

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year A, 17th May 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

CHANGE TO PARISH MASS ON LINE

For several weeks we have been using a Videographer, Belinda Jane Videos Inc and they have been exceptional, but they were only ever to be an interim measure until we, as a Parish, could find an alternate, more permanent and more cost effective way.

Today's Mass On Line will now be found on the Parish's new YouTube page (Ctrl and enter) on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOppts0Fw/videos>

Also view our Parish website:

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

Mass Intentions: Masses were recently offered for:

- Geoff McNiece
- Gwendoline Mary Herbstreit

Parish Child Safety Officer: Carmel McGrath 0400 076 067.

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

Email: stmacshighspirits@gmail.com

Parish Caretaker & Memorial Wall: John Spaziani: 0419 598 911

Music & Wedding Co-Ordinator-

Veronica Ryan 5975 6981/ 0418 358 213.

Marriage & Counselling: Charmaine Holmes:
5977 2567

Marriage Preparation: See Fr Geoff

Baptism Preparation: Kathy Raccanello

Next Baptismal Meeting — Suspended

Recently Deceased: Gwendoline Mary Herbstreit*Mass Intentions*

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Graham Oliver, Laura Castelow, Julie Nash, Margaret O'Connor, Jay Keogh, Sophie Davidsen, Cinzia Caboche, Robert Warne, Dean Pratt, Trent Wilkinson, Esma Murphy, Kate Maree Ayoub (Tunks) Frances McLean, Richard Meech, Colleen, 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, Joseph Aquilina, Helen & Denis Chambers, Mark Allan, Lucas Pingiaro, Fernando Pineda, Jim Kershaw (NZ), Maureen Spargo, Tony Formosa, John Mahony, Terry Smyth and Michael Nicolaou.

First Reading Acts 8:5-8. 14-17**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise. Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R.)

'Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. (R.)

Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:15-18**A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:15-21**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

Communion Antiphon Cf. Jn, 14:1,5-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Paraclete

The Greek word, paraklētos, is translated into a number of different terms in English translations of the gospel. Its technical use was for a lawyer or attorney. However, its use in scripture is like the broader meaning of advocate that we use today: someone who stands up for another; someone who speaks up for another; someone who intercedes on behalf of another. An advocate is one who lends strength and support to someone who is disempowered. That is exactly what Jesus did for many people during his ministry and it is also what the Holy Spirit is sent to do.

EXPLORING THE WORD

Today's Gospel again alerts the disciples to that time when Jesus will no longer be with them. His departure will be a severe challenge to their faith, and Jesus gives voice to the challenge: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments.' This challenging call to follow the commandments of Jesus is accompanied by a gift - the gift of someone else, the advocate, who will be by their side during that interim period between the two comings. Jesus does promise to return, and in the meantime, his presence, and that of the Father, lives on in the love that is to be the way of life of the Christian. The Holy Spirit is not a thing apart from God and Jesus but the bond of love between them, and the believer is drawn into this love and becomes a part of it through living the way of Christ. Through the Spirit, Jesus remains forever present to the church, and all Christians are brought into the very life of God. Contemplate the ways you experience the life and love of the Spirit of God in the world:

- in nature and human relationships
- in society
- in personal prayer
- in the church and its liturgy

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Opportunities for discussion and personal prayer

- When have you felt abandoned or left behind?
- What, for you, are the key commandments of Jesus?
- Who have been those people who have helped you through difficult times?
- Recall an experience of being supported by someone in a time of critical need. Share your memories of what form that support took and the impact it had on you.
- Be 'life-giving' to someone this week. Be an advocate, a counsellor or comforter to someone in need.
- Pray to the Holy Spirit this week:
Come Holy Spirit, renew me with your gifts. Heal my brokenness, pour down your wisdom.
Instil your peace within me, inspire my every need.
Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Some translations of the Bible use the word paraclete instead of advocate; others use the word counsellor or comforter.
- In John's Gospel, the Holy Spirit continues the work of Jesus himself (14:17, 26), recalling things the earthly Jesus taught or revealing things he was unable to convey. In John's view, this spiritual knowledge or insight, unavailable until after Jesus' death and resurrection, makes Christian faith and understanding fully possible

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

Parish Social Justice Group
BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKERS' PROJECT

BASP - Committed Courageous Compassionate

Please keep in mind our obligations to others especially this cause.

