



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



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
 Assist Priest: Apollo Bay Fr John Pothiyittel
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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.

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time – 28th January 2024 –Year B

Responsorial Psalm

If today, you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those in death.
 Alleluia, alleluia!

This Week's Readings

4th Sunday of Ordinary Times – Year B

Deut 18:15-20, Corinthians 7:32-35, Mark 1:21-28

Next Week's Readings

5th Sunday in Ord Time Year B

Job 7:1-4. 6-7 Cori 9:16-19. 22-23 Mark 1:29-39

Deaths: Isabel Prince, Michael Richens, Colby Cross, Verna Dunstan, Michael O'Shea(W'Bool).

Anniversaries: John Montano, Veronica Garner, James Morrissy, Mary & Anne Moloney, John Cass, Anne & Bevan Davies,

MASS TIMES - COLAC, CRESSY, BIRREGURRA.		
Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	10.00am	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	
Wednesday	5.30pm
Sunday	11.00am
OUR LADY OF FATIMA – LORNE	
Sunday	9.00am

Fr John Pothiyittel – departed on Wednesday 24th Jan for 2 months in India. We celebrated a Dinner (of 16), last Tuesday.

(Prepared by Kaye Cheng, Teresa & John Fleming).



THANK YOU – As the Year really starts with return to school; end of holidays for many – an opportunity on behalf of Mandy & Myself for the many kind and gracious good wishes to the Parish Office. Appreciation also for generous "Giving" to special collections: Bishops Appeal; Christmas Dues; Planned Giving and personal gifts.

SCHOOL YEAR 2024: Welcome back to our Teachers & Staff! Welcome to students and parents! We again ask God's blessing on the school year.

Monday: 9am – Trinity College: Mass St Mary's Church.
Tuesday 9am – Sacred Heart School: Mass St Mary's Church.

GLEESON FAMILY GROUP Planning Day: Sunday 4th February at 1.30 pm at Winsome and Jos's home. Looking forward to hearing your ideas for our 2024 social gatherings. Phone Winsome on 0427 353203

CROFT FAMILY GROUP Planning Day: Sunday Feb 11 at 12.30 a Linda's. Please bring a picnic lunch to share, your diary and ideas for activities or venues to explore in 2024. **If you have ever thought about trying Family Group out, this is a great day to come along to and enjoy some lunch and laughter.** 25 Talbot St, Elliminyt (off Pound rd). RSVP Linda 0448 314774

MASS OF THE OILS: 25th March 2024.

Enquires for R.C.I.A. To Parish Office:
 (Adult Baptism & etc.) Ph:5231 2177.

****ASH WEDNESDAY 14th February 2024.**

FEAST DAYS

5th February / St Agatha

6th February / St Paul Miki (Japanese Saints)

8th February / St Josephine Bakhita (South Sudan)



"Having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone. Pope Francis."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.
Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
Let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

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

Next visit 22/01/2024

Phone: Wendy

0409 192 480

CHURCH EMBRACES AFRICAN COMMUNITIES IN MELBOURNE.

When Deacon George Piech Meat arrived in Australia in 2004 after years as a refugee, his first port of call was a Catholic church.

He had fled South Sudan with his wife and three children, as a decades-long civil war ravaged the country. They spent two years waiting for a visa in Egypt before settling in Melbourne, where the couple had another three children.

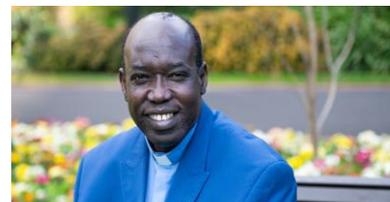
"It was a very, very tough journey, a journey of struggle and a journey of sacrifices," he told ABC RN's *Religion and Ethics Report*.

In Melbourne, Deacon George and his family joined a local parish, where they found a community of others who had escaped violence and persecution in places like Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the Middle East. "We thank God [for] those who made it here," he says.

"Jesus said, 'I was a stranger, and you welcomed me', and this is exactly what all these churches did to African communities." With the Church's support, he learned English and continued the religious education he had begun in South Sudan.

In 2012, he was ordained as a permanent deacon and began working with migrant communities across several parishes. He now works with new migrants helping them through the challenges of resettlement and making them feel welcome in their new home.

Deacon George is a frequent visitor to our Parish & especially to our South Sudan brothers and sisters.



FR CHRIS BAKER: WRITES TO FAMILY & FRIENDS: CHRISTMAS 2023

Dear Relatives and Friends, It is hard to believe that already a year has passed since we were last in contact. Five years ago, I retired from Peru to this Columban Centre House at Essendon Vic. This has brought me back to where I started with the Columbans in 1944. What is pleasantly different now is that our community here consists of 14 priests, of whom 11 were among my students while we were six or seven years together in Wahroonga and/or Turrumurra. It is wonderful to be part of such a community. Everyone has spent many years in some overseas country like the Philippines, Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan, Britain, Ireland, USA, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Fiji and New Zealand. A constant topic for our discussions has been the Australian Bishops' Plenary Council. We were among the two thousand offering suggestions about how the local church might be more welcoming, compassionate, and all-inclusive. We are very pleased with the decisions and proposals announced by the Council. It has rightly been acclaimed in the much wider Roman Synod on Synodality. This new form of a Synod has 300 bishops plus 60 invited non-bishops participating and voting. That was the First Session, in October 2023. The same representatives will continue the Second Session in October 2024. Only then will the conclusions be published. Already Pope Francis has put his stamp on the new way of being Church. All Christians - women, men, and children - are called to share actively. Each one is given the talents and spiritual helps necessary to play his or her part in improving the life of our global family. Wishing you great joy in the Lord this Christmas, followed by a richly blessed New Year, Chris

Hello Michael, Thank you for your hospitality and keeping in touch through many years. With renewed good wishes and love for Christmas, Chris. (Fr Chris Baker, {brothers – Frs. Leo Pat now deceased: All Cobden boys!!}).