



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
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 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.

Second Sunday of Advent - 6th December 2020 - Year B

Deaths: Margaret Anderson (Dignan), Cornelis Van Til, Mary McNamara.

Anniversaries: Jack Mulheron, Giuseppina Zaia, Beverly Knight, Terry McMeel, Joan Brittain, Dan Dunford, Geoffrey Adams, Clarrie Wheller, Rich Carew, Dorothea Van Til, Frank Virgona, Frs Payne & O'Dowd, Sr Margaret Shiel, S.G.S.

MASS TIMES - THIS WEEK

Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's
Friday	6.30pm	St Joseph's - Cressy
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary's
Sunday	9.00am 11.00am	St Mary's St Mary's
	9.00am	St Peter's Birregurra

RECONCILIATION: Anytime by Appointment.

Continued Appreciation to Parishioners for Generosity in ongoing support of the Parish.

Parish Bank Details for those wanting to assist with Parish Expenses:

* **For Direct Giving Details:**

BSB: 083 585 Account: 811051426

Planned Giving: REF: Envelope number/surname:

Or phone Mandy in the Parish Office 5231 2177

CHRISTMAS DINNER: This year effected by Covid-19! Dinner this year: We do hope to provide Dinners for all who would appreciate a 'specially & lovingly' prepared Dinner. These can be either "delivered or picked up". The meals will need to be "ordered". **Next Meeting for those interested in assisting: Tuesday 8th December 10am St Mary's Gathering Space.** More details to come after the Meeting.

OUR PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM: HOSTS

VIGIL: HELEN JONES & JAN HEALEY

9AM: MARK MCLENNAN & SEAN JAMES

11AM: ANNE PICARD -DREW & BRENDAN SCANLAN

1ST COMMUNION /CONFIRMATION

Celebrating this weekend - **Charlie Gardiner Jackson Fleming & Michael Costanzo.**
Next Tuesday's Mass – Mishka Lacny.



'How about the most recent visitor to Sacred Heart even beat the Covid-19 Isolation Program.'

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: New Church Season: Sunday Year B Readings. Weekday Year 2.

* **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

***Masses to Resume:** Cressy: Friday 11th Dec.6.30pm. Birregurra: Sunday 13th Dec 9.00am.

*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.

Leadership Team Meeting: Wednesday, 9th Dec. 7.30pm -Church Gathering space.

Family Group: 'Crawford': Christmas Dinner – Colac East Hotel, Tuesday, 15th Dec., 12 noon. Shirley 0427 313546.

Congratulations To: Des Mahoney – celebrating his 80th Birthday this week.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY Colac Conference Christmas Appeal

We are most grateful for the donated food given to us by parishioners, Trinity, St. Marys and Sacred Heart schools, and Service Clubs of Colac. It has enabled us to continue assisting the needy during the coronavirus pandemic. Again this year we will be giving out Christmas hampers to the poor. If you wish to make a donation of food such as Christmas hams, puddings, tin desserts, short breads etc. please leave under the Christmas tree in Gathering Space. Thank you, Paul Kennedy. President.

We welcome into our Parish through the Sacrament of Baptism at St Peters Birregurra:
***Mae Elizabeth Stephens.**

ADVENT WREATH (Reflection – With appreciation to Trinity College Director of Mission: Ms Anne Hughes)

Here we have an Advent wreath, created out of evergreens. Evergreens symbolize everlasting life in the middle of winter in the Northern Hemisphere. The Christmas tree, likewise, brought life into the home while everything outside was covered in snow.

It is only in the light of Christmas that Christian life makes any sense. The promise for Israel in ancient times and the promise for the Church today is Jesus. He has come into our world and he will come again.

The circle of the Advent wreath reminds us of God's unending love. It is round, meaning everyone is included equally.

The wreath has four candles. We will pray as we light each candle.

We now ask our first candle lighter to come forward and light the first candle of our wreath: the candle of **Hope**.

We need to live as people of hope. This year has taught us that hope is so important. We hope to overcome the virus. We hope a vaccine is found soon. We hope that our remaining restrictions will be lifted soon. We hope next year will be better and we have a vaccine. We hope those who are unwell overseas have the help they need to get well.

The Advent Wreath symbolizes our growing hope and anticipation that Jesus may enter our lives more fully. That means that a spirit of love and compassion becomes our attitude to others. Let us pray that this wreath may remind us to bring the light of Christ to the darkness of this world.

We pray for wise decisions by our leaders.

Lord, open our hearts so that Australia, and especially the Colac district, remains a place of refuge, safety, welcome, sharing and acceptance. All the refugee families who come to Colac, come with hope for a better life. Give us the grace to help them have that better life with us.

We pray in hope for a way to stop COVID19 so that lives can be saved and people do not have to be separated from one another. We pray in hope that all those Australians overseas, who cannot get home, find the help they need this Christmas.

We pray, in hope, for acceptance, understanding and peace among all people.

We now ask that our second candle lighter come forward and light the second candle of our wreath: the candle of **Preparation, prophecy and waiting**. *(More Next Week)*.

We need to live as a people prepared. The Advent Wreath symbolizes preparedness as waiting or as a time of listening to prophecy about the coming of the Lord. When we went into our first remote learning time we were not prepared, and it was difficult. We had to learn what to do. It was not easy at first.

We were much more prepared for the last remote learning time. Preparation makes a difference. We knew what worked better and what we had to do. We prepared and we learnt to improve. After this year, we can be prepared for just about anything!

We pray for all those who prepare for the coming of Jesus into their lives. Lord, help us remember family members and friends who are preparing for important events in their lives also. For those who are expecting children, (especially Mrs Glennen,) we pray for safety at this time and a great celebration of new life next year.

We pray for family members who are travelling this Christmas. May their preparations be happy and their journeys safe. May people on the roads drive with care and concern for other travellers.

We pray also for those who are elderly and close to the end of their journey through life.

Lord, be with those who are close to death this Christmas and may their families find comfort in the joy of sharing this final Christmas with them.

We pray for those we know and love, who miss the essential meaning of the Christmas season. Lord, thanks for the people who celebrate Christmas with us, even though they do not know the power of your presence in their lives. May they also be touched by the Spirit of Love and peace which is part of this special season.

Plenary Council Update: The journey to the Plenary Council 2020 continues. While it is in a context more different than we could have ever expected the need to pray, discern and listen to the Holy Spirit and each other is more important than ever. [Link to Reflection Guide for responding to the 'Thematic Discernment Papers': HERE](#)

CENTACARE (Family Counselling)

St Mary's Presbytery Colac. Wendy 5559 3006

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.

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- **Our Diocesan Community:** Latest Edition available at Church Door/Presbytery Door.