Think About it -- Donations are always welcome.

COVID-19
THINGS WE MUST STILL DO!

COVID-19 will be around until there is a vaccine, so keep social distancing wherever you are and whomever you are with. Keep hand washing/sanitising and avoid touching ones face.

Remember, that if you are showing any signs or have any symptoms of a cold or flu, stay isolated and schedule a visit to your Doctor. I'm sure no one of us wants to be responsible for carrying COVID - 19 to anyone, or receive it from anyone.

Some people have told me, they believe, these restrictions are an over-reaction, that COVID-19 is just like any virus. Unfortunately, they are very wrong!

300,000 deaths worldwide are testimony to that and more people are still dying!

If we disregard our own responsibilities in this pandemic, we could be a risk to others.

So, why I am reinforcing this? Because some restrictions have been lifted and we are now allowed to do some other activities but it is all **DEPENDANT** on each one of us doing the right thing.

Below I have copied what we as a Parish can now do. Based on our commitment as a Parish in doing these and what support I receive in organising, scheduling and monitoring - some activities may resume?

If there is not enough support now, then we may not be prepared for when further restrictions are eased in the coming weeks/months,

So please have a read, below. I will be meeting with the Parish pastoral Council this week to discuss implementing new measures. There will be temporary changes, which we must live with for the time being.

Regards - Fr Geoff

UDPDATE: GENERAL GUIDELINES COVID-19
Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

In response to the recent announcement of changes to access for churches and places of worship, the Archbishop has approved the following guidelines for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The guidelines aim to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Changes come in to effect as of **11.59pm, Tuesday 12 May 2020.**

Four key points to note

In relation to the latest directives announced by Government, there are four key points that directly affect churches, places of worship and liturgical celebrations and ceremonies held within.

1. All churches and places of worship may be opened for pre-arranged worship, small religious ceremonies or scheduled private worship times, subject to a number of conditions and to the decision of their Pastor.
2. Multiple liturgical celebrations or ceremonies can be held on the same day and may be determined at the decision of the Pastor and by the capabilities of each individual Parish to meet all the required conditions.
3. Prayer groups can be held in people's homes (and in churches) subject to a number of conditions.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can be celebrated with new changes to numbers of attendees, and again subject to a number of conditions.

In general, conditions require:

- No more than 10 attendees in the Church at any one time outside those required to enable the service. (Weddings and Funerals excepted);
- Clear signage around service schedules, social distancing and hygiene requirements;
- Availability of sanitiser and disinfectant wipes, and safe disposal sites;
- Churches to be cleaned after a scheduled service or opening;
- Maintenance of 1.5m of separation and planned entry and exit pathways;
- All attendees to provide contact details.

Note:

The four square metre rule, which limits the number of people who can be in a building, applies at all times. This is not about distancing between people (which is 1.5m) but is about building capacity. A space can only allow 1 person per 4 square metres. This pertains particularly to a Funeral, but possibly a Wedding or Baptism, where a larger number of attendees and those enabling the liturgy to run may be present.

Also, CONTACT DETAILS are required for all attendees at Masses or ceremonies – and must include: First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship.

From the Archbishop's Office

What can my Parish do?

Points to consider in determining in how your Parish might be able to move into new Stages of re-opening.

With churches being permitted to open for Masses and liturgies (under strict number and hygiene limitations), Parishes must clearly assess whether they have the resources available to move forward. Each Parish situation will differ as they determine their capabilities to meet the needs of their people in their own locality.

Please also consider maintaining your livestreaming where possible. This has been an important point of contact and spiritual resource for people, and will continue to assist the housebound, vulnerable and those who do not feel comfortable in returning to public spaces at the current time.

