- the light, has come into the world and dwelt among us, fully human and fully divine. The second is that Christ will return and renew all things in grace.

The Advent wreath is a popular devotion and focuses on light and the coming near of Christ. For the Sundays of Advent we begin with the Advent Wreath Responsorial, light the appropriate candles which lead to the Opening Prayer.

CONCLUSION OF THE JUBILEE OF MERCY

On Sunday November 27th all Holy Doors throughout the world were closed, including ours at Sacred Heart Church. To conclude the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis celebrated two special Masses: one for prisoners and the other for the homeless. In Christian faith prisoners and homeless people are also images of our inner reality. For Pope Francis we are the people on whom God has had compassion, prisoners who have been set free, homeless who have found a home. We are aware of how disconnected and alienated we can be. And yet God loves and calls us.

God's mercy is ever-present and ever-abundant. A Year of Mercy doesn't make God more merciful or more inclined to forgive. God can't change. But we can and must. As Pope Francis explained in *Misericordiae Vultus*, "At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives" (No. 3). The Year of Mercy was meant to be one of those times — a time for Christians to be changed both by contemplating the depths of God's mercy and by imitating Christ in the world today (*Misericordiae Vultus*, No. 3).

We pray for our Deanery community and for the many hundreds of people who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Door at Sacred Heart Church: that the Jubilee Year has been an occasion of conversion and grace; that it has offered all an opportunity to atone for sins, ask for forgiveness and draw closer to the Lord; and, that all might "find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us" (Misericordiae Vultus, No. 14)

The Dean and Clergy of South Coast Deanery wish all people a Blessed, Happy and Holy Christmas and may God's abundant blessings be with us all in the year ahead.

South Coast Deanery

Dean

The Very Rev. Tim Harris

Parishes

Burleigh Heads
Coolangatta/Tugun
Coomera
Nerang
Runaway Bay
Southport
Surfers Paradise

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