



Our Lady Star of the Sea Apollo Bay
 Our Lady of Fatima Lorne
 St Mary's Colac
 St Peter's Birregurra
 St Joseph's Cressy



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Colac and Apollo Bay Parishes are a community of believers, who strive to bring Christ's good news to all people in the district. Through service, caring and love we aim to create an environment of respect and understanding in which everyone can grow. We acknowledge the First nations Peoples of these lands, seas and waterway on which we gather. The First Nations peoples of these places were the first to dance stories and remember times of healing and hurt. We acknowledge the elders past and present, and future.

4TH Sunday of Advent – 18TH December 2022 Year A

Responsorial Psalm

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 A virgin will give birth to a son;
 His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
 Alleluia!



THIS WEEK

4th Sunday of Advent – Year A
 Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24.

NEXT WEEK

The Nativity of the Lord – Year A
 Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24.

Deaths: Anne McKew, Julia O'Malley (Elsina Arackal Mother in-law), Victims: 2 Police Officers Matthew Arnold & Rachel McCrow & Neighbour Alan Dare in Queensland on Tuesday: Fr Romuald Green O.F.M. (Washington), Maree Newcombe (Simpson),
Anniversaries: Chris Roache, Mary Elizabeth Robarts & Daniel Gerard Robarts Maria (Mary) Monaco, Darryl Scott, Francis Hanlon, Laura Pedro Rante, Bernadette Arie, Rautena Roukema, Imelda Lantajo, Nicolas Cupid & Restituta Cupid.

MASS TIMES - COLAC, CRESSY, BIRREGURRA.		
Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's- Colac
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's- Colac
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's- Colac
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's- Colac

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES.		
24 th Dec	6pm & 8pm	St Mary' Church
24 th Dec	6pm	Birregurra Community Hall
24 th Dec	8pm	St Joseph's Cressy
25 th Dec	*8am & *10am	St Mary' Church
31 st Dec	6pm	St Mary' Church
1 st Jan 2023	9am	Christ Church Hall Birregurra
1 st Jan 2023	9am & 11am	St Mary' Church

SYMPATHY TO: Denise Green & family on the death of Fr R Green, O.F.M. (Washington U.S.A.) brother of (Mr) Matt Green.

MASS TIMES OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA – APOLLO BAY	
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES.	
24 th Dec - OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA – APOLLO BAY	6pm
25 th Dec - OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA – APOLLO BAY	9am
1 st Jan 2023 - OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA – APOLLO BAY	11am

OUR LADY OF FATIMA - LORNE	
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES.	
24 th Dec - OUR LADY OF FATIMA - LORNE	6pm & 8pm
25 th Dec - OUR LADY OF FATIMA - LORNE	9am
1 st Jan 2023 - OUR LADY OF FATIMA - LORNE	9am

APOLLO BAY COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS CAROLS SUNDAY 18TH DEC.

Dear Father,

Our **Christmas Appeal** is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have personal links with the diocese of Ballarat.

I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year's appeal. Total donations made in 2022, \$42000.

Yours sincerely in Christ
 +Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop of Ballarat.

**P.S: To regular Parishioners:
 Place Gift in a marked
 Envelope: 'Bishops Christmas
 Appeal!'**

**St Mary's Parish will again host
 'An Open Christmas Dinner'**

in St Mary's School Hall – 25th Dec. 12pm for 12.30pm.

Call for volunteers: helpers, supporters, givers, etc.

Any offers/donors etc. - contact Presbytery Office 9am – 1pm phone 5331 2177
 (The dinner is 'An Open Invitation' to the wider community).
 Spread the Word!!



Sacred Heart – Grade 6 children – again this year have produced a "Welcome to Austral' Book – for Fr Michael (and Rural Australia Refugees) distribute to new families in Australia (Esp. Colac).

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.

For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?
or who may stand in his holy place?

One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
a reward from God his savior.

Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory

**REMINDER:
WORKING BEE
ST MARY'S
CHURCH
MONDAY 19TH
DEC.
AT 9.30AM
ALL WELCOME
MEN & WOMEN**

APOLLO BAY/ LORNE
First Collection
National Bank
BSB 083585
Acct 810967715

Second Collection
Westpac Bank
BSB 033600
Acct 230038

CENTACARE

FAMILY COUNSELLING

St Mary's Presbytery Colac
Appointment's contact
Wendy 5559 3006

**Early Notice: "Vespers":
Christ Church Birregurra
Friday 30th Dec – 7PM
Supper to Follow.**

What is the invitation of Advent?

Advent is an invitation for Christians to contemplate preparation. A part of this contemplation may involve ways to explore the recognition of the presence of God in, among and through all creation. The following reflection by Janet Schaeffer, OP explores how humanity may have an active part in this ongoing work.

Sadio Mane, a Senegalese soccer star who earns approximately \$10.2 million US a year, shocked his fans when he was spotted carrying a cracked iphone. He responded, "Why would I want ten ferraris, 20 diamond watches and two jet planes? I starved, worked in the fields, played barefoot and didn't go to school. Now I can help people. I prefer to build schools and give poor people food or clothing. I give 70 euros per month to all people from a poor Senegalese region to contribute to their family economy. I do not need to display luxury cars and homes and trips and planes. I prefer that my people receive some of what life has given me"

The challenge is that God rescues others through what we do: our kindness to the despondent; our attention to the desolate; our support of those who are abandoned; our sharing of what we have been given. The comfort of God-becoming-one-of-us challenges us to be C... generosity, compassion and empathy

Let us pray

Expectant God

The heavens can no longer hold your abundant love,

So you pour out the gift of your embodied self

Relinquishing the beauty of your majesty,

To adorn the pale colours of our humanity.

Choosing to enter into this world in a place of scarcity and need.

Reveal to us this hidden world

of poverty, of refugees, of suffering.

As you choose this as the place of your birth

Let us choose this to be the place of our rebirth.

Rebuild us, Transform us, Make us anew.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

(Thanks to Dobcel - Catholic Education Office: Ballarat)



Pope Francis broke down and cried on December 8 as he mentioned the suffering of Ukrainians during a traditional prayer in central Rome. The pope's voice began to tremble as he mentioned the Ukrainians and he had to stop, unable to speak, for about 30 seconds. When he resumed the prayer, his voice was cracking. Francis broke down during a traditional prayer to the Madonna at the foot of a statue on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a national holiday in Italy.