The major points for consideration are:

☐ Ability to determine limited numbers – booking attendance:

- How will your parish determine the 10 permissible attendees;
- How will you capture the contact details required of every person that enters the building under the specific guidelines which require First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship;
- How will you store and keep that information;
- Parishes will need to determine how they take in bookings for the 10 allocated attendees per Mass. This will be very difficult especially for larger communities;
- Some suggestions have been put forward: Use TryBooking or Calendly;
- As an example – the booking for weekday Masses might open 9am-6pm the day before. By closing off the booking the night before, you or your team will know who to expect;
- All requirements regarding collecting names and details can be managed through a booking system like Trybooking or Calendly;

☐ Pre-arranged/scheduled Masses and liturgies:

- The Archbishop will be issuing a decreed dispensation to allow Clergy to say extra Masses per day, until the end of May, to assist in providing further opportunities for the faithful to attend. This permission should only be exercised depending on local circumstances and capabilities to manage distancing and hygiene precautionary requirements. The faithful may only attend one Mass per day.
- Smaller Parishes who can accommodate their faithful easily may wish to be in conversation with neighbouring larger parishes to see how they can support their communities;
- Scheduling extra Masses needs to be carefully worked out to meet the hour cleaning gap between liturgical celebrations– and allowing windows for weekday funerals;

☐ Liturgical options:

You may wish to consider the following as options for the faithful to attend:

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - perhaps held in conjunction with Confession and with monitored time-limits for those present (meeting the 10 people per attendance) and maintaining an hour space between other ceremonies to enable cleaning of all pews and other surfaces;
- First Rite of Reconciliation;
- Liturgy of the Word

? Individual Private Prayer:

- Churches may be opened for scheduled times of Individual Private Prayer. Only 10 members of the public may be present, in addition person/s reasonably required to conduct the space may also be present. All distancing and hygiene measures must be in place including floor and outdoor signage to prevent people congregating or waiting in queues.
- Making Private Prayer available will require door monitoring to check how many people are present at any one time, and communicating a workable and nominal length of time that people should spend in prayer (to allow others the opportunity to partake).
- Contact details must be taken as per regulations: First Name, contact number, time in attendance.

? Hygiene precautionary measures - resources and capability to monitor and guide worship behaviours:

- Clear and frequent signage must be visible at all times and should include the limit of permissible numbers in attendance, social distancing reminders, hygiene, where people can sit, how they enter and exit the building, and where they may wait for communion etc.
- An attendance register needs to record: first name. contact number, date and time of attendance (this is to ensure contact can be tracked).
- Opening a venue requires attention to detail to prevent people gathering closely and avoiding face-to-face confrontation of less than 1.5m. (3m if they are singing). Marking of distance in aisles and seating points in pews. (households can sit together but all others must be spaced);
- There is a need to sanitise all touchpoints between liturgical celebrations. This means disinfectant wiping of door handles, hand rails, light switches, Lectionary, Missal, Cruets, Sacred Vessels, pens and attendance register, top and front edges of seats or pews. Between every celebration;
- At least 60 mins space between liturgical celebrations to enable cleaning and to ensure the next group don't run into the last group;
- Collection plates cannot be passed. (suggest collection baskets on a table and people approach (suitably distanced) and return to their seat as would be done for communion);
- One only entry and separate exits, with traffic flow clearly defined. Clear arrows on floor denoting direction of travel. Markings stating no entry at the exits and no exit at the entrance. Opportunity for hand sanitising if possible;
- All Parishes should purchase a Sneeze-Guard (as seen in retail outlets) to provide hygiene protection in Confessionals;
- No hymn books but bulletins would be fine if they are 'one use.' Signage must clearly indicate that they should be taken home;
- Must be highly visible sanitising stations and disposal areas, and a monitored supply of sanitising supplies.

So are you all very confused yet?

Let me summarise and share with you some simple steps that have already been done and must be done before we consider anything.

What are we at St Macartan's planning to do?

