



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



Parish Priest: Colac & Apollo Bay Fr Andrew Hayes
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 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.

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Times – 19th January 2025 – Year C

Responsorial Psalm

Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 God has called us with the gospel
 to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 Alleluia!

This Week's Readings

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Isaiah 62:1-5, Corinthians 12:4-11, John 2:1-11

Next 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.

Deaths: Norma Hollis, Peter Morrissy, (husband of Mary nee Malone), Bob Alexander, Jennifer Abbott.

Anniversaries: Josephine Calder Pauline Margaret Emry, Mary Watson, Dan O'Brien, Basil McKay, Angela Krmelic.

MASS TIMES - COLAC, CRESSY, BIRREGURRA.		
Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	11.30am	Requiem Mass 'Peter Morrissy' St Brendan's- Coragulac
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary's
Sunday	9.00am 11.00am	St Mary's
Rosary - each Thursday: 9.30am St Mary's Church		
St Mary's: Holy Hour- 1st Tuesday of the month: 4-5pm		
STAR OF THE SEA - APOLLO BAY		
Wed, Thurs, Friday	10.00am	
Sunday	11am	
OUR LADY OF FATIMA – LORNE		
Sunday	9.00am	

Thank you for the Welcome

I've had a lovely first couple of days in Colac. Lots to see and learn of course. Every community is different. Been to Coles and Bunnings! I am a bit excited about this Sunday's readings. Isaiah is my favourite person in the bible. The second reading, the gifts we bring to God's mission, is a beauty. And then the wedding! Ever been to the Louvre?

Fr Andrew H

Parish Family Groups:

Croft family group invite parishioners to join them for a cuppa in the gathering space after 9am mass Sunday to welcome Fr Andrew to our community. All Welcome.

Parish family groups offer a connection within St Mary's Community. Company, hospitality and opportunity to get together once a month.

Now is a great time to join a family group as we plan the year ahead. Any queries, please leave a message with Linda 0448 314774

"Last Word" – Welcome to Fr. Andrew Hayes in his role as Parish Priest of Colac & Apollo Bay, Fr Andrew has wonderful gifts which will enhance the Parish Communities.

"Thank You" to Leadership Team and Parishioners for the 'Farewell' last weekend. 'Humbled' yet 'Honoured' by generous & gracious acknowledgements!!

Peace Blessing Michael O'T.

A PRAYER FOR THE CEASEFIRE

God of Love,
 We are thankful for the work that has been done to secure a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and pray that it may be implemented and lead to a lasting peace in the region. With grateful hearts we celebrate the promised release of all those held against their will and pray for their recovery and recuperation as they are reunited with family and friends. We pray that we never see such death and destruction in this region again. May justice reign, justice that establishes peace, promotes hope, frees people from fear, encourages neighbours to love another and brings an end to the seemingly endless cycle of injustice, violence and death in the region.
 This we ask in the power of your spirit, Amen.

Popes Intentions January 2025

For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.
Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all his peoples.
Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: "God is king".
He will judge the peoples in fairness.

Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

APOLLO BAY & LORNE

FIRST COLLECTION

BSB: 083585 Acc: 810967715

SECOND COLLECTION

BSB: 033600 ACCOUNT: 230038

EFTPOS: We at St Mary's have EFTPOS facilities in our 'gathering space' for those that do not carry cash and would like to contribute to our Parish. Every donation is very much appreciated

– St Mary's Finance Team.

YOU ARE ABLE TO SELECT DONATION

**AMOUNT: \$2.00 \$5.00,
\$10.00, & \$20.00.**

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.**

Israel, Hamas reach ceasefire, hostage agreement, as Gaza Catholics rejoice

After more than a year of war and thousands killed or wounded, negotiators representing Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire deal. A six-week initial ceasefire phase and the gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip are included in the accord.

The agreement announced 15 January following several months of negotiations brokered by Egypt, Qatar and the United States, also included a deal that would see the release of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. Although negotiators have reached an agreement, the deal has yet to be ratified by the Israeli parliament. As of publishing time, neither Israel or the Palestinian Authority had issued an official statement announcing the deal. Speaking at the 15 January press briefing at the White House, President Joe Biden acknowledged that the deal has been a team effort of the outgoing and incoming administration. "We're handing off to the next team a real opportunity for a brighter future in the Middle East," Biden says. "I hope they take it."

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum, a group representing the families of 98 Israeli hostages taken by Hamas, welcomed news of the agreement "with overwhelming joy and relief." While hailing the deal as a significant step forward, the group acknowledged "deep anxiety and concerns" over the "possibility that the agreement might not be fully implemented, leaving hostages behind." "We urgently call for swift arrangements to ensure all phases of the deal are carried out," the group said. "We will not rest until we see the last hostage back home." Father Gabriel Romanelli, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Gaza, said that people were beginning "to nurture the hope of returning to their homes—for those who still have them—and understanding what is left and how to rebuild." "For everyone, it also means returning to live without the constant nightmare of planes, bombs, fighting, and violence," "Everyone hopes the truce holds, although we know it will be a very long and complicated path." Father Romanelli said the parish will celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving for the ceasefire and that the faithful will continue to pray "for all those working to provide relief to the people." Pope Francis made multiple calls for an end to the conflict in the Holy Land, and in other parts of the world.

"Let us pray that the fighting will cease on every front, and that there will be a decisive effort for peace and reconciliation," the pope said during his Angelus address 1 January.