

Second Sunday of Easter - Year A, 19th April 2020

PARISH BULLETIN

St Macartan's Catholic Parish



4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931

Parish Office: 9:30am-3pm Tuesday to Friday; **Ph:** 5975 2200

Email: mornington@cam.org.au **Web:** stmacartansparish.com.au

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy

Parish Secretary: Theresa Collard



MASS TIMES

The Bishops of the Province of Victoria have given this prayerful and considered reflection, and have determined the following actions:

- **Immediate suspension of public liturgies, celebrations of the Mass, until further notice.**
- **All other gatherings are suspended.**

In light of this, all Catholics in Victoria are dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice (canon 1248). We encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in a Mass online (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass). Or <https://www.stmacartansparish.com.au/>

Also - St Macartan's

<https://www.belindajanevideo.com/client-video/st-macartans-catholic-mass/>

PARISH INFORMATION

St Macartan's Primary School

Ph: 5979 9200

Principal: Colleen McGreal

Deputy: Philip Hills, Kathleen Ronchi

Padua College Ph: 5976 0100

Parish Pastoral Council: Bernard Butler
0419 427 408

Finance Committee: Frank Crea
0417 104 041

AV Technical: Graeme Wilson
Email: gpw611@bigpond.com

St Mac's High Spirits - Faye Melhem
Contact Parish Office or email
stmacshighspirits@gmail.com

Parish Caretaker : John Spaziani
0419 598 911

Parish Care Contacts: Parish Office
5975 2200

Music & Wedding Co-Ordinator-

Veronica Ryan 5975 6981/ 0418 358 213

Baptism Preparation: Kathy Raccanello

Next Baptismal Meeting — Suspended

Marriage Preparation: See Fr Geoff

Recently Deceased: John Calway and Michael Dowling

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Graham Oliver, Laura Castle-
low, Julie Nash, Margaret O'Connor, Jay Keogh, Sophie Davidsen,
Cinzia Caboche, Robert Warne, Dean Pratt, Trent Wilkinson, Esma
Murphy, Eva Balista, Kate Maree Ayoub (Tunks) Frances McLean, Richard Meech, Col-
leen, Noah Guest, Carly Guy, , Elizabeth Brennan, Bob Barrett, Ally Roe, Colleen & Jim
Husin, Maryanne Husin, Eileen Young, , Peter Hingston, Dave Mortby, Lynne Anderson,
Naomi Andrews, Peter Atkinson, Kevin Paganoni, Jeannie Fox, Phyllis Molloy, Renee
Barker, Courtney Stevens, Mary Cattermole, Joseph Aquilina, Helen & Denis Chambers,
Mark Allan, Lucas Pingiaro, Fernando Pineda, Jim Kershaw (NZ), Bernadette Har-
vey (NZ), David Taylor NZ), Maureen Spargo, Tony Formosa, John Mahony, Terry
Smyth and Michael Nicolaou.

Mass Intentions

First Reading Acts 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brother-
hood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on
everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods
and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what
each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of
bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked
up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be
saved.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say:
'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)

2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. (R.)

3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given
us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a
sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never
fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's
power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end
of time.

This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.'

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.'

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.'

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Care Packages for those in Need

As part of the Mornington Peninsula 'Caring for our Community' initiative, the Shire is offering care packages for the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and isolated community members to address the impacts of Coronavirus on the Peninsula.

You are eligible to receive a care package if you:

- are experiencing short term issues due to COVID-19 are unwell
- are considered 'at risk' of getting COVID-19
- have no support locally
- are experiencing significant hardship

How do I or someone I know, register to receive care packages?

To register to receive a care package from Mornington Peninsula Shire phone 1300 850 600.

If you need the assistance of an interpreter phone 131 450

TTY/voice calls: 133 677 Speak and listen: 1300 555 727 SMS relay: 0423 677 767

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment contact us through the National Relay Service: communications.gov.au

For those in mandatory self-isolation, the state government have Emergency Relief packages you can access by calling the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Continuing to Keep Our Parish Secure: Now and in The Future

Dear Parishioners,

Last week we encourage all parishioners to participate in thanksgiving contributions by using direct debit, thank you to the few who have taken up this option. Our Parish contributions over the last three weekends has dropped by 50%. This is leaving the Parish in a financially vulnerable position and I am seeking alternate ways of topping up this loss.

Contribution Envelopes - can still be placed in the 'Notices' box located at the front door of the Parish House.

Direct Debit - Is the preferred payment method (Call Office for details)

Direct Deposit - **BSB: 083-347 Account No.: 547373281**

Could I please encourage everyone to use either of these facilities above to ensure that our planned giving contribution is maintained through these testing times. For those who are still contributing, I am deeply grateful. It means the work of the parish can continue in these difficult days.

Thank you for your commitment to the parish. It is deeply appreciated.

