



St Peter's Birregurra
St Joseph's Cressy



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
Phone: 03 52312177
Fax: 03 52312189
Email: colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Secretary Hrs: Mon & Fri

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.

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time – 17th January 2021 –Year B

Responsorial Psalm

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.
Alleluia, alleluia!

This Week's Readings

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Times – Year B

Sam 3:3-10, 19 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20 John 1:35-42

Next Week's Readings

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Times – Year B

Jon 3:1-5, 10, 1 Cor 7:29-31, Mark 1:15.

Deaths: Nellie Steuten (Cobden), Harold Osborne,

Anniversaries: Rosalia LoRicco, Rosemary Morrissy, Mary Moloney, Anne Moloney, Murray Casey, Ron Parker, W.T. O'Dowd (Bill), Graeme Horan.

MASS TIMES:

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

SACRAMENTAL OF RECONCILIATION

Anytime by Appointment

*Each Friday after 10am Mass

***Baptisms this weekend we welcome:**

Alfred & Edward Riley -St Mary's Colac

THANKS: "Deepest gratitude to Fr Michael, Anne Picard-Drew, Julianna Foley and Brendan Scanlan for their kind support in my journey to baptism, I am blessed to have had such a wonderful start. Many thanks to the whole Parish for being so warmly welcoming and supportive, it has meant so much to me. Trish Hook "

Pope's Prayer Intentions for January

Intention for evangelization

Human fraternity May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

BISHOP SPECIAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL: T

o be finalised this weekend along with Diocesan Levies. This special appeal normally a 'leaving Collection' after all Christmas Masses. This year with a marked envelope: 'Christmas Appeal' and placed in the Collection Basket.

Last Year Total: \$2,908.00 This Year so far: \$770.30

HEALTH SERVICES: Again, to update:

Due to COVID-19. Restrictions!! Advisable for those desiring "Sacramental Ministry" to notify the parish Office – prior to admission to all facilities. Families can request "Pastoral Care Visits if necessary. Parish Office: 5231 2177

FEAST DAYS

*22ND January St Vincent Pallotti *24th January St Frances de Sales

*25th January Conversion of St Paul the Apostle

*27th January St Timothy & Titus

LITURGY ROSTER -please find liturgy roster for January on the table in the Gathering Space. Please place your name on your preferred ministry.

CENTACARE (Family Counselling)

St Mary's Presbytery – Colac. Wendy 5559 3006

PRAYER IN TIME OF CHANGE

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ, who showed us the way, the truth and the life. As we continue our journey as people of faith, help us to be people of wisdom and courage. During these times of change, show us the way to strengthen our communities, to share the joy of your love, and to see Christ in all people. We make our prayer through Jesus, our saviour and brother. **Amen**

CHRISTMAS AND TENDERNESS OF BABY JESUS AT HEART OF POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE

“This Christmas, may Jesus be born anew in each of us, so that by our lives we may bring joy and new hope to all.” Recalling the joyful message of the angels to the shepherds of Bethlehem: “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy... for to you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:10-12), the Holy Father said that like the shepherds, we too are called to make a spiritual journey to Bethlehem to seek and find Jesus. Christmas, Pope Francis reminded, invites us to overcome a certain worldly mentality that blinds us to the core of our faith. Moreover, the fact that ‘the Word made flesh dwells among us,’ the Pontiff added, reminds us that God’s eternal plan intersects with our history and opens the way to a better future.

“This year, amid the global health crisis, Christmas can help us look ahead and embrace the hope that the newborn Jesus offers us,” Francis underscored. The Holy Father concluded, recommending that as we reflect and pray, “we become more aware of the closeness and tender love of God, who took flesh for our salvation.”

CATECHESIS ON CHRISTMAS

Dear brothers and sisters. In this catechesis, I would like to offer some food for thought for the celebration of Christmas. In the Midnight Mass liturgy the Angel’s proclamation to the Shepherds: “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:10-12).

In imitation of the shepherds, we too move spiritually towards Bethlehem, where Mary gave birth to the Child in a stable, “because there was no place for them in the inn” (2:7). Christmas has become a universal feast, and even those who do not believe perceive the appeal of this occasion. The Christian, however, knows that Christmas is a decisive event, an eternal fire that God has kindled in the world, and must not be confused with ephemeral things. It is important that it should not be reduced to a merely sentimental or consumerist festival.

No: Christmas must not be reduced to a merely sentimental or consumerist feast, full of gifts and good wishes but poor in Christian faith, and also poor in humanity. Therefore, it is necessary to curb a certain worldly mentality, incapable of grasping the incandescent core of our faith, which is this: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father” (Jn 1:14). And this is the kernel of Christmas; rather, it is the truth of Christmas, there is no other.

Christmas invites us to reflect, on the one hand, on the drama of history, in which men and women, wounded by sin, ceaselessly search for truth, the search for mercy, and the search for redemption; and, on the other hand, on the goodness of God, who has come towards us to communicate to us the Truth that saves and to make us sharers in His friendship and His life. And this gift of life: this is pure grace, not by any merit of our own. There is a Holy Father who says: “But look there, over there, there: seek your merit and you will find nothing other than grace”. Everything is grace, a gift of grace. And this gift of grace, we receive it through the simplicity and humanity of Christmas, and it can remove from our hearts and minds the pessimism that has spread even more nowadays as a result of the pandemic. We can overcome that sense of disquieting bewilderment, not letting ourselves be overwhelmed by defeats and failures, in the rediscovered awareness that that humble and poor Child, hidden away and helpless, is God Himself, made man for us. The Second Vatican Council, in a famous passage from the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, tells us that this event concerns every one of us: “For by His incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every man. He worked with human hands, He thought with a human heart, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, He has truly been made one of us, like us in all things except sin” (Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, 22). But Jesus was born two thousand years ago, what does this have to do with me? It affects you, and me, each one of us. Jesus is one of us: God, in Jesus, is one of us.

Dear brothers and sisters, may these brief reflections help us to celebrate Christmas with greater awareness. But there is another way to prepare, which I want to remind you and me, and which is within everyone’s reach: to contemplate a little, in silence. Last year I wrote a Letter, which it would be good for us to pick up again. It is entitled “Admirabile signum”, “Enchanting image”. In the school of St. Francis of Assisi, we can become a little childlike by pausing to contemplate the scene of the Nativity, and by letting the wonder of the “marvellous” way in which God wanted to come into the world be reborn in us. Let us ask for the grace of wonder: before this mystery, a reality so tender, so beautiful, so close to our hearts, that the Lord may give us the grace of wonder, to encounter Him, to draw closer to Him, to draw closer to us all. This will revive tenderness in us. The other day, while I was speaking with some scientists, we spoke about artificial intelligence and robots... there are robots programmed for everyone and everything, and this continues to advance. And I said to them, “But what will robots never be able to do?” They thought about it, they made suggestions, but in the end they were all in agreement about one thing: tenderness. Robots will never be capable of this. And this is what God brings us, today: a wonderful way in which God wanted to come into the world, and this revives tenderness in us, the human tenderness close to that of God. And today we are in great need of tenderness, we are in great need of a human touch, in the face of so much misery! If the pandemic has forced us to be more distant, Jesus, shows us the way of tenderness to be close to each other, to be human. Let us follow this path.