



Our Lady Star of the Sea Apollo Bay  
 Our Lady of Fatima Lorne  
 St Mary's Colac  
 St Peter's Birregurra  
 St Joseph's Cressy



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole  
 Assist Priest: Apollo Bay Fr John Pothiyittel  
 Phone: 03 52312177  
 Fax: 03 52312189  
 Email: [colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
 Secretary Hrs: Mon to Fri 8.30am-12.30pm

*Colac and Apollo Bay Parishes are a community of believers, who strive to bring Christ's good news to all people in the district. Through service, caring and love we aim to create an environment of respect and understanding in which everyone can grow. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.*

**Holy Family – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 – Year B**

**Responsorial Psalm**

The Lord Remembers his covenant for ever.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!



**This Week's Readings**

**The Holy Family – Year B.**

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3, Hebrew 1:1-2, Luke 2:21, 2, 39-40

**Next Week's Readings**

**The Epiphany– Year B.**

Isaiah 60:1-6, Eph 3:2, 5-6, Matt 2:1-12

**Deaths:** Sr. Mary (Eunice) Hickey, S.G.S., Joseph De Bon,

**Anniversaries:** Ian 'Cindy' Maguire, Jessica Berry, Les Doupe, Br Frank Lloyd, Kathleen Morgan, Shane Everard, Sybil Phillips.

MASS TIMES - COLAC, CRESSY, BIRREGURRA.		
Monday	*9am & *11am	St Mary's
Monday	9am	St Peter's Birregurra
Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's- Colac
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary's- Colac
Sunday	9.00am 11.00am	St Mary's- Colac St Mary's- Colac
RECONCILIATION: Friday after 10am Mass-by Appointment.		

STAR OF THE SEA - APOLLO BAY	
Tuesday	5.30pm
Wed, Thurs, Friday	10.00am
Sunday	11.00am
OUR LADY OF FATIMA - LORNE	
Sunday	9.00am



*Lilly (Trinity) & Murphy (S. Heart) Geary: brought their 'Pocket Money' to provide 'Gifts' for children attending the Christmas Dinner.*

**CHRISTMAS FEAST DAYS:**

Dec 31st - Holy Family (Jesus, Mary & Joseph).  
 Jan 1st – Mary, Mother of God.  
 Jan 7th – Epiphany of the Lord (Magi).  
 Jan 9th (8th) – Baptism of the Lord.

***“Though many of us will be far apart, we can be united in Spirit and pray for each other at the Crib and the Altar”.*** (7/12/1899: St Mary MacKillop).

**BISHOPS CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

**NOT TAKEN UP AT THE CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES IN COLAC – AN OPPORTUNITY TODAY AS A LEAVING COLLECTION OR PLACE IN ENVELOPE NEXT WEEK MARKED: 'BISHOP CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEAL'.**

**Christmas Masses:** Again, our appreciation to the Sacristy Ladies, Flower Preparation; Music, Choir, Ministers of WORD & Eucharist. Most importantly to all who offered “Hospitality” to VISITORS both International & other parts of Australia.  
 ‘Happy Christmas’ & New Year’ Blessing to parishioners – now returning from visitation to family over Christmas!

**Prayer to the Holy Family**

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.  
 Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer.  
 Amen.*



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.*

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;  
make known among the nations his deeds.

Sing to him, sing his praise,  
proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

Glory in his holy name;  
rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!  
Look to the LORD in his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

You descendants of Abraham, his servants,  
sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!

He, the LORD, is our God;  
throughout the earth his judgments prevail.

He remembers forever his covenant  
which he made binding for a thousand generations  
which he entered into with Abraham  
and by his oath to Isaac.

*The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.*

**\*Columbian  
Calendar 2024**  
St Mary's Piety Store  
\$10 each.

**APOLLO BAY & LORNE  
FIRST COLLECTION**

BSB: 083585 Acc: 810967715

**SECOND COLLECTION**

BSB: 033600 ACCOUNT: 230038

**Parish Account Colac**

\* For Direct Giving Details:

BSB: 083 585

Account: 811051426

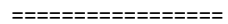
Planned Giving: REF:

**POPE INTENTION**

**JANUARY 2024**

**FOR THE GIFT OF  
DIVERSITY IN THE  
CHURCH**

*Let us pray that the Spirit  
help us recognize the gift  
of different charisms  
within the Christian  
community, and to  
discover the richness of  
different ritual traditions  
in the heart of the Catholic  
Church.*



**Vinnies: 'Thank You for  
Gifts 'donated' To  
Church Christmas Tree!!**

**Christmas Appeal 2023 – Bishop Paul Bird**

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 year's appeal. The money was distributed as follows: (Some of the Distribution).

Catholic Mission Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine	10,000
Caritas Humanitarian Aid for Gaza	10,000
St Columban's Mission, "Shared Table" Peru (Fr Michael McKinnon)	5,000
<b>Total donations made in 2023</b>	<b>\$44,000</b>

**Christmas Dinner:** With "Appreciation' To Kaye Cheng and the many Volunteers (most ever!) – coming from both our Parish and the Wider Colac Community. With 'deliveries to homes; 'pick-ups' by individuals & families and 'sit down': 274 Christmas Dinners shared. Yes: A mighty Effort by Kaye & her team – with gratitude again to our Sponsors; ALC, Bulla, Garden of Eden; Commercial Hotel & I.G.A.; Charcoal Chicken, Brandan Bakery, Treasure Hunters; Wonder Burger, Colac Lake Red Cross Unit, & Parishioners.

A Multi-National Gathering: Aussies, Friends from Sth Sudan, Timor Leste; Vanuatu; Serbia; Malta etc. Music supplied by Brian Carbines & Jenny Stephens.

