

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:

- St Macartan's Parish

Upcoming Holy Days:

- Mon 25th Our Lady, Help of Christians
- Tue 26th St Philip Neri, Priest
- Sun 31st Pentecost

Baptism: 1st&3rd Sunday 12pm Max of 10 people inc Child/Children to be baptised.

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 — 4th June via Zoom, please contact office to book.

Recently Deceased: Edimir, (Eddy) Suric

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, Michael Nicolaou and Torquil Hansen

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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

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

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.)

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

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 first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.'

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.

EXPLORING THE WORD

The feast of the Ascension celebrates the physical separation of Jesus from the human story, but this text promises his continual presence 'to the end of time'. After three years of living, working and praying with the disciples, Jesus commissions them to continue his work in the world. This is a difficult challenge for some of the disciples who, although prepared to go to the appointed place, still hesitate! Despite their misgivings and fragile faith, he sends them out to all nations. Jesus has been given the authority that was once the exclusive domain of the God of Israel; Jesus has become the presence of the living God, and his presence will continue with his disciples through the Holy Spirit.

- Despite this affirmation from Jesus of his continued presence, the disciples at this point had no idea what would happen next. Reflect for a time of how they may have felt. What did happen next?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Opportunities for discussion and personal prayer

- 'Know that I am with you always.' In what ways do you sense the presence of Jesus in yourself, in the church and in the world?
- 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.' How do you see your role in this great work of the church? How can you bring the life of Christ to others?
- As you near the completion of your time with the RCIA, recall what it was that first drew you to wanting to become a disciple of Jesus. Share your reflections on how you now feel about your decision. Reflect on your way forward in the life of faith.
- Give witness to your faith this week by living the way of Christ: do not judge others, act with humility, respond to the needs of others, pray often.
- 'Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.' Memorise this verse to help you in times of doubt or distress

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Ascension of Jesus is described only in the Book of Acts (1:2–11), although there is a shorter version in Luke's Gospel. There are also allusions to the event elsewhere in the New Testament (such as John 6:62, or Ephesians 4:8–10).
- In Matthew's Gospel, many of the important moments of Jesus' life are located on mountaintops: his temptation, his transfiguration, the great teaching of the 'Sermon on the Mount' and now this final instruction to his disciples. In this way, Matthew draws parallels with Moses, the great leader and lawgiver who encountered God on the mountaintop.
- Matthew shows Jesus as fulfilling and extending the teaching of Moses. Whereas the law had been for the people of Israel, Jesus sends his disciples to all nations; whereas the Jewish people had faith in the name of God, yhwh, Jesus sends his disciples to baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit

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 GET USE TO DOING

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.

Also, at the entrance of the Church, Community Centre and Hall, are hand sanitisers and sign in books, which All who enter these premises must use. At the end of each activity, someone will be responsible for sanitising the contact surfaces. The Church will have only one entrance and separate exit available.

Regards - Fr Geoff

CHILD SAFETY

Dear St Macartan's Parishioners,

My role as Child Safety Officer and the role of the Child Safety Committee Chair, is to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are safe and protected whilst on Parish Property or attending a parish run event.

Our focus at present is to finalise the St Macartan's Child Safety Policy which, once approved will be available on the St Macartan's website.

An important requirement in the policy is that all leaders, teachers and volunteers possess a Working with Children certificate and a Police Check which is to be registered in a Parish Data Base. To assist with this requirement if you come into contact with children at St Macartan's Parish could you please check the status of your WWC certificate, download the St Macartan's Code of Conduct from the St Macartan's website or collect from office, sign & return to Parish office either by post, email or person.

Thank you for your much appreciated contribution to the parish community which has been extremely challenged during this time.

Yours sincerely Carmel McGrath
St Macartan's Child Safety Officer

COVID-19 restrictions - What is next for us at St Macartan's?

Hello everyone,

Last week, I gave you all the facts and available options from the Government and permissions from the Archdiocese. I have heard many people re-tell me their own versions and interpretations, based on what they have heard or seen happening in other Parishes.

First of all, the Archdiocese permission to relax restrictions and there timely implementation, is up to the Parish Priest of each Parish. As each Parish has different levels of support and different numbers of active parishioners.

An example would be - A Parish that only gets a handful of parishioners per weekday Masses, can easily open their doors to weekday Mass and still comply to the 10 person per Mass rule. Or a Parish that decides to open for weekday or weekend Mass and restrict it to 10 people, may have someone at the door locking it after 10 people. Turning others away!

At St Macartan's we (on average), have 40 people attending weekday Mass and over 720 attending our 4 Sunday Masses. So opening for 10 people only, is impracticable and unfair. The same with opening for only 20 people. But when rules allow 50 people, I will reopen for weekday Masses. When we are allowed 100 people, I will reopen for Sunday Masses with 'possibly,' a book in system operating? This may mean you might only get to physically attend every 2nd Sunday Mass.