Hello everyone,

Yes it is a good sign that we can now start to look at getting back to worshipping together, hence, be it in a different way a - New Normal, people are saying.

These are things I have already put in place:



- Every second pew has got barrier tape preventing any use.
- All pews can only have three (3) adults per pew, seated one in middle and one either end (excluding children).
- To fit within the 4sq metre rule per person. I have calculated the area of both ground floor sitting areas. Our church, in total, can accommodate up to 100 people.
- The upstairs sitting area of the Church will be off-limits.
- There will be only One door open to ENTER the Church and One separate door open to EXIT the Church. There will be signage in place.
- Tables will be at all doors with hand sanitiser bottles, where everyone who enters and leaves must use.
- Extra hand sanitizers has been purchased.
- Surface disinfectant is to be used on all contact surfaces in the Church after each event by assigned volunteers.
- Two attendance counting machines have been purchased.
- There will be sign-in books at the entrance door where everybody who enters the church must fill in their contact details (no exceptions). Volunteers will be at the door to ensure people sign in, use the sanitising stations and are counted in.
- Hand sanitisation stations and sign-in books will also be set-up in the Community House and Hall.
- Church cleaning and sanitizing will be increased.
- No Masses or any events are scheduled to begin until I have met with the Parish Council and have teams available to Monitor, control and support every activity. I am meeting with the Parish Council this week.

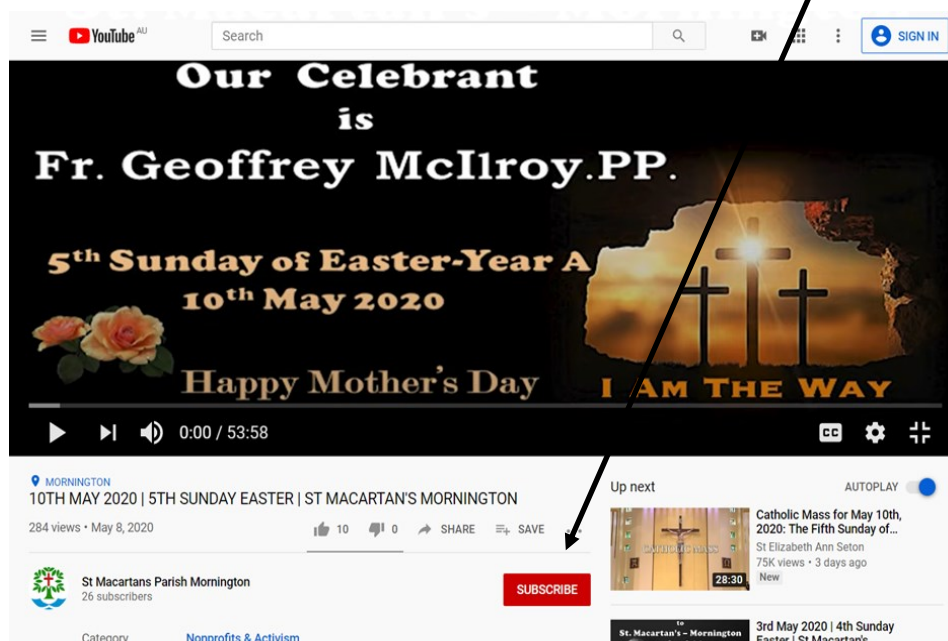
So for now - Nothing will change, but by next week I hope to have better news.

Blessings to you all - Fr Geoff

St Macartans YouTube Mass

Fr Geoff is continuing to do an amazing job bringing the Mass to our homes during this very different time.

The St Macartan's YouTube Chanel is our new way of viewing the Mass and if we can increase our subscribers this will enable us to get more benefits from YouTube. Please subscribe by selecting the red 'SUBSCRIBE' button below and then entering your e-mail address.



Deepest Sympathy

We wish to pass on our sincere condolences to Trish and Graham Thomas and their family on the recent passing of their loved ones, Gwendoline Mary Herbstreit.

Please remember her in your prayers.

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**