



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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 Secretary Hrs: Mon to Fri 8.30am-12.30pm

*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 Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.*

**The Epiphany of the Lord – 7th January 2024 – Year B**



**Responsorial Psalm**

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 We have seen his star in the East;  
 and have come to adore the Lord.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

**This Week's Readings**

**The Epiphany- Year B.**

Isaiah 60:1-6, Eph 3:2, 5-6, Matt 2:1-12

**Next Week's Readings**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B.**

Sam 3:3-10,19 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20 John 1:35-42

**Deaths:** Noel Bath, Michael Slattery, Helena McMahon (C'down), Joshua Kalz, Anthony Capizzi (Cobden), Joseph De Bon.  
**Anniversaries:** Maria Arceri, Karen Finn, Ursula Carew, Carl Paatsch, Noel Paatsch, Ron Parker, John Joseph Foley, Ettie Lanthier, Marty Breen, Reg Crawley, James Hall, Mervyn Prime, Brendan Prime.

MASS TIMES - COLAC, CRESSY, BIRREGURRA.		
Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	*8.00am	St Mary's
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's- Colac
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary's- Colac
Sunday	9.00am 11.00am	St Mary's- Colac St Mary's- Colac
St Mary's: Holy Hour- 1st Tuesday of the month: 4-5pm		
----- Rosary - each Friday: 9.30am St Mary's Church		
STAR OF THE SEA - APOLLO BAY		
Tuesday	5.30pm	
Wed, Thurs, Friday	10.00am	
Sunday	11.00am	
OUR LADY OF FATIMA - LORNE		
Sunday	9.00am	
<b>CHRISTMAS FEAST DAYS:</b> Jan 7th – Epiphany of the Lord (Magi). Jan 8th (9 <sup>th</sup> ) Baptism of the Lord. 'End of Christmas Season'.		

*“Though many of us will be far apart, we can be united in Spirit and pray for each other at the Crib and the Altar”. (7/12/1899: St Mary MacKillop).*

**BISHOPS CHRISTMAS APPEAL**  
**NOT TAKEN UP AT THE CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES**  
**IN COLAC – AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLACE AN ENVELOPE**  
**NEXT WEEK MARKED: ‘BISHOP CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEAL’.**  
**2023 CHRISTMAS APPEAL \$1,753.00**  
**2024 CHRISTMAS APPEAL \$ 1,206.00**

**\*Baptisms this weekend we welcome:**  
 Koby Dodd & Ava Kelley -St Mary's Colac

**Pope Francis: Faith allows Christians to live transition into the new year 'differently'**

*“No, it was the joy that overflows from the heart when one tangibly touches the nearness of Jesus, the tenderness of God, who does not leave us alone but consoles us.” At the end of the general audience the pope repeated his refrain that war is always “a defeat,” adding “only the weapons manufacturers earn.” “And let’s think about children at war, the things they see. Let’s go to the Nativity scene and ask Jesus for peace. “I am close with affection and prayer to the suffering populations. I encourage the rescue services and I invoke the blessing of the Almighty upon everyone, to bring comfort and relief in pain,”.*

**The Epiphany of the Lord:** The earliest Christmas feast, originating in the East in the third century and passing to the West in the fourth century. Celebrates the divine ‘manifestation’ or ‘coming’. In the East it commemorates the baptism of the Lord and in the West the visit of the Magi. The mystery of the incarnation is now revealed to everyone in the world, represented by these wise men from foreign lands.

**POPE INTENTION JANUARY 2024**

**FOR THE GIFT OF DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH**  
*Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.*

**Sympathy To:** Barbara Kalz on the death of her son.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son;  
He shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment.  
Justice shall flower in his days,  
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.  
May he rule from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;  
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.  
All kings shall pay him homage,  
all nations shall serve him.  
For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,  
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.  
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;  
the lives of the poor he shall save.

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

## APOLLO BAY & LORNE

### FIRST COLLECTION

BSB: 083585 Acc: 810967715

### SECOND COLLECTION

BSB: 033600 ACCOUNT: 230038

## Parish Account Colac

\* For Direct Giving Details:

BSB: 083 585

Account: 811051426

Planned Giving: REF:

## CENTACARE COUNSELLOR FROM WARRNAMBOOL

Next Visit to Colac 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

PH: Wendy 0409 192 480

**Vinnies: 'Thank you for Gifts 'donated'  
To Church Christmas Tree!!**

## Pope Francis first Nativity scene established by St. Francis of Assisi

provides an important example for Catholics today. This year marks the 800th anniversary of the first living Nativity established by St. Francis in the central Italian town of Greccio.

"[St.] Francis doesn't desire to create a beautiful work of art," the pope said, "but through the Nativity scene to provoke amazement at the extreme humility of the Lord, at the hardships he suffered, for love of us, in the poor grotto of Bethlehem." The Holy Father emphasized that "the Nativity scene was created to bring us back to what matters: to God who comes to dwell among us." It "helps us understand what matters and also the social relationships of Jesus in that moment, the family, Joseph and Mary, and loved ones, the shepherds," he said. The pope noted that it is "fine" to give presents "Let us look at the crib: that awe before the crib. Sometimes there is no inner space for astonishment, The pope emphasized that the very essence of the Christmas season cannot be reduced to a mere historical moment or viewed as "a beautiful thing," adding: "We need this religious attitude of amazement." "If I, in the face of the mysteries, do not come to this amazement, my faith is simply superficial," the pope said. The Holy Father also reflected that the Nativity scene of St. Francis was conceived by a spirit of "sobriety" and that in this way it can be seen as a repudiation of the rampant consumerism that has come to define the Christmas season for many families.



## Pope at Mass: Let us entrust the New Year to the Mother of God

In his homily at the New Year's Day Mass celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, Pope Francis calls on us to "entrust this coming year to the Mother of God" and consecrate our lives to her. With her "tender love...she will lead us to Jesus." The words "Mother of God," the Pope explained, "express the joyful certainty that the Lord, a tiny Child in his Mamma's arms, has united himself forever to our humanity, to the point that it is no longer only ours, but his as well," The Church also needs to rediscover in Mary, Virgin and Mother, how to be "generative" with pastoral ministry distinguished by "concern and care, patience and maternal courage," said the Pope. And the world could also look to mothers and women for ways to find peace and "see things with genuinely human eyes and hearts." "Every society needs to accept the gift that is woman, every woman: to respect, defend and esteem women, in the knowledge that whosoever harms a single woman profanes God, who was "born of a woman".

The Pope said we can "seek refuge" in Mary, especially in times of loneliness, when dealing with our shortcomings, "whenever we are no longer able to untie the knots in our lives." And may we turn to Mary for help in becoming "artisans of unity" in our times "bereft of peace" so that we can do so "with her maternal creativity and concern for her children." We should entrust the New Year to the Mother of God, consecrating our lives to her, as "she will lead us to Jesus, who is himself 'the fullness of time,' of every time, of our own time."