Our State Premier Daniel Andrews, announced the following - Remember these numbers are for people allowed in Cafes, which, I hope will transfer into worship service numbers:

- 1st June: 20 people allowed in Cafes
- 22nd June: 50 people allowed in Cafes (I hope to open Church for weekday Masses)
- Mid July: 100 people allowed in Cafes (I hope to open Church for ALL Masses)

So things have changed and will continue to do so, as restrictions slowly get relaxed. Please be patient, as there are a myriad of things that have to be put in place behind the scenes, to ensure compliance to the ever changing rules.

ALLOWED TO RESTART - IMMEDIATELY

- Monday night Rosary Group of 10 or less, meeting in the Church.
- Tuesday night St John's Gospel Bible study group of 10 or less, meeting in Hall.
- Reconciliation - By booking in through the office (Max 10 each time).
- Baptisms - By booking in through Parish office (one family of less than 10 per week)
- Baptism preparation classes - via zoom. Call Parish office.
- Flower delivery and flower arrangers - Coordinate through Fr Geoff
- Church cleaning roster - Coordinate through Fr Geoff
- Mass readers roster (Sunday video Mass only).

Blessings to you all and keep praying - Fr Geoff

SCHOOL NEWS

St Macartan's Primary School

What's happening re: COVID-19 at our School?

The return to school will take place in two stages.

This will give the Victorian Chief Health Officer and Government time to monitor and evaluate the effects that the staged return to school has on the increased movement of people and transmission within the community.

Schools will begin a staged return from remote and distance learning as follows:

Stage 1 Monday 25 May 2020 - Pupil free day to enable the planning necessary to ensure the successful transition back to school can be completed. Tuesday 26 May 2020 – Prep, Year 1 and 2 children return to school. Remote and distance learning will continue for the students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. During Stage 1, the existing model of onsite schooling for students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children will remain in place.

Stage 2 Tuesday 9 June 2020 – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 return to school. All students will attend school as normal from Tuesday 9 June 2020.

School will "look different" from what students, parents and staff were used to. St Macartan's is focused on the very important role in both protecting the health of our students and staff, and in supporting broader efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19.

I really want to express my gratitude to Principal Colleen McGreal and her leadership team, who have been magnificent in leading the school through this Covid-19 crisis.

Also to you parents; your support and encouragement has, I know, meant a lot to them. I have been very impressed with the schools efforts to always seek out the best ways to continue teaching your children, even though, it sometimes meant extra pressure and work done behind the scenes by many teachers.

Importantly too, were their decisions and courses of actions that were based on best health advice, to protect your children.

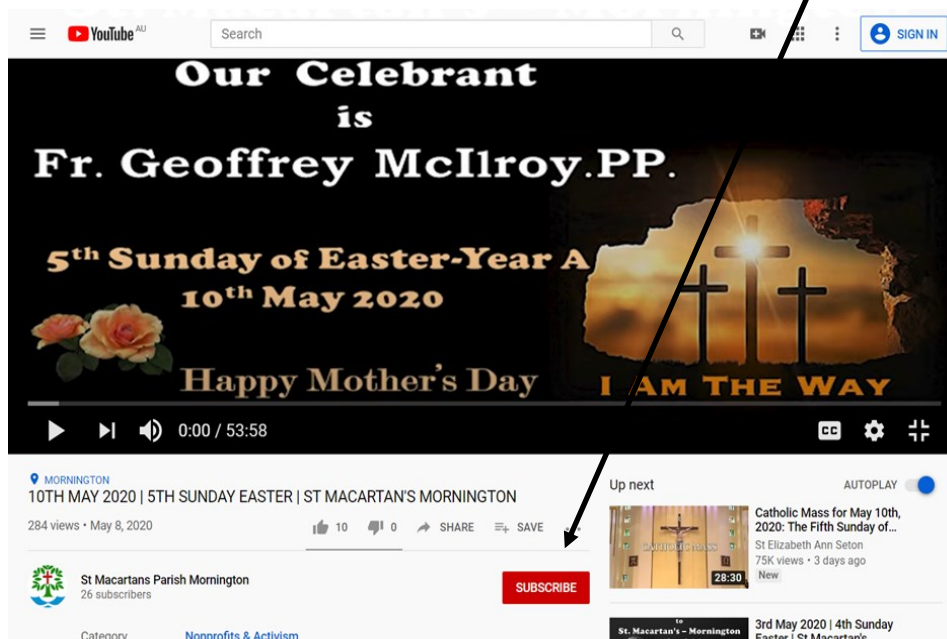
Well done to all involved at St Macartan's Primary School
What a magnificent part of the Parish.

Blessings
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 the family of Eddy Suric, on the recent passing of their loved one.

Please remember him 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**