



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.

3rd Sunday of Advent – 12th 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

3rd Sunday of Advent—Year C

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

Next Week's Readings

4th Sunday of Advent—Year C

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

Deaths: Srs Glenda Bourke, S.G.S. & Dorothy Eversten S.G.S., Tony McCloud, Mary Green.

Anniversaries: David Widdicombe, Brian Galligan, Margaret Christine Borack, Mary Elizabeth Roberts & Daniel Gerard Roberts Beverly 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:**

1. **Zara Jessica McGuane**
2. **Leonard Keith Wilson.**

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

CONGRATULATIONS

- **Rita Winter who celebrated her
 90th Birthday recently:*
- **Lynne Simpson who celebrated her
 80th Birthday.*
- **Helen Breen who celebrated her
 70th Birthday.*

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM: Meeting Tues 14th Dec 5.45pm

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:

- **OLIVER MARRINER**

*Sympathy To: Len Green & family, Dorothy O'Dowd
 (sister) on death of Mary Green this week.*

Plenary Council Prayer

*Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great
 South Land. O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
 and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council. Give us
 the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise
 Jesus, our companion on the road. Give us the courage to tell
 our stories and to speak boldly of your truth. Give us ears to
 listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what
 you are saying. Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that
 we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our
 Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen. Our Lady
 Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.*

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.**



Thanks to Students from Trinity College, Sacred Heart & St Mary's for generous Christmas Donation to Vinnies.

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 Marys 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

GRADUATION: This week the **Grade 6 Students of St Mary's & Sacred Heart Primary Schools** had their **Graduation Ceremonies. As a Parish Community.**

We offer our Prayerful Support to them at this significant time in their lives.

Good and loving God, we thank you for the completion of another academic year, and for giving us the opportunity, short though it may have been, to play a part in the lives of our students and our new graduates. We are grateful for your guidance and love as we shared in this important work.

Blessing for Year 6 students: Girls and boys Behind you, All your memories, before you, all your dreams, around you, all who love you, within you, all you need. Good and loving God, we ask you to walk with these students as they begin a new era in their lives. Guide and nurture them as they start their secondary schooling. Help them to continue to live by the Gosbel values of peace, love, respect and inclusiveness. Amen.

***CRAWFORD FAMILY GROUP:** Christmas Lunch (2 courses) on Tuesday 14th Dec at 12 noon – Colac East Hotel
Details Catherine 0499022644:

BISHOP-ELECT MEAGHER: PARENTS CENTRAL TO FAITH FORMATION Sydney's newly appointed Auxiliary Bishop, Danny Meagher has told an online gathering of sacramental coordinators, that they are called to be the presence of Jesus in our parishes, fulfilling an evangelising mission which must engage not only children in their sacramental preparation, but parents as well.

... WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST AND WE ARE HERE TO MAKE HIM PRESENT AND THERE'S NO MORE POWERFUL WAY TO MAKE HIM PRESENT THAN THROUGH THE TREASURE OF THE SACRAMENTS".....

Bishop-Elect Danny told the gathering that one of the key challenges for sacramental coordinators was to structure their programs so that both parents and their children can both enter a closer encounter with Jesus alongside each other. "Sacraments are about Jesus and so they should be spiritually potent. We must always remember that parents are the first teachers of their children and that the family is the basic building block of society". We are shepherds like Jesus in our own parishes, so we have to be of service to our people as Jesus asked us. That's our role: to be good shepherds, to show our people respect and love".

The reach of the sacramental program is so wide- so many thousands of people willingly come to Church for their Reconciliation, Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. We are the Body of Christ and we are here to make Him present and there's no more powerful way to make Him present than through the treasure of the sacraments". Bishop-Elect Meagher urged the sacramental coordinators to ensure their programs were always structured around ensuring parents were actively involved alongside their children in preparing for the great sacraments of initiation including First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

"Parents love their children more than anyone else and parents are the universe for their children. Parents have a duty then to let their children know God. The Director of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, Daniel Ang, told the sacramental coordinators that in order to help nurture the faith, the sacraments have to be provided in a parish culture that evangelises and parents play a pivotal role in that.