**St Mary’s Noticesheet**

St Mary’s Colac is a community of believers, who strive to bring Christ’s good news to the people of Colac and district. Through service, caring and love we aim to create an environment of respect and understanding in which everyone can grow.

2nd Sunday of ADVENT – 10th December 2017 – Year B

**Responsorial Psalm**

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation**

How Beautiful… x 2

**Deaths:** Michelle Berry, John James Devery, Jack Oborne, Antonia(Etta) Ribolli.

**Anniversaries:** Loretta Porter, Marie Trask, Fr Gerry Payne.

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**WEEKLY NOTICES**

**SUNDAY/TODAY:** Christmas Carols: 8pm (Beecac Community Hall).

**MONDAY:** Trinity College Board Meeting

Presbytery: 5.45pm

*CHOIR PRACTICE* commencing at 6.30pm Monday 11th Dec (*please note change of time*) - All very welcome to come and learn new Hymns for Advent & Christmas!!

**TUESDAY:**

*REFUGEE/ASYLUM SEEKERS* meeting at the Colac Botanical Gardens Café Tuesday - 10am.

*FUNERAL: COLAC CEMETERY:* 11.30am (John Devery).

**THURSDAY:**

*SACRED HEART SCHOOL:* Gr 6 Graduation 7pm(Tea: 6.00pm)

*SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL:* The Giving tree is available in the Gathering Space.

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**TRINITY COLLEGE:** Are pleased to announce that a $500K Grant has been received form the Victorian State Government. To assist with the Re Building of the College Library.

**THANK YOU!** To Volunteers who assisted in the ‘Cleaning’ Working Bee at St Mary’s Church last Monday. The Workers appreciated the hospitality and sustenance provided by Clare Russell.

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**ADVENT PRAYER**

(To be said each morning)

“Lord, keep my heart always set on You today, so that from it will flow the springs of life. Protect me from crooked speech, and put devious talk far from me. Let my eyes look directly forward, and my gaze be straight before you. Let me not swerve to the right or to the left; turn my feet away from evil. Amen”

(Adapted from Proverbs 4:23-27)

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**MASS TIMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Trinity Year 9 &amp; 10 Presentation St Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>St Mary’s School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Trinity Year 7 &amp; 8 Presentation St Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>End of Year Liturgy St Mary’s’ PS St Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Final Mass St Mary’s</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
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<td>9.00am</td>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>St Mary’s</td>
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Reconciliation: Each Friday after 10am Mass or anytime by appointment

New ‘Liturgy Roster’ Now Available in ‘Gathering Space’.

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**OPEN COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Initial meeting held this week to again announce the Open Community Christmas Dinner will be on Christmas Day 25th Dec in St Mary’s hall – 12noon for 12.30pm. As over the past 3 years, so grateful to Volunteers, Adults, Families, Teenagers. Growing popularity from parishioners, celebrated.

Appreciation for donations of ‘Sweets’ Etc. This year we anticipate need for some drivers to transport participants.

Next meeting – Friday, 22nd -3.30pm in the “Gathering Space”: All interested Welcome!

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**We welcome to our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism:**

- Ryder LoRicco
- Elise Keating
Bishop Paul Bird’s response to the Royal Commission’s Report into Case Study 28

The Catholic Bishop of Ballarat Paul Bird has received the report from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in relation to the Diocese of Ballarat in Case Study 28. The Royal Commission has found serious failures in the way the Diocese responded to child sexual abuse. Bishop Bird said that mishandling of complaints against priests and church personnel and a lack of response to such complaints led to unnecessary suffering for many victims and their families and has brought distress to communities throughout the diocese.

He said that the Church should be a safe place for everyone but the history brought to light in the Royal Commission’s inquiry has shown that the Church was not safe for those who were victims. "Where the failures of my predecessors allowed abuse to occur, I offer my heartfelt apology."

Bishop Bird added that he is confident that the diocese and its parishes and schools now have the policies and procedures required to provide a safe environment for children. He said that there is a firm commitment from all those who minister in parishes, schools and social services across the diocese to the safety and wellbeing of children in their care.

Bishop Bird said that the Church would learn from the case study and the forthcoming final report from the Royal Commission, both to assist those who have suffered in the past and keep children safe now and in the future.

Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop of Ballarat

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**DECEMBER MASS TIMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Type</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th Dec</td>
<td>Parish Reconciliation St Mary's Church</td>
<td>4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Dec</td>
<td>Anointing Mass St Mary's Church</td>
<td>1.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th Dec</td>
<td>Anointing Mass &amp; Christmas Mass Mercy Place</td>
<td>10.30am</td>
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**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Type</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24th Dec</td>
<td>Vigil St Mary's Colac Christmas Mass</td>
<td>6pm/8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Dec</td>
<td>St Peter's Birregurra Christmas Mass</td>
<td>6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th Dec</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Cressy Christmas Mass</td>
<td>8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th Dec</td>
<td>St Mary’s Colac Christmas Mass</td>
<td>8am &amp;10am</td>
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**CENTACARE**

Family & Support Counselling.
For appointments - Wendy Garner: 5559 3000
NEXT VISIT: DECEMBER 15th

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**Second Sunday of Advent**

John the Baptist’s call to repentance is echoed in the US bishop’s pastoral letter on stewardship:

“Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live — the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards.”

**Advent has commenced and we turn our thoughts to Mary** - As a very young woman, she was to enter into a great mystery, for which she deemed herself unfit. Let us ponder on her faith and deep trust in her God. On the human level, she entrusted herself to the care of Joseph. Together, they set off on the incredible path which led to the birth of Jesus, our Saviour. So, we pray, ‘Blessed are you Mary. Help us to learn from you how to live with faith, trust and love, as we try to become increasingly aware of God’s will for us in our daily lives, and to do whatever he tells us.’

**Wrap-up Advent**

‘living in the tension between the now and the not yet’ - A theme that pervades the Advent season is the theme of ‘living in the tension between the ‘now’ and the not yet’. This theme unites the Advent season and it’s expressed in different ways across the liturgical readings and the prayers... the joyful, loving, hope-filled tension that we experience even in the way that we live and wait - for the coming of Christmas in our families and personally.’ - Fr. Frank Moloney sdb

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Keep up to date with news in the Diocese. Register for Diocesan E News – enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au