

The ASCENSION of the LORD YrA 21 MAY 2023

PARISH BULLETIN

St Macartan's Catholic Parish



4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931  
**Parish Office: Tue to Fri 9am to 4pm: Ph: 5975 2200**  
Email: mornington@cam.org.au  
Web: stmacartansparish.com.au  
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy  
Assistant Priest: Fr Jude Johnson  
Parish Secretary: Cynthia Gooriah



## FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

"BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS,  
UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE."



### Mass Times:

- Weekdays: Tuesday to Saturday 9:15am
- Saturday night: 6pm
- Sunday: 9am, 11am
- Anointing/Healing Mass: 9:15am [1st Friday of each Month]

**YOUTH MASS 2nd & 4th Sunday** each Month 5pm.

### HOLY HOUR / ADORATION:

- Every Friday after 9:15 Mass
- 1st Saturdays each month after 9:15am Mass
- 3:30pm 2nd & 4th Sundays

### RECONCILIATION:

After 9:15am Mass: Wed & Saturday

**YOUTH GROUPS:** QUINN'S PLACE:  
Year 7+ Friday's 6pm-10pm Community House / Hall / Church.

**ENCOUNTER:** Youth Group: Primary school age 3pm-4:45pm before Youth

### Video Sunday Mass

#### **NEW SETTINGS FOR VIDEO MASS**

Watch Mass Live: Every Sun. 9AM

<https://vimeo.com/event/3406615>

Or go to website to copy link:

<https://www.stmacartansparish.com.au>

ALSO: at our regular YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOpptks0Fw/videos>

### Holy days:

- Wed 24th: Our Lady, Help of Christians
- Fri 26th: St Philip Neri, Priest
- Sun 28th: Pentecost Sunday

### This Sunday 14th:

Holy hour 3:30-4:30pm

Youth Club Encounter 3-5pm,

Youth Mass 5-6pm

**REMEMBER: BUY YOUR TICKETS TO EXCELSIS -See info inside.**

## WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

**Pray for the sick and their Carers:** Tony Formosa, Betty Corke, Kevin Paganoni, Fiona Rush, Aaron Eastley, Bruce Reekie, Val Carr, Evan Senn, Adeline Lyn Tilden, Raymond Cope, Angela Turner, Laurence Turner, Roy Cahill, Poala Solvy, Geoffrey Lane, Terry Said, Joan Watts, Kathleen Rose, Barbara Seymour, Barbara Hent, Collen Steele, Gai Beveridge, Barbara Hunt, Dr Ron Fitzgerald, Nalini Cruse and Gideon James.



**Death Anniversaries:** Christine Niblett.

**Recently Deceased:** Patrick Alan Hendry.

### *First Reading Acts 1:1-11*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

### *Responsorial Psalm Ps 46(47):2-3. 6-9. R. v.6*

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)

2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
3. the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

## **Second Reading**

**Eph 1:17-23**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Mt 28:19. 20**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

**Mt 28:16-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

**The Creed is said.**

## **Communion Antiphon**

**Mt 28:20**

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

# SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

## **Not the only Ascension**

*The description of Jesus being taken up into heaven is a close parallel to the description of the great prophet Elijah also being taken up to heaven. Chapter 2 of 2 Kings describes Elijah speaking to his disciple Elisha in similar words to those used by Jesus to his disciples. The Jewish tradition had no belief in an individual resurrection and so the idea of Ascension was to recognise the greatness of the prophet. He was to be united with God in Heaven rather than having to wait for the great resurrection of all people at the end of time.*

## **Gospel Reflection**

The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then. However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description

should not be taken literally. However, the message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus, the human incarnation of God on earth, was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost.

### **Historical Context – To the ends of the earth**

In both the gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire

### **Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses**

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others.

## Pope Francis gives Ukrainian President sculpture of olive branch

*Pope Francis receives in private audience Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine. Zelensky is in Rome where he has met with the Italian Premiere, Giorgia Meloni, and with President Sergio Mattarella.*

*By Linda Bordoni*

Volodymyr Zelensky's car was escorted into the Vatican just minutes after 4 pm local time on Saturday, and the Ukrainian President was welcomed into the Apostolic Palace for his meeting with Pope Francis. "It's a great honour," Zelensky said to the Pope who thanked him for his visit. The two leaders spent time in conversation, aided by a translator, Fr Marko Gongalo, a Polish priest who works at the Secretariat of State.



