



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
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 Secretary Hrs: Mon to Fri 9am-1pm

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 every one can grow. We acknowledge the Gulidjan, people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

First Sunday of Lent – 1st March 2020 – Year A

Responsorial Psalm

Be merciful O Lord for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and Praise Lord Jesus Christ; Glory and Praise to you.
 No one lives on bread alone,
 but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
 Glory and Praise Lord Jesus Christ; Glory and Praise to you.

This Week's Readings

First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9.3:1-7. Romans 5:12-19. Matthew 4:1-11.

Next Week's Readings

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4. Timothy 1:8-10. Matthew 17:1-9

Deaths: Des Harty (Pauline Goonan's brother in-law), Geoff Daffy, Patrick Kelleher.

Anniversaries: Jim DeLorenzo, Maria Bonfante (nee Zaia), Lorraine Mulder, Amy Griful, Brian Bluett, Herbert Dawson, Frances Hammett, Mary Brown, Sr Therese Parish O.L.M., Sr M. Darerca Giles O.L.M., Glen Harrington, Ted McGuane.

MASS TIMES:

Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's
	1.30pm	Corangamarah
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary's
Sunday	9.00am	St Peter's Birregurra
Sunday	9.00am 11.00am	St Mary's St Mary's

Reconciliation: Friday after 10am Mass
 OR Anytime by Appointment.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Wednesday 4th March at 5.30pm.
 Please come along to learn new hymns and
 new Mass settings for Lent and Easter.
 New members most welcome!!

**World Day Of Prayer Service is
 at Scots Presbyterian Church Colac,
 on Friday March 6th – 1.30pm**

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:

1: **Training Session** for new Special Ministers
 will be held soon: For either Sunday Masses/
 Nursing Home Ministry. **OR:** - **Special
 Ministers** are required to assist in Ministry to
 Barongarook Gardens, Corangamarah &
 Mercy Place. At St Mary's Church
 Wed 4th March at 10.30 - 11.30am
 If interested, please contact Parish Office.

Today Mass: St Joseph's Pirron Yallock – 10.00am;

**Tuesday: *R.C.I.A. Journey to through Lent to Easter
 with Candidate: Tricia Hook. Program: "Be Opened –
 A Journey To New Life – Lenten Gospel Reflection (All
 Parishioners Welcome) Presbytery: 3.30pm – 4.30pm.**

Wednesday: Ministers Association: 12noon

Thursday: *Finance Committee Meeting 5.30pm

**R.C.I.A. (Rite for the Christian Initiation of
 Adults) Tricia Hook is joining us in our Lenten Journey of
 Faith. Tricia was today (Saturday) at St Patrick's Cathedral,
 Ballarat – Tricia was accompanied to Ballarat by her
 support group' and along with other people from other
 parishes was presented to Bishop Paul.**

EARLY NOTICES:

**Beac Ecumenical Worship Service: Sunday March
 8th at the Beac Uniting Church. 10.30am.**

**Parish Liturgy Team Meeting: Thursday 19th March
 at 10.30am (after Mass).**

CENTACARE (Family Counselling)

St Mary's Presbytery Colac. Monday 2nd March.
 For an appointment contact Wendy 5559 3006

O Solitude - As Lent begins, we go with Moses

(Deuteronomy 30) – and Elijah and Jesus – into the
 desert. St. Jerome (347-420) leads the way:

*O desert, bright with flowers of Christ! O Solitude
 whence come the stones of which the Apocalypse,
 the city of the Great King, is built. O Wilderness,
 gladdened with God's especial presence!*

*Oh, that I would behold the desert, lovelier to me
 than any city. Go on. Get up. Go out. Leave the city.*

Travel to the wilderness. Embrace solitude.

You will discover the beauty of Christ, the solidity of
 Christ, the presence of Christ.

Amen



POPE FRANCIS: Speaking On Ash Wednesday

Pope Francis receiving the Ashes

“Forget quitting smoking or cutting carbs from your diet. If you're thinking of something to give up this Lent, which starts today (Ash Wednesday), Pope Francis has a surprisingly modern suggestion. During the weekly General Audience in St. Peter's Square today, the Pope told the 12,000 people gathered to "disconnect from cell phones and connect to the Gospel," according to Vatican News, the Holy See's

information service. This Lent, Pope Francis said, "is a time in which to turn off the television and open the Bible." Back in the day when Pope Francis himself was a child, his family didn't have a television, but they would make it a point not to listen to the radio. Keeping the chatter to a minimum can better help the faithful connect with and hear the word of God, he said. The internet makes this difficult, he added, as it amplifies the "offensive and harmful words" people throw around, creating an environment that is "polluted by too much verbal violence." If you find yourself furiously typing angry comments into YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit or whatever your preferred platform to spew is, consider taking a moment to pause. For those practising the Catholic faith, Lent is a period of abstinence, fasting, repentance and reflection, and it is common to give up something for the 40-day season. Typical sacrifices include excessive spending, unhealthy foods or bad habits, but holding your tongue, or in this case, fingers, could be a good option.”

(With an apology for the Pope's 'crass' language – but translating from Spanish to Italian to English can be challenging).

LENTEN REGULATIONS – 2020 – Bishop Paul Bird

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat. On all other Fridays, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled through any one of the following: (a)**Prayer:** for example, Mass attendance; family prayer, a visit to a church or chapel, reading the Bible, making the Stations of the Cross, praying the rosary. (b)**Self-denial:** for example, not eating meat, not eating sweets or desserts, reducing time for watching TV or other entertainments. (c)**Helping others-** for example, taking the family to visit the elderly in old people's home or in the parish, visiting the sick or someone who is lonely. All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. (Canon 1252). All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 26th. Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (February 26th) and Trinity Sunday, (June 7).



CONGRATULATIONS BR BERNIE'S 75th Anniversary

Brother Bernie Adams celebrating his 75th Anniversary as a Christian Brother: with fellow brothers: Brs John, Russell, Frank, John (Prov. Council), and Mr Paul Clohesy (Trinity College Principal).

PRAYER God of all peoples and nations,

As you accompany us on our Lenten journey,
May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live
in solidarity, Our almsgiving be an act of justice,
And our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.
Awaken our hearts and minds that we may be one
human family. As we all go further together. We ask
this in Jesus' name. Amen.



***Next Plenary Council Meeting:**
Tuesday 10th March
- after 5pm Mass: Topic
“Joyful, Hope-Filled & Spirit filled
Community.”

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Advice on coronavirus and liturgical practice

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has not called for the suspension of any practices at Mass in response to novel coronavirus that appeared in China and has been detected in several countries, including Australia. The Conference is closely monitoring the situation.

As always, common sense dictates that people who suspect they may be suffering from or carrying an infectious condition should stay home until they are well. At this point, health authorities have said that the risk of exposure to the public is very low, especially if they have not travelled to one of the affected areas or have had contact with someone who has. If health authorities provide further advice on public gatherings or regarding the reception of Holy Communion, the Conference will issue further instructions. Dioceses, in liaison with parishes and other ministries, are encouraged to monitor local and national health advice