



St Peter's Birregurra
St Joseph's Cressy



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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.

Feast of the Baptism of Jesus – 10th January 2021 –Year B

Responsorial Psalm

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
John saw Jesus approaching him and said:
This is the Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of the world.
Alleluia, alleluia!

This Week's Readings

Baptism of the Lord - Year B

Is. 55: 1-11; 1 Jn. 5:1-9; Mk. 1: 7-11

Next 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

Deaths: Vern Layton, Clare Ryan (Port Fairy), Frank Bowman (Koroit), Fr Frank Hart (Yarrowonga), Fr John Macmillan (Anglican/Ballarat), Fr George Pothiyittel, (India: 65yrs – Nephew of Fr John).

Anniversaries: Milan Maglica, Edward Carmody, Karen Finn, Ursula Carew, Carl Paatsch, Noel Paatsch, Martin Green, Veronica Baxendale, Brendan Prime, Mervyn Prime, Gerard A. McMahon, John Joseph Foley, Murray Howard, Fr Kirby.

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	St Mary's
	9.00am	
	11.00am	

SACRAMENTAL OF RECONCILIATION

Anytime by Appointment

*Each Friday after 10am Mass

CONGRATULATIONS:

*40th Wedding Anniversary

Barbara & Anthony Foster.

*Marriage: Sharna McKenzie & Aaron Cuttler

*Adult Reception into the Church:

Tricia Hook

*Baptisms: April Fleming -St Mary's Colac

Olivia Cherry – St Peter's Birregurra.

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AGAIN THANKS: To Parishioners for generous financial support to St Mary's Parish Colac. This was particularly evident through the 'lockdown.' Months (2020) and will be shared next week after the Diocesan Levies are processed.

*Appreciation also for personal Christmas good wishes and gifts to the Parish Office.

BISHOP SPECIAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL: To be

finalised next 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 sofar: \$663.50

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BISHOP PAUL BIRD HAS ANNOUNCED .

NEW PARISH APPOINTMENTS IN JANUARY 2021

Monsignor Glynn Murphy, Parish Priest of Horsham, Nhill, Warracknabeal and Hopetoun. **Father Jim McKay** will be Assistant Priest.

Father Shaiju Matthew will be Assistant Priest in Mildura, Merbein and Red Cliffs.

Father Gerard Prunty is appointed Parish Priest of Donald, Birchip, St Arnaud, Charlton and Wycheproof.

Father Eugene McKinnon will be Parish Priest of Redan and Sebastopol and Linton.

Father John Fitzgerald is Parish Priest of St Josephs, West Warrnambool, Dennington, Koroit and Port Fairy, **Father John Corrigan** is his Associate. **Fathers Michael Linehan** (St Pius) and **Peter Hudson** (Horsham) have now retired.

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.



Pope Francis has ushered in the New Year on Friday and delivered an appeal for world peace amid a challenging year.

It is the first time he has been seen publically since he had cancelled other New Year services due to his sciatica. "The painful events that marked humanity's journey last year, especially the pandemic, taught us how much it is necessary to take an interest in others' problems and to share their

concerns," he said. "This attitude represents the path that leads to peace, because it fosters the construction of a society founded on fraternal relationships. Each of us, men and women of this time, is called to make peace.



STRANGERS ORGANISE FUNERAL FOR ARPAD KISS, 82, WHO DIED ALONE ON THE STREETS OF DARWIN



The 82-year-old man's funeral service was small and simple, attended by about a dozen people who were both strangers and the last people he encountered. Those who went said it was a strange but deeply moving experience: gathering to farewell someone they had never really met. On a humid day early in November last year, an elderly man walked into a St Vincent de Paul op shop in Darwin and asked the people volunteering there to call an ambulance. Some of the staff had undertaken first aid training and it became clear the man was seriously unwell. They did what they could to help, then kept the ailing man company beneath the shade of a nearby tree. But within the space of minutes, he died. "That left a huge impression for our volunteers and me, to hear that story and know he came to Vinnies because he knew we would help," the manager of St Vincent de Paul NT, Fay Gurr, said. The charity workers became compelled to learn more about the stranger and, from medical records and conversations with hospital staff, Ms Gurr later gleaned a name — Arpad Kiss. "It's a Hungarian name. He was Catholic. He had been in the Territory for quite a few years," Ms Gurr said. "He may not have been homeless at the time that he came to us, but he had periods of homelessness. And he had an illness or a health issue that had been ongoing." The staff learned authorities had been unable to identify any next of kin and, in the absence of any family and friends, they came to believe Mr Kiss had died alone. "That's what we found out about him — not a lot, but enough," Ms Gurr said. "There was no choice, really, not to do this." Ms Gurr filed paperwork indicating St Vincent de Paul would provide a funeral service and cremation for Mr Kiss, an act of charity that moved some medical staff to tears. An email was sent inviting people to a service on December 31, 2020 — the day Mr Kiss would have turned 83.

'He went with full honours' People gathered to farewell Mr Kiss beneath the high arch of St Mary's Cathedral last Thursday — the charity workers, a local federal MP and a retired bishop among them. "I didn't know what to expect because I was going to a funeral for someone that I had no connection with at all," Ms Gurr said. "But those people who came really felt that connection — that we were doing the best for this person, and that is at the core of what we believe in." Those present were invited by Catholic Bishop Charles Gauci of Darwin to share the fleeting interactions they had shared with Mr Kiss, then they bowed their heads and prayed. "He went with full honours," Bishop Gauci said. "I asked those present to imagine their own funeral one day and what they would like people to say about them, and how that really affects how we live now. "We choose to do what is good and loving and virtuous, rather than the opposite. "It was a good reflection for all of us, but also an expression of love and care for a fellow brother."

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

The gospel-readings over the Christmas-Epiphany period provided us with stories from Matthew and Luke about the birth and childhood of Jesus. Mark has none of these and launches straight into an account of Jesus' adult life and the beginning of his public ministry. In his introduction, Mark is clear and to the point: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1, 1). Mark introduces Jesus as the *Christ* (*Christos* is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word *Messiah*) - God's anointed one, and the long-awaited deliverer of God's people.

The Spirit of God who anointed Jesus as Messiah, the Christ of God, and confirmed him in his mission to the world, also continues to hover over each of us brothers and sisters of Jesus, inviting us to continue the mission of Jesus by reaching out to the lost and alienated, healing those who are hurting, feeding the hungry, freeing those who are imprisoned by fear, doubt, depression and loneliness, and bringing peace and justice and mercy to everyone with whom we engage. That's a tall order, but let's not forget that we, too, have God's Spirit to guide us.