



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.

1st Sunday of Lent- 9th March 2025 – Year C

Responsorial Psalm

Be with us, Lord, when we are in trouble.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.
 No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that
 comes from the mouth of God.
 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

**This Week's Readings
 First Sunday of Lent**

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

Next Week's Readings

Second 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, Athol Jones, Nance McGuane.

Anniversaries: Patricia Mary Heath, Marita Barrow, Aileen McCarthy, Julie Wintle, Maimie O'Sullivan, Fr John McGannon, Daniel McGannon, Mary McGannon, Ted McGuane.

MASS TIMES - COLAC, CRESSY, BIRREGURRA.		
Tuesday	10.00am	Sacred Heart PS Opening Mass St Mary's All Welcome
Tuesday	12 noon	Funeral - Requiem Mass Geraldine Brennan St Mary's Colac
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
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
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		
Tuesday		5.30pm
Wed, Thurs, Friday		10.00am
Sunday		11am
OUR LADY OF FATIMA – LORNE		
Sunday		9.00am

Changes to Masses this Week -Tuesday 11th there will no Mass at St Mary's at 5pm.

How to do Lent

Seems to me that Lent is a time to slow down, a time to think and pray, to be introspective. How to slow down when you've got kids and spouses and elderly parents and jobs and farms and commitments to the croquet club? I don't know. Make it like the 20/20 version of Lent. Can't slow down for 40 days? What about ten minutes a day? By the way, how many days are there in Lent? Count them on the calendar. Did you get 46? At St Mary's we'll try to be Lenten by stripping away the altar. It's more barren, more desert. Oh ... how fancy we will become Easter! Here's a thing; I'd very much like it if, on Palm Sunday, we all brought our own branches to Mass. Why? It's all too easy to come along to Mass, forgot it was Palm Sunday, and someone gave me a palm out of the box. Mass on a plate. Could we all think of it on Palm Saturday, take the grandkids out and choose the branches to bring to Mass. Like the bible people. They harvested the trees themselves. They didn't have palms in a box. And can we bring BIG branches? Doesn't have to be palm or olive, just suitable to wave without scaring the foal of a donkey. How do you spell secaters?

Fr Andrew Hayes

Help Required: If anyone is available to help an elderly gentleman to attend Mass each Saturday Evening, he lives in Ball St Colac, please contact the Parish Office. 52312177.

CWL Meeting: **CANCELLED** Tuesdav 11th March.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Be with us, Lord, when we are in trouble.

Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and abide in the shade of the Almighty say to the Lord: 'Our refuge, our stronghold, our God in whom we trust!'

Upon us no evil shall fall, no plague approach where we dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. His love he set upon us, so I will rescue them; protect them for they know my name. When they call I shall answer: 'I am with you'. I will save them in distress and give them glory.

Be with us, Lord, when we are in trouble.

APOLLO BAY & LORNE
FIRST COLLECTION
BSB: 083585 ACC: 810967715
SECOND COLLECTION
BSB: 033600 ACCOUNT: 230038



This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project compassion. Your support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide Life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by calling 1800024413 Thank you as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.

Crawford Family Group lunch at Cafe Nu Deli on Thursday 20th March at 12oclock RSVP Catherine 0499022644

Lent Reflection: *Lent is a time when we are invited to go into the desert with Jesus: to share both his conflict and his victory, to feel something of our own weakness and temptations, to know the depth of our reliance on God's grace. FIRST FRUITS This sense of being grasped by God's power rings through the first two readings. The First reading, Deut 26:4-10, describes a ritual incumbent on all Israelites as they brought the first fruits of the produce of their land to be offered to God in the Temple. The gift of the first fruits was a symbolic acknowledgment that the whole crop was the gift of God to Israel and, more fundamentally, that the entire land from which it was produced, was the outcome of the great act of liberation whereby God delivered them from slavery in Egypt to give them this land. The little creed that the Israelite had to recite reinforced the sense of national identity flowing from this truth, fostering a sense of gratitude and dependence on God. In the Second reading, Rom 10:8-13, St. Paul updates this for Christian believers, with the central focus now being on God's mighty act in raising Christ from the dead. To confess this with all one's heart is already to have a taste of a salvation that goes beyond ethnic boundaries to encompass the entire human race. THE TEMPTATIONS OF JESUS The three temptations of Jesus in the Gospel, Luke 4:1-13, all bear in some way on the nature and direction of this mission. Following his baptism by John, he has just been reminded of his unique status: "You are my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on you" (3:21-22). Each temptation suggests a compromise that would not only make the mission less burdensome but would also seem appropriate in view of the special status that he, as Son of God, enjoys. The temptations, then, are subtle. Like all temptations to which people, otherwise basically virtuous, are vulnerable, they come under the guise of good. So, in first place, since Jesus is extremely hungry, it seems reasonable that he should use his miraculous powers for just one moment of self-interest. His response is sharp and clear: his powers are solely at the service of others. The second temptation conjures up possession of political authority and power throughout the world. Again, within the ambit of conventional messianic expectation, this is not an inappropriate ambition for the messianic Son of God. The issue is whether he should gain such authority now by worshipping the one (the devil) who claims to be able to give it or whether he should not wait to receive it from the hands of God. The first is an easy and immediate path to lordship, but choosing it will simply preserve the present situation where rulers exercise authority in the world in oppressive and violent ways (cf. 22:25). The alternative is to embrace the path where the authority to be exercised is one that serves rather than dominates (22:26-27). If God alone is to be worshipped and all humanity made to feel at home in God's house, this is way God's Son must choose. The final temptation, to cast himself down from the Temple pinnacle, rests on a divine pledge of protection for the messianic king contained in Ps 91:11-12. What an effective way to launch a messianic career. Jesus, however, rebuts such a test of God. What he will experience in Jerusalem will be rejection, shame and humiliation. But God will indeed "bear him up": raising him from the dead and making him "Lord of all" (Acts 10:36; Phil 2:9-11). JESUS' MISSION IS SET So, Jesus emerges from the conflict with the true direction of his mission irreversibly set. Son of God though he is and "special" beyond all other human beings in this sense, he will not be exempt from treading the ordinary path of human life. Obedient as God's Son to the pattern of divine love and grace that drives him, he will enter fully into the pain and evil of the world to transform it from within and thereby reclaim it for true humanity.*