



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



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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.

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time – 23rd February 2025 – Year C

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Shine like lights in the world
 as you hold on to the word of life.
 Alleluia.

This Week's Readings

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7, Corinthians 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45

Next Week's Readings

First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:4-10. Romans 10:8-13. Luke 4:1-13



PROJECT COMPASSION KITS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GATHERING SPACE

Deaths: Geraldine Brennan, Edwin Fenton, Nicholas Black, "Jon" Jean-Jacques Esterhazy, Terry Morrissy.

Anniversaries: Josie Lamanna, Jim DeLorenzo, Sr Frances McCarthy G.S., Robert McCarthy,

MASS TIMES - COLAC, CRESSY, BIRREGURRA.		
ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES		
Tuesday	2.30pm	Mercy Place Chapel
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's - Colac
Wednesday	6.00pm	St Brendan's Coragulac
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's- Colac
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary's
Sunday	9.00am 11.00am	St Mary's
SACRAMENTAL OF RECONCILIATION* Anytime by appointment		
**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		
ASH WEDNESDAY MASS		
Tuesday	5.30pm	Shared Fish & Chip afterwards
Wed, Thurs, Friday	10.00am	
Sunday	11am	
OUR LADY OF FATIMA – LORNE		
ASH WEDNESDAY MASS		
Wednesday	5.30pm	Shared Fish & Chip afterwards
Sunday	9.00am	

SACRAMENTS OF PENANCE, CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST.

Parents of Children in Year 2 and above who are preparing for the Sacraments of Penance (Confession), Confirmation and Eucharist are invited to attend one of two meetings at St Mary's Church on Thursday March 13. The meetings will be offered at 4pm and 7pm. The meetings are not for children, but if you need to bring them that will be ok. It is expected that the meetings will be finished in under an hour. Please let us know you are coming via email: colac@ballarat.catholic.org.au

New Mass Roster Thankyou everyone who had thoughts on our new Mass roster. I can confirm now that beginning the Sunday after Easter, April 26/27, Colac's Masses will be 6pm Saturday evening and 11am Sunday. **In the 9am time slot there will be Masses at:**

- 1st Sunday St Joseph's Pirron Yallock
- 2nd Sunday St Peter's Birregurra
- 3rd Sunday Our Lady of Fatima Lorne
- 4th Sunday St Brendan's Coragulac

We will also talk about having "Sunday" Mass on Fridays at 10am. Will we do this? Will it be helpful?

There are some things to think about. 9am has been when we've had cuppas in the past. The social gatherings are important. How will we continue to do that? One thought just now is that we ought to have a cuppa after both Masses on the first weekend of the roster, to make welcome the upended 9am parishioners. Our recent liturgy meeting suggested that we reinstate the welcomers at all Masses. The new roster seems like a good time to start the welcomers again, especially with people shuffling Masses. Along the way we will need to talk to people on the 9am ministry rosters. Also, if you start attending the smaller Masses at 9am, and that becomes your new Mass community, please consider being on their roster?? The discussion now in my thinking is about how we make this as smooth as we can for the upended 9am people. What do you need? What can we do to make it work well?

Communion from the Chalice

At our recent Liturgy meeting we discussed reintroducing the chalice at communion. The new roster after Easter seems a good time to start this again. More to come.

Fr Andrew Hayes

ST MARY'S LENTEN SCRIPTURE GROUPS: If you would like to be in a Lenten Group place your name on one of the lists in the Gathering Space. Thank you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just.

In him, my rock, there is no wrong..

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:

***Apollo Bay Uniting Church:** Nelson St. Friday 7th March 2pm

***Lorne – St Cuthbert’s Uniting Church:**

Tuesday 4th March 9,30am to 2.30pm Pancake Day.

***Colac St. Marys Church** -Mar.7th at 1.30pm

APOLLO BAY & LORNE

FIRST COLLECTION

BSB: 083585 Acc: 810967715

SECOND COLLECTION

BSB: 033600 ACCOUNT: 230038

Helplines If you need to speak with someone relating to sexual abuse, you can contact:

Lifeline Ph:131114

Counselling Service:

Relationships Australia Ph: 1800052674 . Provides free comprehensive support for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse and others who engage in or are affected by the Royal Commission.

The Knights of the Southern Cross Colac Branch

will be having their monthly meeting at St Marys Church on Wed. 5th March at 7.30pm. We would welcome any men to come along and join us as we are trying to build our membership.

Croft Family Group. March cuppa after 9am Mass. Sunday March 2nd at Shannon’s Cafe. All parishioners welcome to join us. RSVP Linda. 0448 314774.

GLEESON FAMILY GROUP Lunch at Colac East Hotel 12.30 Sunday 23rd March. Contact Julie on 0437552350.

Congratulations to Rachel McGennisken (Trinity College Deputy) who has been appointed as the next principal of Emmanuel College Warrnambool, commencing in Term 2, 2025.

Ash Wednesday Reflection Story: *Eight years ago, I was caught in a bushfire in the Hunter Valley in New South Wales. The fire began at the conference centre where we were staying. We prepared to evacuate, but authorities told us it was too late. Next followed an anxious wait of more than 60 minutes, all the while watching the black smoke that grew larger as it came closer. Eventually firefighters began watering our place of refuge. After what felt like an interminable vigil, the authorities decided it was safe for us to leave the property, and we drove quickly away from the still smouldering embers. For those of us who live in southern Australia, this can be a common story. Summer means preparing for bushfires. The Church celebrates Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season towards the end of this anxious time. As Australian Christians come forward to be signed on Ash Wednesday, many of us associate the blessed ash with destruction brought about by out-of-control fires that destroy homes and properties, wildlife, and occasionally sadly, even people. The use of ash collected from such fires makes this especially poignant. The signing with ashes is accompanied by words. We hear ‘repent, and believe in the Gospel’, urging us to fix our compass on Christ; or ‘Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return’, – reminding us of our mortality. Both messages challenge us to action. As a child I remember using the Lenten season to give up certain food or activities that I enjoyed. As I grew older, I tried to pray more, or find ways to help others, especially those in need. I truly wanted to earn God’s love, without ever realising God already loved me unconditionally. Lent for me was never a time to savour, but rather a few weeks that tested my endurance, a time to sacrifice myself, and look forward to Easter when I could once again be happy and hopeful – when the suffering of the cross makes way for the resurrection. As an adult, I realise this was not exactly the approach the Church invites us to take. On Ash Wednesday, the Church reminds us to pray; to fast; and to give alms. But never is the focus solely about myself and what I do, nor is it an exercise to earn God’s love. Ash Wednesday is less about me and more about us. As we gather around the Eucharistic table we actively engage in the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection, so that our sacrifice – as the priest says: ‘might be acceptable to God’. In the readings of the feast, we hear Joel tell us to ‘turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion.’ (2:12-18) Psalm 50 assures us that God will once again ‘give us the joy of your help’ while Paul assures the Corinthians in his second letter (6:2) that God will come to our help – not just me alone, but we, the Body of Christ. Ashes come from fire. It is the fire within us, the fire of the Holy Spirit that empowers us to ‘repent and believe the Gospel,’ who calls us to pray, to fast from what is unnecessary, and urges us to act with generosity and love especially towards the poor, and our planet.*

In a world beset by tyranny and calamity, spurred on by the destructive fires of power and greed, Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods would invite us, not to turn in on ourselves, but with the fire of the Spirit, to reach out, to be a beacon of hope and love in our society.

Carmel Pilcher rsj