

Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
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 Secretary Hrs: Mon & Fri 9am & 12 on

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.

Fourth Sunday of Lent – 14th March 2021 –Year B

Responsorial Psalm

Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
 God loved the world so much, he gave us his only son,
 That all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

This Week's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B
 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23 Ephesians 2:4-10 John 3:14-21

Next Week's Readings

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B
 Ezekiel 37:12-14. Romans 8:8-11. John 11:1-45.

*** Project Compassion Kits available in Gathering Space.**

Deaths: Hugh Dickson (Scotland), Pattie Heath, Mary-Anne Ryan, Russell Turner, Patricia Callahan,

Anniversaries: Wendy (Daffy) Hynes, Deanna Stocker, Marita Barrow, Fr John McGannon CSSR. Daniel & Mary McGannon, Fr Paul Maher, Patrick Gleeson.

MASS TIMES:

Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	(St Patrick's) - St Mary's
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's
Friday	10.00am	(St Joseph) - 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

**ECUMENCIAL WORSHIP AT
 Uniting Church Beac on
 March 14th at 10.30am. All Welcome.**

Sympathy To: Ed Millar (death of his brother in-law: Hugh Dickson in Scotland).

*Stephen, Joshua, Bethany, Eli; also Pam, Laurie and their family on Mary-Anne's death.

*Maira & John Nelson (death of Maira's brother Russell Turner: (Mercy Place).

*Bill Heath – death of his sister Pattie Heath (Mercy Place).

* Penny Knight, Maree Lamanna and all family members on the death of their Mother and Nana 'Patricia Callahan.'



***Baptism this weekend we welcome:**

- * Isobel Daphne Lidgerwood
- * Clare Mae Rodway

CONGRATUALIONS To: Pat Roache celebrating his 90th Birthday this weekend.

THIS WEEK NOTICES - MEETINGS

LITURGY Meeting: Wed 17th March at 10.30am – Meeting Room – St Mary's Church.

LEADERSHIP MEETING: 'Gathering Space' Wed 17th Mar 7.30pm

FINANCE / LEADERSHIP: Parish Office Fri 26th March 10.30am.

FINANCE MEETING: 'Gathering Space' Thurs 8th April 5.30pm

Diocesan Appointments:

Bishop Paul Bird has announced the following:

- Mr Tim Greene: Appointed to the Ballarat Diocesan Finance Committee – commencing this appointment immediately (Tim a parishioner of St Mary's Colac, is currently a member of St Mary's Finance Committee, current Chairperson of Colac Otway Area Health. Tim comes with a long career in Banking / Finance.
- Seminarian: Matthew Restall (5/6th Year): to share the Holy Week Ceremonies in St Mary's Colac. Matthew will arrive for Palm Sunday Masses and stay until Easter Sunday Morning Masses.
- Currently Mr Jim Ryan is a Member of the Diocesan Social Justice Committee (Jim is a past Chairperson of the Committee). In recent times both Shirley Carew and Anne Ditty have also represented St Mary's Colac on Committees of the Diocesan Education Board. (Now DOBCEL).

Harmony Day: Sunday 21st March

- Vigil Mass- Gathering of "children/Families
- Afghan Community: Colac - Host a Luncheon: 21st March from 2-5pm in St Mary's School Precinct. With thanks to Neighbourhood House (Kaz) and Mr Michael Mahoney (Principal) & School Board.

Mass of the Oils: "The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, March 29. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2021, the ordained, the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. We will also acknowledge the 2020 and 2021 clergy jubilarians and commission Plenary Council delegates from our Diocese, Marie Shaddock & Felicity Knobel."

Thank You for your response to Pope Francis' Historic Visit to Iraq. Yes, so grateful for his safe return yet so grateful that God's Grace and blessing have come to this Land and people once the homeland of our Father in Faith: Abraham. Abraham bringing still today unity to Jewish, Moslem and Christian Faith in God.

