

St Mary's Noticesheet



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

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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY – 23RD May 2021 –Year B

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia! Alleluia

THIS WEEK

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11. Galatians 5:16-25. John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

The Most Holy Trinity

Deut. 4:32-34.39-40. Romans 8:14-17. Matthew 28:16-20.

******In preparation for our next **Liturgy Roster** – please ensure you contact the Parish Office if your availability has changed. Ph: 5231 2177.

Deaths: Damian King, Frank Lawrence, Alma Osborne, Lee Clissold.

Anniversaries: Antonio (Tony) Dimasi, Gordon Chapman, Eileen Morrissy, Tel Hannah, Mary Lloyd, John (Jack) Fleming, David Butterworth, Frs Gallagher and Hussey, Jack and Agnes Paatsch.

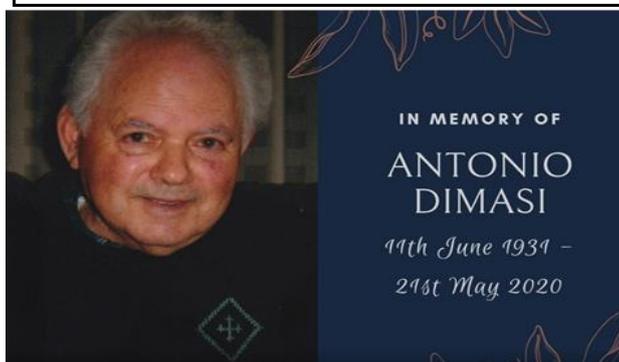
MASS TIMES

Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's
*Thursday	11.30am	(At)- St Brendan's Feast Day
Friday	8.00am	St Mary's
*Friday	10.00am	St Mary's 3 Schools Only
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary's
Sunday	9.00am 11.00am	St Mary's St Mary's

SACRAMENTAL OF RECONCILIATION

*Each Friday after 10am Mass

**Anytime by appointment



Our Sympathy to Carmella, Saveria, Dominic, Mario, Joe who last year gathered in a crowd of '10' for Tony's Requiem Mass. May today's Anniversary bring peace, consolation and good memories.

CWL Afternoon Tea – On the Lane Cafe 2p.m. on Monday 24th May. Please note change of day.

BAPTISM: We welcome *Anna Catherine Farquharson* into our parish through the sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

CRAWFORD FAMILY GROUP

Tuesday 8th June: Lunch – Shannon Café (Woolworth Complex): 12 noon contact Therese – 0428314854.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: May 16-23, 2021 The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 16 – 23, 2021 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the church and the human family. (32 People gathered last Thursday at St Mary's Church for this Prayer).

Prayer for Volunteers

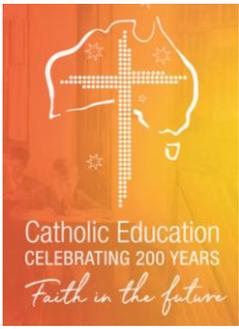
We pray for all those who volunteer in our parishes. May we value the many talents and gifts that God has given to these people. We thank them for generously offering their time to parish ministries. For all these gifts, given out of your love, we thank you, God of all goodness. Amen.

CATHOLIC CARE Family Counselling Wendy 0409192480.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK:

May 27 – June 3, 2021.



Colac has much to Celebrate as the Australian Church invites us to join together in celebrating 200 Years of Catholic Education. Our Parish Archives provide some insight into the Mission of the Catholic Church in Colac and the Sacrifices which parishioners endured over the years.

1961: “The history of the last 100 years in most parishes in Australia is a history of the Catholic education system. The original school was built with some government assistance on the government land grant, in the days of assisted denominational

education. But the Education Act of 1873 changed all that. Catholics were now forced to pay for a system of education which they could not in conscience, use. The Bishops of the time say quite clearly that the future of the Catholic Church in this country depended on the building up of a truly Catholic education system. Their prediction has proved right, but its validity was provable only because the laity were prepared to make great sacrifices to follow the guidance of their spiritual leadership.

The oldest parishioners at Pirron Yallock recall giving to a Catholic School there. This school, closed for some time, was re-opened in 1920, and the task of educating was in the hands of ladies of the parish. Still later, the Sisters of Mercy succeeded to this charge.

The old church at Beeac became a school when St Michael’s was opened but was closed when bus transport into Colac became possible. Inevitably, Colac itself had the greatest problems in this field. The old school was replaced in 1934, but this building was destroyed in 1945 by fire. In 1946 saw the opening of the present St Mary’s School, a building so large that few persons, priests, or people, thought it would ever be filled. And yet, twelve years later the expansion of the Catholic population in this Parish necessitated the building of two more classrooms. Today, for the first time for many years, the problem arises. We must either build a new primary school, or there will be State education for many of the children. Never has advanced education been so necessary, and now a boys’ secondary school must be built and paid for. An effort as great as any in the past is called for.” (Planned Giving – Parish Appeal – 1961).

In **1876** Father Neal built a new school for Colac. It was on the corner of Calvert and Gellibrand Streets. Erected at the cost of 500 pounds it was described as a “fine new weatherboard Schoolhouse.” It doubled as a church and many years later it was divided and removed – one portion becoming the school at Pirron Yallock, the other the club rooms at Colac and was demolished in 1980’s.

When St Mary’s was completed in 1883, Father Nelan turned his attention to persuading an order of nuns to establish a convent in Colac. A site for a building was obtained in **1885** but three years were to elapse before four professed Sisters of Mercy and a postulant arrived. In charge was Mother M. Agnes Graham. Born in Belfast. She came to Colac via Warrnambool and Ballarat. She was revered and loved by all, she died in 1894.

As well as conducting the primary school At St. Mary’s and the secondary boarding school at St Joseph’s the Sisters travelled by horse cab to Corunnun (Coragulac) to teach at St Brendan’s School until the Good Samaritan Sisters came to take over in 1919. They also conducted the school at Pirron Yallock for many years and travelled to Beeac and Birregurra to give religious instruction in those centres. The Sisters also provided the first Principal of Sacred Heart School.

Monsignor L. Conway was the next Parish priest, holding office from **1944 to 1965**. Soon after he arrived, St Mary’s school was destroyed by fire. He replaced it immediately by a fine brick structure which was opened in 1945. Other notable improvements during his time were the construction of the present presbytery in 1953 and of the Sacred Heart School in 1962. He was a man of vision. This vision was exemplified in the fact that he purchased thirty-eight acres at Elliminyt that eventually became Trinity and St Joseph’s Colleges.

Father Coley McKenzie, who hailed originally from the Noorat area, took Monsignor Gleeson’s place in **1973**. He continued the work of involving the laity more directly in the management of the parish and in the liturgy. He was instrumental in moving St Joseph’s College to a site adjacent to Trinity in 1976, a prelude to the amalgamation of the two schools. (sourced from published Archives).