



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
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 Secretary Hrs: Mon - Fri 8.30am-12.30pm

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.

4th Sunday of Advent – 19th December 2021–Year C

Responsorial Psalm:

*Cry out with joy and gladness:
 for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

Gospel Acclamation

*How Beautiful on the mountain top are the
 feet of those who bring good news.*

This Week's Readings

4th Sunday of Advent—Year C

Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-44

Next Week's Readings

Holy Family —Year C

Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28, St John 3:1-2. 21-24 Luke 2:41-52

Deaths: Leonard Fahey, Darryl Scott, Kathleen Kennedy, Children: Devonport School Accident, Stan Harrison (U.K)

Anniversaries: Norman Rowe, Glenys Balchin, Ronald Brown, Terry McMeel, Mary Hammett, Bernard Longano, Mary Monarco, Bernie Kelly,

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	8.00am	St Mary's
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES		
Friday 24 th Dec	Vigil St Mary's Colac Children's Christmas Mass <i>Inside St Marys Church</i>	6pm
Friday 24 th Dec	St Mary's Colac Christmas Mass <i>Inside St Marys Church</i>	8pm
Friday 24 th Dec	St Peter's Birregurra Christmas Mass	6pm
Friday 24 th Dec	St Joseph's Cressy Christmas Mass	8pm
Saturday 25 th Dec	St Mary's Colac Christmas Mass	8am & 10am
Sunday 26 th Dec	Feast of the Holy Family	9am & 11am
• Note there is no Saturday night Vigil		

OPEN CHRISTMAS DINNER - Meeting held 23/11/21.

Decision: Yes, to once again offer a Christmas Dinner
 @ A Sit-Down Christmas Dinner – Saturday, 25th Dec 12 noon.
 @ A Take Away Christmas Dinner available for pick up on
 Friday 24th dec after 10am OR A Meal can be home delivered on
 Friday 24th Dec.
 R.S.V.P: By Monday 19th Dec 12 noon. Phone Parish Office.
 Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon.

Next Meeting Tuesday 21st Dec. 10.30am.

Memorial Mass: Tues 21st Dec 5pm "Stan Harrison"
 Birmingham U.K. - Pats Uncle.

Sympathy To: Donna Scott also Jonah also to Jenny & family
 on the recent tragic death of Darryl.

Hello Everyone,

In view of health concerns, **Fr Wally Tudor** will soon be retiring from his responsibilities as Parish Priest. I offer my thanks to Fr Wally for his dedicated service in numerous parishes in our diocese over the past 34 years, most recently as Parish Priest of Apollo Bay since 2009. Fr Wally will conclude his ministry in Apollo Bay at the end of this month.

Following consultations in recent times, I am pleased to announce **appointments that will take effect on February 1, 2022.**

Fr Michael O'Toole will become Parish Priest of Apollo Bay. This will be in addition to his responsibilities as Parish Priest of Colac and Supervising Priest for Cororooke. I am very grateful to Fr Michael for his generosity in being willing to take up this additional role. **Fr John Pothiyittel will become Assistant Priest of Apollo Bay Parish.** I pray for Fr Michael and Fr John as they take up the care of the communities in the Apollo Bay, Lorne and Airey's Inlet. May their ministry bring blessings to themselves as well as to the parishioners. God bless you all.

Paul Bird CSsR
 Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat



We welcome to St Mary's Parish this weekend through the Sacrament of Baptism: 1. Zoe Alexandra McArthur

"Baptism and you have the task to make it grow"
 - Pope Francis.

CONFIRMATION & 1ST COMMUNION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENT:

- OLIVER WIDDICOMBE
- ANTHONY COSTANZO

I acknowledge the Gulidjan people whose traditional lands cover the Lake Colac region and whose spirit is teaching me to listen deeply and walk softly on this land.



St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Parishioners are invited to donate non-perishable food such as tinned hams, Christmas puddings, deserts and other items which the disadvantaged can use at Christmas time. These can be placed under the Christmas tree in the foyer.
Thanks, Paul Kennedy, Treasurer.



Sacred Heart with 'Goods' for Vinnies

THANKS:
Lou Bourke
after 11½
years at
Sacred Heart
School.

BEST WISHES: To our School Principals: Paul, Jack & Michael and Staff for a wonderful year – lots of challenges! Blessings to our Parents, Students & School Staff for Christmas and the New Year! Our Schools continue to be 'The Gem in the Crown'!!



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have personal links with the diocese of Ballarat. I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last years appeal. Among Recipients for 2021 were the following:

Catholic Victoria Christmas Appeal	5,000.
St Columbian's Mission Society	5,000.
3BA Christmas Appeal	5,000.
Caritas Australia	5,000.
Total donations made in 2021:	\$33,000.

In anticipation I thank you for your co-operation in recommending the 2021 Christmas Appeal to the generosity of your parishioners and giving them the opportunity to make their contribution on or about Christmas Day.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat

PS: Suggestion – Before leaving home, we place in a marked envelope: "Bishops Appeal" Our gift which can be then placed in the normal collection



What a Joy in Pre-Christmas visiting – seeing the wonderfully talent works of Art! Congratulations Michael Washington!!

This letter was sent to us: Wednesday 15th, 6.51pm by Bishop Paul Bird.

Hello Everyone,

As you may have seen, the Victorian Government has announced new Covid provision to come into effect from 11.59pm tonight (Wednesday 15 December 2021).

We will no longer be required to check the vaccination status of those attending places of worship.

The Victorian Council of Churches has received the following response from the state government. "From tonight there are no longer vaccination check-in requirements at places of worship. We do maintain our strong recommendation that people are fully vaccinated. QR code check-ins are still required. Quotient requirements are no longer in force. Masks are not mandatory but are strongly recommended."

Ian Smith, Executive Officer of the Victorian Council of Churches, added the comment: "So it seems we can open up all services to all members of churches and community for carols and Christmas events and services."

I renew my thanks to you all for continuing to support one another through these trying times. I rejoice that we will be able to gather for worship as a whole community again. May our prayer together in these final days of Advent and throughout the Christmas season bring us Christ's joy in abundance. God bless you all.

Paul Bird CSsR Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat



A Note – from Fr Michael O'Toole.

"As I read 'it' @ Government Requirements & @ Bishops Letter:

No further need after this weekend to have a 'Vaccination Status Unknown' Mass.

Therefore: @ We will not continue with the 10am Sat. Mass after this weekend.

@ No Need Now for the 11PM Christmas Vigil Mass: (Cancelled as Vaccination Status Unknown).

@ With quotient requirement 150 Inside St Mary's for all functions – **No longer applicable.**

Therefore 6pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - Now back inside St Mary's Church.

@ **Please ensure QR Code Or Sign-In - still a requirement when attending Masses.**

@Face masks no longer need to be worn at weddings, funerals or ceremonial settings.

If these events are held at places of worship, there will not be any vaccination requirements or limits on participants, nor any requirement to check vaccination status.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES – Roster in Gathering Space – Liturgy Committee