Pope Francis visited parts of northern Iraq once held by Islamic State (IS) militants on the third day of his historic trip to the country. Christians were among those targeted by IS when they seized the region in 2014, carrying out human rights abuses. On Sunday the Pope prayed among ruined churches in Mosul, the former IS stronghold, before meeting Christians. Celebrating Mass at a stadium in Irbil, the last big set piece of his visit, he said Iraq would remain in his heart. ['Pope's visit gives Christians a message of hope'](#) The four-day trip, which began on Friday, was the pontiff's first international excursion since the start of the pandemic more than a year ago, and the first-ever papal visit to the country. He flew home on Monday morning. In Mosul he visited Church Square to pray for the victims of the war with the Islamic State group, which left thousands of civilians dead. Surrounded by the tottering ruins of the square's four churches, he said the exodus of Christians from Iraq and the broader Middle East had done "incalculable harm not just to the individuals and communities concerned but also to the society they leave behind". Referring to the historic region of Mesopotamia, which covered much of modern Iraq including Mosul, Pope Francis said: "How cruel it is that this country, the cradle of civilisation, should have been afflicted by so barbarous a blow, with ancient places of worship destroyed and many thousands of people - Muslims, Christians, Yazidis and others - forcibly displaced or killed. "Today, however, we reaffirm our conviction that fraternity is more durable than fratricide, that hope is more powerful than hatred, that peace more powerful than war." IS desecrated Christian places of worship, beheading religious statues and planting booby-trap bombs. Tens of thousands of Christians fled IS control while those who remained faced having their property stolen and choosing between paying a tax, converting to Islam, leaving or facing death. A cross erected on Church Square in honour of the Pope's visit was crafted from wooden chairs rescued from churches across the region, Middle Eastern news outlet The National reports.

** "I can't describe my happiness, it's a historic event that won't be repeated," said Yosra Mubarak, 33, before the Pope's visit. She was three months pregnant when she left her home seven years ago with her husband and son, fleeing the violence.*

"It was a very difficult journey, we fled with only the clothes we're wearing... There was nothing left [when we returned], but our only dream was to come back and here we are and the Pope is coming," she told Reuters news agency.

** Since arriving in Baghdad on Friday, Pope Francis has called for an end to violence and extremism and said that Iraq's dwindling Christian community should have a more prominent role as citizens with full rights, freedoms and responsibilities.*

** On Saturday, in a highly symbolic meeting with the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani in the holy city of Najaf, the Pope echoed this message, saying that Christians should be able to live in peace and security like all other Iraqis.*

** Audiences with the reclusive 90-year-old spiritual leader of millions of Shia Muslims are rare, but he received the Pope for around 50 minutes, the pair talking without face masks.*

** The Pope then visited the site of the ancient city of Ur, believed to be the birthplace of the Prophet Abraham, who is revered in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.*

People in what is now Iraq embraced Christianity in the 1st Century AD, making Christians one of the country's oldest religious communities. About two-thirds of Iraqi Christians are Chaldean Catholics, whose Eastern-rite Church retains its own liturgy and traditions but recognises the authority of the pope in Rome.

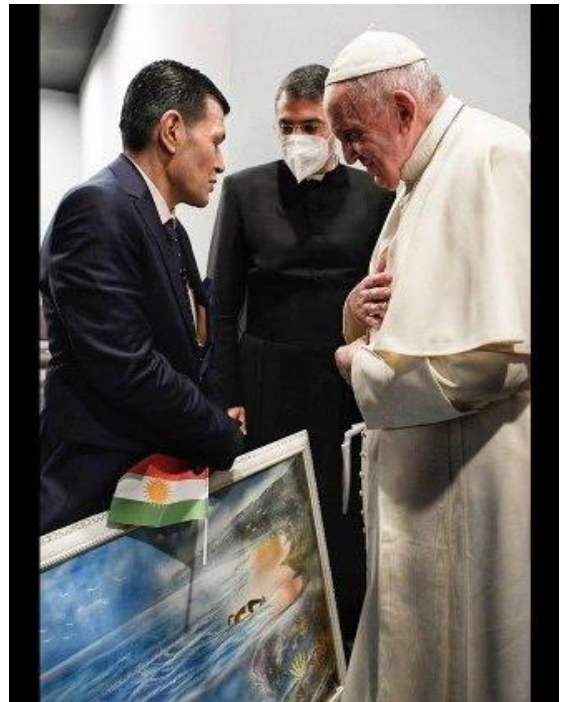
Numbers overall have plummeted over the last two decades from 1.4 million to about 250,000, less than 1% of the country's population. Most of those who remain live in the Nineveh Plain and Kurdistan Region in the north of the country. Many Christians have fled abroad to escape the violence that has plagued the country since the US-led invasion in 2003 that ousted Saddam Hussein.



POPE FRANCIS MEETS ALAN KURDI'S FATHER

At the end of Mass celebrated in Iraq's northern city of Erbil, Pope Francis meets with Abdullah Kurdi, the father of three-year-old Alan, who drowned with his brother and mother off the Turkish coast in September 2015 while trying to reach Europe.

A long conversation took place between Pope Francis and the father of three-year-old, Alan Kurdi, who became a symbol of the tragic crossings of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea in 2015 when he drowned off the Turkish coast together with his mother and brother as they attempted to enter Europe.



