

St Augustine's Parish, Maryborough

St Kevin's, Avoca * St Mary's, Dunolly * St Patrick's, Bealiba * St Augustine's, Maryborough

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph 29th December 2024

PARISH INFORMATION		WEEKEND MASS TIMES				
0466 451 984 maryborough@ballarat.catholic.org.au 21 Burns St, Maryborough, VIC, 3465 Hours: Friday, 10.00am – 12.00pm		St Kevin's Avoca	8.30am Mass 1st & 3rd Sundays			8.30am Assembly 2nd, 4th & 5th Sun
Parish Priest: Fr John Monaghan Pastor Emeritus: Fr Pat Flanagan Parish Secretary & Child Safety: Liz Micallef		St Mary's Dunolly	8.30am Mass 2nd & 4th Sundays			8.30am Assembly 1st & 3rd Sundays
St Augustine's Catholic Primary School Tel: 5460 4440 Principal: Mrs Sonia Turner		St Patrick's Bealiba	8.30am Mass 5th Sunday			
		St Augustine's	6.00pm Saturday & 10.30am Sunday			
ROSARY TIMES		WEEKDAY MASS / ASSEMBLY TIMES				
St Mary's - Dunolly	Tues 5pm	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
St Augustine's	Sat 5.30pm	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am	

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS			
1ST Collection <i>Clergy Support & Presbytery Expenses</i>	\$1235	2ND Collection <i>Parish Expenses & Church Maintenance</i>	\$993
Christmas Collection	\$1425	Bishop's Christmas Appeal	\$1768

	READER	PSALM/PRAYER	GIFTS
28 th Dec	J Leneaux-Gale	M Lacey	B Crameri
29 th Dec	S Dellavedova	M Flowers	Hadwen Family
4 th Jan 25	B Crameri	J Duke	Lacey Family
5 th Jan	C Egan	S Dellavedova	Alexander Family

We pray for those whose anniversaries include:

Noah Slater, Scott Lawrence, Frank Hoban, Alan Lawrence, Gladys Impey, Mary Minchan, Robyn Eastwood, Ray Severino, Renato Novelli, Maureen Ashford, Fr Pat McGuire, Leo Harnetty, Patricia Wood and Dianne Brown

BISHOP PAUL BIRD'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

I wish you peace and joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ. I hope your Christmas has something of the joyful spirit of the recent celebration at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Five years ago, Notre Dame was severely damaged by fire. Yet, through the wonderful work of many people, the cathedral has been restored to its former beauty.

The restoration is a tribute to the cooperation of a team of dedicated workers. Architects planned the project. Carpenters fashioned the oak beams that support the roof. Workers in stone carved the figures that adorn the cathedral. Experts in stained glass restored the windows. So many skilled people combined their talents to achieve a magnificent result. Together they rebuilt the cathedral and the reopening was celebrated with great joy. Sadly, this contrasts with the pain of other events in our world at the moment. For many people, this is not a time of celebrating the joy of building. Rather, it is a time of feeling the sorrow of destruction. So many places are enduring the devastation of war – the destruction of buildings and the destruction of people's lives. There is suffering in Ukraine and Israel and Gaza and Lebanon and many other places. In each case there is destruction and sorrow. As we celebrate Christmas, we hear of the angel appearing to the shepherds, announcing the birth of the Saviour, and that a host of angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace" (Luke 2:8-14). We might feel some sadness in hearing these verses as we think of the strife in so many countries. Yet, it's important not to lose hope. Pope Francis has highlighted this in the theme for the coming Holy Year. The theme is: "Pilgrims of Hope". The Pope is encouraging us to be pilgrims of hope, to walk on together in a spirit of hope – hope in God and hope in one another as brothers and sisters in the one human family. Hope can give us the strength to persevere in our search for peace. Jesus said to his first disciples: "Peace be with you." As we move towards Christmas, I pray the same for you. Peace be with you. We reflect in sorrow on the suffering in so many places. Yet, we continue to pray that conflicts might be ended and sorrow might turn to joy. May this Christmas bring peace and joy to you and your family. May this Christmas bring peace and joy to our world. Merry Christmas, one and all. God bless us, everyone. Bishop Paul Bird CSsR