Blessings

Fr Geoff

LET US PRAY TOGETHER

For Health Carers

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For ill or isolated

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For Us

We are not people of fear:

we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety:

we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed:

we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,

giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs

For as long as it takes wherever you call us.

Amen.

DIVINE MERCY

There are very many Divine Mercy websites these two are most helpful:

www.diaryofstfaustina.wordpress.com

www.thedivinemercy.org The Novena using this site, starts on Good Friday for nine days through to Easter Saturday (the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday), select 'The Basics' to open the topic menu then select 'Divine Mercy Novena'. Intentions given by Our Lord to St. Faustina are listed by day and people should add in their own intentions as well.

- Read about one aspect of the Divine Mercy devotion: Origin of Feast/ Request of Jesus to St. Faustina to make a Novena of Chaplets before DM Sunday/ The Image with signature 'Jesus I trust in You'/ The formula from Jesus for the DM Chaplet/ The diary of St. Faustina/ The Hour of Mercy and 3.00pm prayer/ Spreading message of Divine Mercy/ Verified miracles through intercession of St. Faustina/ Deeds of Mercy – spiritual and corporal works of mercy
 - Pray the Novena intentions for the day, adding own intentions as well.
 - Pray appropriate selected prayers mostly accessible from websites given and if not, available off internet. Suggested prayers are 'Prayer to Our Lady Mother of Divine Mercy', 'Prayer to the Most Merciful Jesus', 'Petitions to the Merciful Heart of Jesus', 'St. Faustina's Prayer for Healing', 'St. Faustina's Prayer for Holy Church and for Priests', 'Praises of Divine Mercy'.
- Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Please call me in the Parish Office anytime you need to. I am praying for you all, and my private daily Mass is offered to each and everyone of you.

Blessings - I miss your beautiful faces (well most of your faces).

Fr Geoff



ARE YOU OK?

**Don't forget to stay connected.
Here is our LINK to our Mass Services**

<https://www.belindajanevideo.com/client-video/st-macartans-catholic-mass/>

On this page there is a link at the top of the page called Client Videos - When you click on this, in the list displayed you will find, "St Macartan's Catholic Mass", where you will find all previous Masses to watch at anytime, just in case you've missed one.

EXPLORING THE GOSPEL

This weeks gospel is one of transformation. The fear of the disciples, locked in their upper room and huddled in upon themselves, is transformed by the gift of peace that Jesus brings and his giving of the Spirit to strengthen them on their way. The doubt of Thomas is transformed by his encounter with the risen Lord. With this transformation, however, comes responsibility. Just as Jesus was sent by the Father, now, too, the disciples are sent into the world to act as Jesus did.

- You could discuss the concluding rite of the liturgy and how we are sent out into the world to continue Christ's mission.

When Thomas is told by his companions that they have seen Jesus, he places his own conditions on faith. He will not believe unless he sees and touches Jesus. Jesus must fulfill the expectations that Thomas has!

- Are there times when we expect God to act as we wish rather than being open to the presence of the risen Christ in unexpected ways?
- What does the peace of Christ mean to believers today?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

(Opportunities for group discussion and personal prayer)

- 'The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord.' What have been your feelings since the events of last week?
- 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' This is addressed to you! How will you nourish that belief in the future?
- How do you understand 'life in his name'?
- What does 'the peace of Christ' evoke for you now?
- Share experiences of doubt you have had in your life: times when you doubted the love of another or doubted your own abilities. What drove doubt away? How was doubt driven out for you by the events of the Easter Vigil? Share your reflections.
- Look for ways in which a simple gesture of touch can convey friendship, compassion or support this week.
- Repeat St Thomas' acclamation of faith this week: My Lord and my God.

A prayer for healing:

*Lord of Heaven,
I rest underneath your mighty wings of love.
I dwell within your gentle heart.
I know there is healing in your touch.
Through the sufferings of Christ
I can ask for restoration.
And trust in your goodness.
You are my Lord, my Saviour,
My healer and my friend.
I dwell within your gentle embrace.
Amen
Blessings: Fr. Geoff*

PROJECT COMPASSION

Due to the suspension of Masses, could we please ask you to hold onto your boxes until Masses resume.

However if you wish to donate now, you can do so by -

Credit Card—go online at “lent.caritas.org.au”

Send a Cheque to Caritas Australia GPO Box 9830 Sydney NSW 2001

Online transfer –Caritas Aus BSB:062-217 A/C No 1007 2446 REF Donor IDPC

You can find out more at <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion> or ring - **1800 024 413**



Deepest Sympathy

We wish to pass on our sincere condolences to the families of John Calway and Michael Dowling in the recent passing of their loved ones.

Please remember them in your prayers.

