



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.

2nd Sunday of Advent – 5th December 2021–Year C

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!
 Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
 all flesh shall see the salvation of God
 Alleluia!*

This Week's Readings

2nd Sunday of Advent—Year C

Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11, Luke 3:1-6

Next Week's Readings

3rd Sunday of Advent—Year C

Zephaniah 3:14-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18

Deaths: Phyllis Slater, Nellie Bongers, Colin Box,

Anniversaries: Jack Mulheron, Frank Virgona, Col & Elizabeth McKay, Leonard & Catherine Murnane, Jim Taylor, Don LoRicco, Tony LoRicco, Giuseppina Zaia. Beverley Knight.

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

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	10.00am	St Mary's
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary's
Sunday	9.00am	St Mary's
Sunday	11.00am	St Mary's

**Reconciliation: Each Friday after 10am
 Mass. Anytime by appointment.**

REMINDER:

SATURDAY 10AM MASS – a *Mass for 50 people:
 Vaccination Status not asked.

3 - Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil 6pm;
 Sunday 9am & 11am (unlimited numbers - proof of
 Vaccination will be asked for as a Covid requirement).

**We welcome to St Mary's Parish this
 weekend through the Sacrament of Baptism
 Rosie Edith Mary Woods**

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



@ Colac Church Ministers Association:

End Of Year Lunch Meeting: To farewell Salvation Army
 Ministers: Aaron & Karen (returning to Adelaide) - To Welcome
 Samoan Ministers who visit Colac weekly to support the Samoan
 Workers at A.L.C.

MEETING

Parish Finance Committee: Meeting Tue 7th 5.45pm.

Parish Leadership Team: Meeting Tues 14th Dec 5.45pm

CWL Lunch at Austral Hotel at 12.30pm Tuesday 7th
 December. We will have to abide by the restrictions
 of Hotel. Masks and Vax certificates.

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. For all who are fully vaccinated.*

*@ 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 20th Dec. 10.30am.

*** CHOIR PRACTICE** commencing at 6pm every
Thursday - All very welcome to come and learn new
 Hymns for Advent & Christmas!!

CONFIRMATION & 1ST COMMUNION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENT:

- **MILLA WOODS**

ADVENT WEEK 2

God of Love

Fill us with you love for all creation.

Empty us of apathy, selfishness and fear.

Inspire us to live simply and in harmony with creation.

Help us to be good stewards, caring for all creation.

With self-sacrificing and nurturing love.

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.**

***Gleeson Family Group** Christmas Lunch December 5th 12.30pm at Colac East Hotel. Proof of double vaccination required. For confirmation of numbers please phone Winsome 52353203

***Crawford Family Group:** Christmas Lunch (2 courses) on Tuesday 14th Dec at 12 noon – Colac East Hotel
Details Catherine 0499022644:

***Croft Family Group:** Christmas Gathering in the 'Church Gathering space' on Dec 10 at 6pm – B.Y.O

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre (MMHC)

'Advent'- The Education Team at MMHC will be delivering an online Advent reflection program consisting of 4 one-hour sessions that will be held on Wednesdays from 7.00 – 8.00pm on December 8 & 15 <https://www.mmhc.org.au/advent-with-mary-mackillop/>

DECEMBER MASS TIMES

14 th to 17 th December	Each weekday Mass 'Anointing Mass' St Mary's Church	
18 th Dec	Each Weekend Mass 'Reconciliation' St Mary's Church	6pm Vigil, 9am & 11am
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES		
24 th Dec	Vigil St Mary's Colac Christmas Mass Outside Tennis Court Area	6pm
24 th Dec	St Mary's Colac Christmas Mass Inside St Mary's Church	8pm
24 th Dec	St Peter's Birregurra Christmas Mass	6pm
24 th Dec	St Joseph's Cressy Christmas Mass	8pm
25 th Dec	St Mary's Colac Christmas Mass	8am & 10am
25 th Dec	Christmas Day	No Vigil Mass
Sunday 26 th Dec	Feast of the Holy Family	9am & 11am

Pope prays for catechists this December

For December 2021, the Pope is praying "for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit, with joy and much peace". In his video message, Pope Francis says, "The lay ministry of catechist is a vocation; it's a mission ... It's an entire way of being." He said the Church needs "good catechists who are both companions and teachers". So, he said, the Church needs "creative people who proclaim the Gospel, but who proclaim it neither with a mute nor with a loudspeaker, but rather with their life, with gentleness, with a new language, and opening new ways".

***Reflecting on our recent Sacramental Celebrations: Bravo to Julie, Tanya Jayne & Mandy.**

Journalist suggest Church should 'return to its roots.'

When Chris Uhlmann ponders the future of the Catholic Church, his late mother, Mary, is always foremost in his thoughts

Mary, a former Catholic school principal in Canberra, was one of the "true believers". "She and the other women were the heart and soul of the Church. These were the foot soldiers who kept the faith," says Chris, once a seminarian who still describes himself as a Catholic, albeit a non-practising one, thanks to the values his mother instilled in him. For the Canberra journalist and author – who has worked for The Canberra Times, ABC radio and TV, co-written political novels and is now Nine's political editor – Mary epitomises the "grassroots" faithful who should be leading the Church into a new era. "Maybe it needs to return to the roots of that small church that was revolutionary in the way it bore witness to the truth," Chris says. He advocates a return to basics, including embracing "the original blessing of humanity. We constantly forget the message of Christ – that he was blessing the idea of being human, in all its brokenness – and demand that people behave like angels," he says. The struggles the Catholic Church and other religious institutions face in an increasingly secular society is one aspect of what Chris describes as an Australian "identity crisis". At the heart of the crisis is a disintegration of faith in Western political, social and financial institutions. Chris will discuss this issue at the launch of Australian Catholic University's Ethos series on public ethics and the future of Australia, on 9 December.

Bishops elected as delegates to Synod of Bishops



Archbishop Patrick O'Regan and Bishop Shane Mackinlay have been elected Australia's two delegates to the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to be held in 2023. The delegates were confirmed during the recent plenary meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. In March 2020, Pope Francis announced that the next Synod of Bishops would be "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission".

Bishop Mackinlay, the Bishop of Sandhurst and vice-president of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, said: "Pope Francis has given us a wonderful opportunity to discern together about how we might journey together in a way that strengthens our communion, participation and mission."