



# Saint Mary MacKillop Parish Western Border

Comprising the communities of Apsley, Balmoral, Casterton, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Edenhope, Glenthompson, Goroke, Hamilton, Harrow, Macarthur, Penshurst and Tarrayoukyan.

**Newsletter Edition 1**

[www.westernborder.church](http://www.westernborder.church)

**2019**

## Parish Logo

We are pleased to present to you our new Parish Logo which has been designed by Josephite Sister Dorothy Woodward who is a Lochinvar Sister of St Joseph.

The logo was especially designed for our new Parish and incorporates a number of elements from our district.



## Parish Census

During the month of March, our parish will be undertaking a census of all Mass goers. This will involve asking each family to complete a

census card with details such as your address, email, phone number, as well as details of those that live in your home. This registers

you as a member of our Parish and allows us to provide good communication and pastoral care as required. Your information will be treated very securely so no need to worry about privacy concerns.



## Fr Doan Nguyen

# Welcome

We are privileged to have Fr Doan Nguyen helping out in our Parish for the rest of

this year. Fr Doan is a Redemptorist Priest who was ordained in November of 2018. Fr Doan is here to gain pastoral experience in a parish prior to him taking up a more permanent appointment in another parish next year. Fr Doan's presence will allow Fr Paddy to visit all of our smaller communities a couple of times this year in order to listen to your stories and aspirations.

## Parish Giving Program

We appreciate that the five former parishes all undertook their giving programs differently, even to the point of them

having different names such as Planned Giving, Sacrificial Giving, and Stewardship. During April of this year we will be running a renewal program for the whole parish that will give you an opportunity to make new pledges and also to take up payment options such as Direct Debit and Credit Card payments. We look forward to receiving your support as we face the challenges of the future together!



## Child Safe Standards

As a Society, Catholic Church, Diocese and Parish, we are determined to learn from the findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Abuse and ensure this shameful history never occurs again. We are committed to implementing all of the Safeguarding Standards that will guide and protect all of us into the future. We are very intentional in talking about this and ask that you be understanding and cooperative as we implement the requirements of these standards moving forward. This will include the expansion of our Working With Children Check register as well as some education and training of our people.



Our Parish has two Safeguarding Officers;  
**John Hockey - South / Eastern Communities**  
 0439 319 823 - manager@westernborder.church  
**John Donegan - Western Communities**  
 5581 1933 - donegan.john@bigpond.com

Please feel free to contact either one of them if you wish to discuss any Child Safe issues. You will find the Parish Safeguarding Policies on our Parish website at the following address;  
<http://westernborder.church/child-safe-policy-and-protocol/>

## Mission Outreach Donations

Our Parish is committed to donating 10% of all income received from giving to a number of mission causes. So far this year giving received is \$51,630 and our parish has donated \$3,000 to Sr Lourdes - Kenya Mission, as well as \$3,000 to Sr Stella's - India Mission. Both of these are causes that Fr Paddy has connections with and we know they are so appreciative of all they receive.



## Finances

The St Mary MacKillop Parish Finance Committee has met twice so far which has been very much a learning experience for all of us. Those on the committee are John Donegan, Kevin Myers, Ursula Murphy, Bryan Roberts, Des Slattery, John Hockey (Parish Manager), Fr Paddy Mugavin and Fr John Corrigan. The committee has prioritised completing a Parish Pastoral plan and a Buildings Master Plan. This will help us establish the long term land and building needs of the Parish. Bryan Roberts has offered to lead this initiative over coming months and will be visiting all schools and communities to hear of your hopes and needs.

## Casterton Rental Property

Many years ago the Casterton Parish purchased a house that might be used to accommodate a school principal and would also be a financial investment. The house located at 24 Shiels Terrace, whilst having appreciated in value over the years, is not in great condition and it has been determined by the Finance Committee that the best course of action is to sell the property and use the funds obtained from the sale for other building refurbishments as required. Consultation took place with the former members of the Casterton Parish Finance Committee who provided input and agreement to pursue this course of action. The house will go on the market in coming weeks with a sell price of \$135,000.

## Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

On Sunday the 31st of March we will hold our first meeting of the St Mary MacKillop Parish Pastoral Council. Leadership representatives of each community are invited to attend the Sacred Heart Hall in Casterton from 1-3pm. During this first meeting we will share the stories of our communities which will help us to better understand each other.