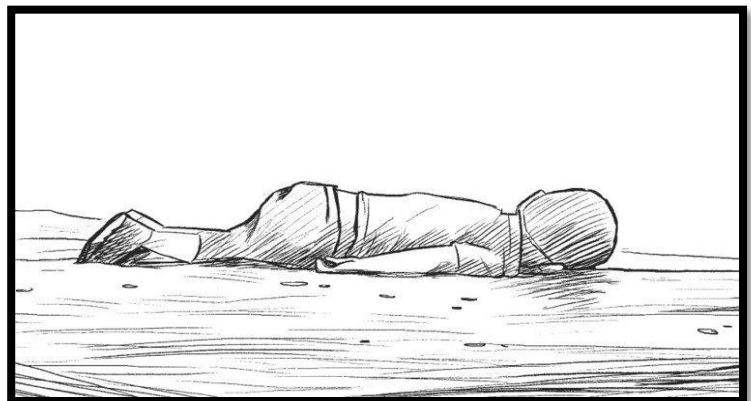
The photograph of the tiny body lying face-down in the sand was published on international media and shook the consciences of the world.

A statement released by the Holy See Press Office on Sunday revealed that the Pope was able to converse with Mr. Kurdi with the help of an interpreter at the end of the Mass celebrated in Erbil's "Franso Hariri" on the third day of his Apostolic Visit to Iraq.

"He was able to listen to the father's pain for the loss of his family and express his and the Lord's deep participation in the man's suffering," the statement said.

Mr. Kurdi expressed his gratitude to the Pope for his words of closeness to his tragedy and to that of all those migrants who seek understanding, peace and security when they leave their countries at the risk of their lives.

He then gifted the Pope of a framed painting representing his son Alan. During an interfaith service in southern Iraq on Saturday, Pope Francis made a plea for "unity" after war.



"Let us ask for this in praying for the whole Middle East. Here I think especially of neighbouring war-torn Syria," he said.



PROJECT COMPASSION CALLS ON AUSTRALIANS TO 'BE MORE'.

Project Compassion: "We're giving them what is their right. We are helping them to have the basic necessities of human life. And that is our duty – if it's their right, it's our duty." Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet in his home, so he had to walk into the forest to the open defecation area, even at night or in the rain. Around 17 percent of Indonesia's rural population practice open defecation, with many unaware that it contributes to spreading diseases. Arsad's family was often sick and open defecation caused neighbourhood disputes. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, he took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He

decided to fund the building of a toilet in his house and facilitated others in his neighbourhood to save up for toilets. Now, Arsad and his family are healthier and have reduced their medical expenses. Their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. A community event, called 'Declaration of Open Defecation-Free' was even held to acknowledge their achievements. Improved hygiene practices helped Arsad's community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Caritas Australia, through Laz Harfa, also shared prevention measures and distributing soap and masks. Arsad has inspired his neighbourhood to 'Be More'. "We help each other, the 'togetherness' is growing. Our solidarity had increased," Arsad says.

Year of St Joseph Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart), commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. A number of resources have been developed by the ACBC to encourage and support the celebration of the Year of St Joseph. The resources are available from the ACBC website <https://catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph>. Diocesan prayer cards will be distributed to parishes and schools in the coming weeks.

****We have purchased a statue of St Joseph which will be blessed at our Mass next Friday 19th March 10am: Feast of St Joseph.**

Out in Front: Leadership and Catholic Women

ACU are hosting an online panel presentation and discussion of theologically informed conversations about Catholic women in leadership across a range of organisations on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 6.30pm. Registration is essential. For more information go to the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Visitation This Week:

To Mary Arackal received a visit from two of her friends: Ritz & Julie Foley. Mary: So pleased to receive good wishes love and prayers from her many friends in Colac both the St Mary's Parish and Hospital. She graciously and generously assures us of her love and prayers and good wishes.

CATHOLIC CARE
(Family Counselling) St Mary's
Presbytery/Colac
Ph. Wendy 0409 192 480

CROFT FAMILY GROUP
Brunch at NuDeli Sunday March 14 after 9am Mass. Please RSVP to Linda 0448314774 for booking. All Parishioners Welcome.

GLEESON FAMILY GROUP
Our next activity is a visit to the MAZE at BARRABOOL on Thursday 18th March (next Thursday).
Meet at Gleeson's at 10am.

TRINITY COLLEGE COLAC

COME AND SEE

OPEN DAY/NIGHT Thursday, 25th March

We are changing things up! Please join us at our Open Day/Night. Tours are available during school hours between 9 and 11am, or please join us between 4 and 6.30pm. (No bookings necessary)