The meeting, which lasted some 40 minutes, focused on the humanitarian and political situation in Ukraine following the ongoing war.

The Holy Father assured the President of his constant prayers, as witnessed by his numerous public appeals and invocations to the Lord for peace. They agreed on the ongoing requirement to continue providing humanitarian aid to the population, and the Pope highlighted, in particular, the need for "gestures of humanity" towards the most fragile, the innocent victims of the conflict."

**Exchange of gifts:** As is customary, the two leaders exchanged gifts. Pope Francis gave President Zelensky a bronze sculpture representing an olive branch, a symbol of peace. He also gifted him with the 2019 Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together penned by the Pope and the Grand Imam of Al-Ahzar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb; a book on the *Statio Orbis* of 27 March 2020 and a volume entitled "An Encyclical on Peace in Ukraine." On his part, the Ukrainian President brought the Holy Father a work of art crafted from a bullet-proof plate and a painting entitled "Loss" on the killing of children during conflict. Almost 15 months from Moscow's attack on Kyiv, the afternoon visit in the Vatican took place within a diplomatic tour on the part of the Ukrainian leader who met with Italy's President Sergio Mattarella on Saturday morning before a working lunch with the Premiere, Giorgia Meloni.



**Second meeting between the Pope and Zelensky:** It is the second meeting between Pope Francis and the Ukrainian President who came to Rome briefly on 8 February 2020 and was received by the Pontiff in the Apostolic Palace, before Russia's full-out invasion of Ukraine. On that occasion, which took place less than a year after Zelensky's electoral victory, the Pope had gifted the President with a medal depicting San Martin de Tours and expressed his hope that the saint may protect the Ukrainian people who were already suffering war in the eastern regions of the country. Zelensky also held talks with Cardinal Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin and with Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States and International Organizations. A Holy See Press Office statement on that occasion said the talks focused on the humanitarian situation and the quest for peace within the context of the conflict affecting Ukraine since 2014. Hope had been expressed, on that occasion, that all the Parties involved would show utmost sensitivity to the needs of the population affected by the violence and a "commitment and coherence in dialogue." Since the Russian attack on Ukraine on 24 February 2022, a number of telephone calls have taken place between Pope Francis and President Zelensky."

# EXCELSIS

Excelsis is one of Melbourne's most exciting and dynamic choirs, singing predominantly for Catholic liturgical events and giving regular concert performances. In recent years, highlights for the choir have included performing to capacity audiences at St Patrick's Cathedral, St Paul's Cathedral, and Deakin Edge (Federation Square).

The choir sings an extremely varied repertoire of both secular and sacred music, incorporating classical European works, hymnody, contemporary music, traditional African pieces, spirituals, gospel songs and Broadway favourites. Excelsis takes its name from the Latin word, meaning 'highest'. Through the music which it sings, the choir aims to achieve the highest musical and performance goals.

After popular demand Excelsis returns to the Mornington Winter Festival and will be performing, with a soloist, on **Saturday 10th June at 2pm** in the St Macartan Church (6 Drake St Mornington - parking is behind the church the entrance is off Cook St).

**Tickets go on sale from the 7th of May in the church foyer:**

(6 Drake St Mornington)

- Saturdays 5:30pm - 6pm,
- Sundays 8:30am - 9am & 10am -11am
- and weekdays from the Parish Office, 4 Drake St (Tuesday-Fridays 9am-4pm).

Tickets also available on the day, at the door

**tickets \$10ea**

*All proceeds go to Excelsis and the running of the Church ministries.*



## **SOLOIST JOINING EXCELSIS CHOIR**

Australian opera singer Daniel Szesiong Todd (was born in Malaysia and grew up in Melbourne, Australia. He obtained a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Music with first-class honours from the University of Melbourne. Daniel was accepted into Victorian Opera's Developing Artist Program in 2011, where he debuted as Testo in a staged setting of Monteverdi's and sang Tamino for their education production of .

