



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
 Phone: 03 52312177
 Fax: 03 52312189
 Email: colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au
 Secretary Hrs: Mon to Fri 8.30am -12.30pm

St Mary's Noticesheet

'Discover A Better Christmas'

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 everyone can grow

The Holy Family - 27th December 2020 - Year B

Deaths: John Bolitho, Peter Cox, Norm Brooks, Maureen Hennigan (Teresa Hick's Sister), Sr Rosemary Glennen, R.S.M., Jack Dent.

Anniversaries: Margaret Russell, Lee Monaghan, Rosemary Morrissy, Mary Hammett, Bernard Longano, Sr Gertrude Keeley, OLM, Ben Johnson, Nell Vivian, Bill Carew (snr), Sr Mary Emmanuel Cook, OLM, Therese Rushford, Anelina Favorito, Patrick Brogan, Sr Philip Gleeson, S.G.S. Fr Pat Maguire.

MASS TIMES - THIS WEEK

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

RECONCILIATION: Anytime by Appointment.

OUR PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM: HOSTS

HELEN JONES, JAN HEALEY & LIZ TAYLOR

MARK MCLENNAN & SEAN JAMES

ANNE PICARD -DREW & BRENDAN SCANLAN

With Appreciation – To Parishioners for generous support to our Parish especially during the 'lockdown' periods; for warmth, friendship and co-operation amid coming back to Masses with the 'new normal'

- To Parish Leadership Team, Finance Committee for their commitment and leadership of the Parish.
- To Kaye Cheng & Team for providing 150 Christmas Dinners! Amazing! Of course, again this only possible due to generosity of: A.L.C., Charcoal Chicken Garden of Eden, Joe Sgro Organic Vegetables, Brandon Bakery, Bulla Cream & Ice Cream.
- To Mandy (Parish Office) for many kindnesses to myself; to Parishioners; to Sacramental Families; to all of us with the presentation of the Weekly Bulletin, including extra pages of prayers and reflections during lockdown. *Blessing for the Christmas New Year Season for 2021 To All!! Michael O'T.*

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL –

(Bishop Paul Bird's support to Missionary Projects).

This year with our normal collections taken up as Leaving Collection

– please place in a marked envelope:

“Bishops Christmas Appeal”.

Place in Collection Basket or deliver to Presbytery.

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With Sunday Mass Times recommencing the larger Bulletin with extra prayers & readings has concluded. Those desiring to have the weekly bulletin continuing to be emailed direct each weekend can indicate this intention to Mandy (Weekdays: 9am-12Noon).

* With the Church capacity now capped at 144 people no need for any phone bookings weekday or Sunday Masses.

*Music at our Liturgies to be either D.V.D or Organ Music. Singing is provided by a Cantor **ONLY**

*Lists of Mass/Church Attendees kept in Parish Office for 30 days.

Pious Goods Store: Teresa Fleming (Co-Ordinator) has had a 'spring clean' at the Store. Some items for SALE. New Items Available including: Columban Calendars @ \$9.

Sympathy to: Teresa Hickey on the death of her sister. Maureen Hennigan.

“Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favourable light at all times and under all circumstances

St Vincent de Paul

Popes Intentions for December For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

STRONG RECOMMENDATION

If Parishioners (Individual /Families) have members planning hospitalizations and seek any other sacramental ministry contact Parish Office prior to admission to the facilities. Ph: 5231 2177.

“Kindness ought to be cultivated; it is no superficial bourgeois virtue. Precisely because it entails esteem and respect for others, once kindness becomes a culture within society it transforms lifestyles, relationships” (Pope Francis)

Columban Calendars: 2021 available in Pious Goods Store @ \$9



Plenary Council Update:

In light of the ongoing uncertainty around future COVID-19 restrictions regarding travel and public gatherings, especially social distancing, a decision has been taken for the first Plenary Council assembly to take place using a combination of online and in-person delivery. Read more at the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/first-plenary-council-assembly-mixes-in-person-online-format/>

Christmas Message 2020 – Bishop Paul Bird

Hello, everyone. As we move towards Christmas 2020, I'd like to offer some words of encouragement after what's been a very challenging year.

In the early months of the year, people in many parts of Australia were struggling with bushfires. At the same time, we were hearing reports of a coronavirus in some other countries. Within a few months, the pandemic had spread to Australia. Thousands contracted the virus and hospital staff worked overtime to care for them. The pandemic changed daily life for everyone. To curb the spread of the virus, we were asked to keep our distance from other people and wear masks. We could no longer gather as we usually do. Businesses were shut. Churches were closed.

I offer my sympathies to those who have lost loved ones to the virus. Often there's been extra sadness because patients had to be isolated and people died without their families being able to be with them. I offer my sympathies to everyone who's suffered extra stress this year. That includes those who've felt a sense of loss when we've not been able to come together as a community to celebrate Mass.

After months of tight restrictions, we're now able to gather again to pray, even though we still need to observe some COVID limits. I'm particularly happy that we'll be able to celebrate Christmas together in our parish communities.

In the midst of this challenging year, Pope Francis published a letter reminding us of the bonds we have with one another. He wrote of the links we have with each other as brothers and sisters in one human family. Pope Francis started writing this letter before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, but the pandemic has highlighted some of the key messages he wanted to share. The common suffering has reminded us that we're members of a global community. The tragedy of COVID has brought home the fact that in many ways we're all in the same boat. As we recognise that we share a common problem, we might also recognise that we need to work together to find a common solution. Pope Francis has encouraged us to dream together for a better future. He wrote, "Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of our beliefs and convictions, each of us with our own voice, brothers and sisters all."

Over the past couple of years I've invited people around our diocese to offer suggestions to develop our diocesan vision statement. Our vision is in tune with the vision of Pope Francis – the vision of a community of brothers and sisters. Our diocese is made up of local communities. All together, our diocese is a community of communities. I'd like to quote our diocesan vision statement.

We are a community of communities from the Murray to the sea. Inspired by the Gospel and nourished by the Eucharist, we follow the example of Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, reaching out in joyful and humble service, caring for all of God's creation, growing in love day by day and looking forward to life with God forever.

That's a statement of our diocesan vision. May it be fulfilled more and more.

As we come to the close of 2020, I wish you a merry Christmas and I pray that the new year will be filled with the peace and joy of Christ. God bless you all.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR