

St Peter's Birregurra
St Joseph's Cressy



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Secretary Hrs: Mon to Fri 8.30am-12.30pm

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. **3rd Sunday of Ordinary Times – 23rd January 2022– Year C**

Responsorial Psalm

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

This Week's Readings

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8:2-6,8-10. Corinthians 12:12-30. Luke 1:1-4;4:14-21

Next Week's Readings

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19. Corinthians 12:31-13:13. Luke 4:21-30

Deaths: Tyson Drayton, Lorraine Knight, Margaret Catlin, Mike Walker, Richard Harper, Dorothea Ramm.

Anniversaries: Trevor Smith, Robert, Ann & Bevan Davies, Frank Shalley, Ann Buckle, Mary Moloney, Anne Moloney,

MASS TIMES

Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
AUSTRALIA DAY		
Wednesday	9.00am	St Mary's *Cuppa to Follow.
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's
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

Preface for Australia Day: *Grant we pray, O Lord our God, that as the Cross shines in our southern skies so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old and new, and by saving grace, transform our lives. For from ancient times, you made this land a home for many peoples, and became their rock of strength; when they were hungry, you gave them food, and when thirsty, water even in the desert. To all your providence has proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ your Son, sent by you to the Saviour of all the world, who has brought peace by his sacrifice on the Cross.... May God who formed our southern land by you a rock of strength. Amen. May God who rules the great seas keep you safe in every storm. Amen. May God who made the skies above turn your darkness into light. Amen. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen.*

Hello St Mary's Church, Happy New Year.

This year has started much like the past two with the pandemic continuing to dominate our way of life. It may appear that there is not much to be 'Happy' about this New Year. In his New Year's wishes to the world, Pope Francis encouraged us to focus on the good which unites us while acknowledging that the coronavirus pandemic has left many scared and struggling. "We are still living in uncertain and difficult times due to the pandemic," Pope Francis said. "Many are frightened about the future and burdened by social problems, personal problems, dangers stemming from the ecological crisis, injustices and by economic imbalances." As Christians we know that there is hope in God. So let us pray:

Dear God, You make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good things along with the hard things, which remind us how much we need and rely on You. May Your Spirit lead us in this New Year, guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire You above all else. Help us to pursue You first in our daily lives. We ask for your wisdom and for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. Make us strong and courageous for the road ahead and let Your gifts flow freely through us so we can be beacons for those who seek and need hope and comforting. We pray for your protection over our families and friends. May Your deep love surround us and keep us safe in these troubled times. Amen

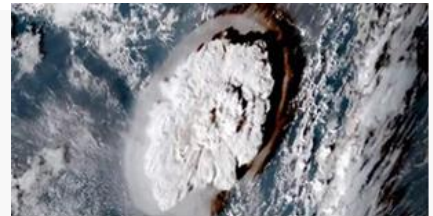
***May the new year grant you and your family peace.**

(Sourced: Majellan Media)

Mass of the Oils 2022 will be held Monday, April 11, 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall. Any COVID restrictions applicable at this time will apply to the Mass of the Oils.

Pope Francis prays for Tonga after eruption

A satellite image of the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano on January 15 (Vatican Media/ANSA)



Pope Francis expressed his spiritual closeness to the people of Tonga yesterday, following the volcanic eruption which unleashed a destructive tsunami.

During the General Audience, Pope Francis turned his thoughts to Tonga and its people, who have been affected by the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano.

"My thoughts go out to the peoples of the Tonga Islands who in recent days were affected by the eruption of an underwater volcano, which caused considerable material damage," Pope Francis said.

"I am spiritually close to all those who are sorely tried, and I implore from God relief in their suffering. I invite everyone to join me in prayer for these our brothers and sisters."

Meanwhile, the Vatican this week announced Pope Francis would send 100,000 euro (\$157,000) to help survivors of the deadly Typhoon Rai, which hit the Philippines "with extraordinary vehemence" last month.

In a statement, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development said that, in collaboration with the Apostolic Nunciature in the Philippines, the Pope's contribution "will be sent to the local Church and destined for the dioceses most affected by the disaster to be used in works of assistance".

No prison inmate should be deprived of hope: Pope



In remarks at his weekly public audience at the Vatican, Francis told the faithful that "we risk being imprisoned in a justice that doesn't allow one to easily get back up again and confuses redemption with punishment". "For this, I want to recall today in a particular way our brothers and our sisters who are in prison," the Pontiff said. "It's right that those who have made a mistake pay for their mistake,

but it's even more right that those who have done wrong should be able to redeem oneself from their mistake. There can't be sentences without windows of hope." "Let's think of our incarcerated brothers and sisters, and let's think about the tenderness of God for them and pray for them so that they may find in that window of hope a way out toward a better life," Francis said in concluding his remarks.

EARLY NOTICE MEETINGS

LEADERSHIP MEETING - WED 2ND FEB AT 7.30AM.

FINANCE MEETING – THURS 3RD FEB AT 5.30PM.

Looking Forward Booklet 2021-2025

The new "Looking Forward" pastoral planning booklet 2021-2025 is now available and can be accessed and/or downloaded from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/looking-forward/>. This new edition of "Looking Forward" provides principles to guide our pastoral planning, includes data about the diocese and offers information on changes to parishes over the next few years.
(eg. Colac, Apollo Bay)

CENTACARE

Family & Support Counselling.

For appointments - Wendy Garner: 5559 3000

Pope's Prayer Intentions for January 2022

For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Synod of Bishops Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission". The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the Bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Covid Regulations: 'Thank You!'

To Parishioners for following Diocesan & Government Regulations: E.g.: QR Code, Wearing Face Masks, Social Distancing and Sanitizing.