Reflection

Have you ever thought we are living in an historical time? In centuries to come they will be speaking of the 20's not the 1920's, but the 2020's, talking about the time the world shared a common foe! By the name of COVID-19. Where early in the diseases worldwide spread, the only preventive measure was cleanliness of hands and social distancing. In other-words; staying pure and avoiding evil, and, as we know, it requires ALL to participate, ALL working together, being obedient to the same rules and above all else, to consider others around us who are weaker and more vulnerable, so as all of Humanity is safe. Well, if you didn't know we were speaking about a medical condition, a virus; you may think we were speaking about sin and evil. Where, as Christians, we are ALL asked to follow the truth, avoiding sin/evil, keeping pure/clean and always looking out for others first.

During this pandemic, I have spent time reflecting on many things and some are quite prophetic for this time and are also very historic:

"The body of Christ, or the people that are the whole of humanity, are a team. The body is not supported by one person, but by all of us. We are one, we are strongest working together in unity. Teamwork is the key to living life in harmony, so that we can do God's will. ("1Cor12:14-).

"If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us." (Blessed John Henry Newman)

Stay safe and keep praying.
We are all part of God's plan - Fr Geoff

A Penitential Liturgy @ Home
LORD LET YOUR MERCY BE ON US, AS WE PLACE OUR TRUST IN YOU

As we approach the last days of Lent during Holy Week, the sacrament of penance is usually embraced as a fitting conclusion to the penitential season of Lent. It offers the opportunity to enter into the paschal mystery with a heart and mind renewed. In this unprecedented time of the coronavirus - with the usual parish gatherings for the Second Rite of Penance (communal prayer and individual absolution) being cancelled, and with no published times of the First Rite (individual reconciliation) - the celebration of reconciliation has not been possible for most. We offer this opportunity to come together in prayer, in and through the Holy Spirit, to experience Jesus' ministry of healing and salvation. This liturgy is not an alternative to the sacrament but does include the key components of the celebration of reconciliation. Inviting us to sit honestly with our God, it weaves together Scripture from the weeks of Lent, reflection on our lives, and prayer, allowing God's loving mercy and compassion to surround us.

You will need:
a quiet, comfortable space
a prayer table with a crucifix or cross, candle and/or other appropriate symbols
a smartphone, laptop or tablet to play music.

PREPARE: Allow for a few moments of silence, taking three deep breaths to calm and quieten yourself. Once you are ready, begin with the sign of the cross.

LISTEN: Listen to the song i.e. 'Return to God' or 'Hold us in your mercy'.

PRAY: Good and loving God, source of every grace and blessing, We place ourselves before you, for you care for us deeply.

READ AND RESPOND:

'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' - Matthew 4:10

I take a moment to bring to mind when:

I have neglected to praise and thank our God

I have not put our faith into action and service.

With the psalmist, we pray: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

'This is my Son, the beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' - Matthew 17:5

I take a moment to bring to mind when:

I have not made time to listen to our God

I have chosen not to follow the words and actions of Jesus.

With the psalmist we pray: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

'...the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside, welling up to eternal life.' - John 4:14

I take a moment to bring to mind when:

I have thirsted after things that could not satisfy

I have ignored the offer of living water, instead holding onto past hurts, disappointment or shame
and leaving no room for the spring of your love.

With the psalmist we pray: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

'Do you believe in the Son of Man? ... You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' - John 6:27

9:35, 37 I take a moment to bring to mind when:

I have denied knowing you

I have grown indifferent to your presence.

With the psalmist we pray: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

A Penitential Liturgy @ Home - **Continued**

'Lord, come and see.' - John 11:34
I take a moment to bring to mind when:
I have not invited you into my life
I have chosen to ignore your gift of love and friendship.
With the psalmist we pray: With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' - Matthew 27:46
I take a moment to bring to mind when:
I have failed to trust in your presence
I have lost hope in your love.
With the psalmist we pray: You who fear the Lord give him praise; you children of Jacob, give him glory.

Sit in silent prayer for as long as needed. Allow the movement of your heart to respond to Gods invitation.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, the Father sent you to remind us of who we are,
God's daughters and sons.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you are the way, the truth and the life.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you breathe the gift of the Spirit on us.
Lord, have mercy.
Good and loving God, you have assured us of your faithfulness and love.
We thank you for looking on us with eyes of compassion.
Fill our hearts with new love for you and each other.
Give us the courage to grow more like your Son in word and action.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Pray the Our Father ...

ACT OF PENANCE

Turning our heart towards God - as a sign of our conversion and our love for others - we seek to express our regret in a concrete way. Perhaps this might take the form of generous giving through Project Compassion, correspondence with someone alone or sick, or some other work of love and generosity.

Once the crisis and restrictions cease, you are encouraged to seek out the sacrament of reconciliation. This liturgy is not an alternative to the sacrament but simply an opportunity for prayerful personal reflection and a response to God.

BLESSING

Make the sign of the cross as you pray: May the Lord bless and keep me, may God's face shine on me, and may God's peace be in my heart. Amen.