Daniel then joined VO and the University of Melbourne's collaborative Master of Music (Opera Performance), continuing to perform and cover various roles for the company.

# Thank You!

St. Macartan's Parish would like to thank Six New Parishioners who attended the 'New Parishioners Morning Tea' on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023. It was a huge success, as they not only experienced hospitality and friendship but also met with priests, ministry leaders and some of the parishioners. We also like to thank our amazing parishioners who provided the delicious 'cakes & snacks' and helped in many ways. The Parish looks forward to welcoming more New Parishioners at our next 'New Parishioners Morning Tea'. We will keep you informed. Once again, thank you so much and may God bless you all.

If you have recently moved into the parish and haven't registered as a parishioner, we invite you to complete a 'Welcoming Pack' in the holders at the Church Foyer. We would like to invite you to the next 'New Parishioners Morning Tea'. If you would like more information, please contact the parish office: 5975 2200 or email: [mornington@cam.org.au](mailto:mornington@cam.org.au).



## Parish Footy Tipping Competition



Tuttle 2021 (Chris Houlihan) did what most others around Australia couldn't do for Round 9. Well done for tipping the card. In fact no-one in our Competition did better than 7/9 except Chris. Helensbabies and Lincoln are still equal leaders followed 2 behind by Doggies DF and 3 behind by Paul The Bulldog, Geoffrey Lane, Maree O'Halloran and Tuttle 2021.

Any competition queries or help James: [jflob@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jflob@bigpond.net.au) / 0418 491781, Spencer: [sanddmeier@bigpond.com](mailto:sanddmeier@bigpond.com) / 0448 602 288 .

DO YOU KNOW?---Royalty is in the news. Do you know which 2 AFL footballers have played the most games with their surnames KING or who was the player with the surname ROYAL or the one with the surname DUKE or the 3 McQUEENS or the one PRINCE or even the 7 LORDS?



# Jokes of the Week



**# 1: The Ascension mission to preach the Gospel:** After attending a convention led by Billy Graham a woman wrote to him. “Dear Sir, I feel that God is calling me to preach the Gospel. But the trouble is that I have twelve children. What shall I do?” The televangelist replied: “Dear Madam, I am delighted to hear that God has called you to preach the Gospel. I am even more delighted to hear that He has already provided you with a congregation in your own home.”

**# 2: Ascension walk-out:** There was a long-winded pastor who preached salvation history from Genesis to Revelation in every sermon. On the feast of Ascension as he reached Isaiah, he remarked that the prophet said nothing about the ascension of Our Lord. He asked his audience, “What shall we do with him?” One old man in the front seat said, “He can have my seat, Father; I’m leaving!”

**# 3: And after death — ascend or descend?** A typical teenager was asked: At the end of school what do you want to do? I want to do my Senior Certificate.

After your Senior Certificate what do you want to do? – I want to go to college.

After college what do you want to do? – I want to get a job.

Then what do you want to do? – I want to make big money.

What do you want to do after making money? – I want to build a big house.

After that what do you intend to do? – I want to get married.

What will you do after getting married? – I will have a family.

What will you do after having a family? – I will retire.

What do you want to do after you retire? – I want to take a rest.

What will you do after taking a rest? – I don’t know.

Will you die? – Oh yes, I will die too. What will happen after death? I am not sure!

**How prepared are we? - will we get to the end of life thinking I’m not sure? So let’s be sure and accept the Lord’s gift of everlasting life and remind others it’s there for them too!**



# FRIENDS OF OUR PARISH

*I have always appreciated good customer service and good value for money. Therefore, whenever I find someone who supports our Parish in these ways, they become friends and I truly believe we should show our support to them too.*

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## Rosters for Special Ministers and Commentators - Mass Co-ordinators

6.00pm - Carmel Coles: 5975 3080

9.00am - Helen Britton: 0437 279 029

11.00am - Patricia Duryea: 0418 139 599

5.00pm - Danielle Field: 0410 596 637

### The Ascension of the Lord – 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023

6.00pm Readers: Carmel McGrath, Iris Hallinan  
Eucharistic Ministers: Alis Fisher, Joyce Ward

9.00am Readers: Michael Kerr, John Azzopardi  
Eucharistic Ministers: John and Mary Lewis

11.00am Readers: Irene Hackett, Patricia Duryea  
Eucharistic Ministers: Evelyn Atkins, Sandra Barrett

### Pentecost Sunday – 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023

6.00pm Readers: Brian Scantlebury, Fay Murphy  
Eucharistic Ministers: Michael Turner, Carmel Coles

9.00am Readers: Michael Kerr, Don Ziino  
Eucharistic Ministers: Patricia Thomas, Joseph Thoppil

11.00am Readers: Terry Roberts, Joan Clements  
Eucharistic Ministers: Bridie Sexton, John Spaziani

## CONGRATULATIONS

### St Macartan's Confirmation candidates

Yes approximately 85 young adults stood and professed their faith and were received fully into our Catholic faith, at St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday night, with their proud parents, sponsors, siblings and teachers, watching on.

Bishop Anthony Ireland presided and Fr Jude and Fr Geoff concelebrated.

What a terrific occasion it was and it shows that our Catholic faith is still vibrant and active amongst other generations.

I feel this parish is blessed with the students, parents and teachers of St Macartan's Primary school and with Mr. Michael Kerr, leading our High Spirits group of students.

Well done and thank you one and all.

Fr Geoff

## PARISH CONTACTS

### Parish Contact Details:

**Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** Jody Kerrins (Chairperson)

Email: [jody54@westnet.com.au](mailto:jody54@westnet.com.au)

**Finance Committee:** Frank Crea: 0417 104 041

**Safeguarding Officer:** Carmel McGrath: [Mornington.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:Mornington.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)

**Volunteer Application Support Officer:** Contact Parish Office: 5975 2200

Email: [timlambourne@yahoo.com.au](mailto:timlambourne@yahoo.com.au)

**AV & Livestreaming Technician:** Didier Le Miere: 0400 801 891

Email: [Didier.lemiere31@gmail.com](mailto:Didier.lemiere31@gmail.com)

**St Mac's High Spirits: Teacher is** Michael Kerr: Contact the office: 5975 2200

**St Mac's Café: Coordinators are** Fr Geoff & Fr Jude: 5975 2200

**Parish Caretaker:** John Spaziani: 0419 598 911

Email: [Mornington@cam.org.au](mailto:Mornington@cam.org.au)

**Weddings contact the Office or Fr Geoff & Fr Jude: 5975 2200**

**St Macartan's Gift Shop:** Trish Thomas: 0425 749 379

**St Vincent de Paul:** Barry Murphy: 0419 225 455

**Marriage & Counselling:** Charmaine Holmes: 0413 394 085

Email: [charholmes59@gmail.com](mailto:charholmes59@gmail.com)

**Marriage Preparation:** Fr Geoff, Email: [Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au](mailto:Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au)

**Baptisms:** Every Saturday at 11am (Except the 1st Saturday of the month):

Contact Office: 5975 2200

**Baptism Preparation: Fr Geoff & Fr Jude: 5975 2200**

**Memorial Wall:** Contact Parish Office: 5975 2200

**Spiritual Director/Pastoral Counsellor/Psychotherapist:** Angelo Campagna

Ph: 0411 305 478, Website: [www.angelocampagna.com.au](http://www.angelocampagna.com.au)

**Catholic Mission Parish Ambassador:** Jody Kerrins [jody54@westnet.com.au](mailto:jody54@westnet.com.au)

**Youth Worker:** Kristina Turner, Email: [Kristina.b2906@bigpond.com](mailto:Kristina.b2906@bigpond.com)

### Schools:

**St Macartan's Primary School:** Ph: 5979 9200

**Principal:** Colleen McGreal

**Deputy:** Andrea Kershaw **Deputy:** Meegan Blackney

**Padua College:** Ph: 5976 0100

**Principal:** Kelly McGurn

**Vice Principal:** Mission, Identity & Community: Matthew Williams