

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

Today's Mass On Line found on Parish's YouTube page: (Ctrl and enter) on this link:

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

Also view our Parish website:

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

Due to COVID-19 restrictions

**NO SUNDAY or SATURDAY NIGHT
MASSES**

(Until further notice)

WEEKDAY MASSES - YES

(Under review - see how we cope with 20)

Upcoming Holy Days:

- Mon 29th: SS Peter and Paul Apostles
- Fri 3rd: St Thomas Apostle

Baptism: 1st&3rd Sunday 12pm

Max of 20 people inc Child/Children to be baptised. (x1 Family per ceremony)

Minister Unto God Prayer Group:

Tuesdays at 10am in Hall.

Mary's Immaculate heart prayers Cene-

acle: Tues 1.30-2.30pm in Community Centre.

Legion of Mary: Wed 10-12noon C/Centre.

Parish Child Safety Officer: Carmel McGrath 0400 076 067

Email: Mornington.childsafety@cam.org.au

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 - 5th August via Zoom, please contact office to book.

Anniversaries: Sarah Fordyce

Mass Intentions

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Janet Smyth, 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, Torquil Hansen and John Spaziani.

First Reading 2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

A reading from the second book of the Kings

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted:

for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation 1 Pt 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 10:37-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

Communion Antiphon Jn 17:20-21

O Father, I pray for them, that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you have sent me, says the Lord.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion Boxes can now be brought back to the Church during the weekday Masses - Or take them to the Presbytery.
Please hand them to Fr Geoff.

Thank you for your support.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

A cup of cold water

Jesus says, 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water' to a disciple spreading the gospel, then their ultimate reward is assured. To give 'a cup of cold water' or 'a cold drink' to another person was the most basic act of hospitality or service. It is a metaphor for doing the absolute least service to another. Jesus is saying that even the most trivial act of service that recognises the work of the disciple will be welcomed and acknowledged. It suggests that 'practical loving kindness' is both the test and the result of discipleship.

EXPLORING THE WORD

To follow Jesus means putting other important relationships second. It means taking up the cross and perhaps facing the same fate that Jesus met—persecution, suffering, death—but remaining faithful leads to eternal life. In ancient times, a person's agent was seen to be the person themselves, and here Jesus is giving great dignity to the apostolate of following him by saying it derives from the Father himself through Jesus. In the Scriptures, a prophet is a person who speaks for God. To be a prophet, one must have a very clear understanding of what God wants, and the task is to transmit that message to the people. There are many instances of the people rejecting the message of the prophets.

Some scholars translate 'holy man' as 'just man' or someone who does the will of God. To recognise and welcome the truth is to be a disciple. The cost of discipleship may be high but the rewards are great.

- Tell stories of biblical characters and what it cost them to respond to God's will—for example, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jonah, Mary the mother of Jesus.
- Discuss modern figures who have paid a high price for their faith, such as Oscar Romero, Maximillian Kolbe and so on.

DID YOU KNOW?

- At the time Matthew's Gospel was being written, Jewish families were being literally split by those who were making the decision to move away from traditional Jewish beliefs and follow Christ.
- Even though family relationships are vitally important, 'the first vocation of a Christian is to follow Christ'

SHARING THE TRADITION

A closer look at the Scripture of the day, to see how it makes more explicit God's word to us through the teachings of Jesus Christ For the first three centuries of the Christian era, to be initiated by baptism into the new, spiritual family of Christ was to risk one's life. Christianity was a minority religion in a predominantly pagan world. At various stages, persecutions were carried out against Christians. To remain faithful at such times was very difficult, and those who chose Christ were strong indeed. After the Emperor Constantine was converted early in the fourth century, Christianity became the state religion of the Roman Empire. People flocked to be converted, not always for the right reasons. Numbers grew rapidly and the church spread and blossomed. With the gains in number, however, came the possibility of a loss in quality of conviction. Were people really as committed to following Jesus as those earlier, persecuted Christians had been? The modern western world is a very secularised place, where God has been replaced in some people's hearts by other gods —the quest for profit, individualism, consumerism. Pope John Paul II referred to these things as a 'new idolatry'. Numbers of practising Catholics are reducing in many Western countries, and we may become a minority again. Today many Christians face persecution of a different kind.

- Discuss ways in which people of faith are persecuted today in Western society.
- In some areas of the Middle East, persecution of minority Christians is rife and the cause of much suffering.
- Does the media have a role to play in this? In what way?
- What are some challenges you see in your parish or local area?
- The first Sunday of July is named by the Australian Bishop's as National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. You could reflect on the burdens and struggle which the Aboriginal people have undergone since settlement and seek ways to further the Reconciliation movement.

Is there anything you would like to do as a Parish - Let me know?

I am in favour of a strong Social Justice voice in the Parish. We have a Parish Social Justice committee, why not consider joining it?

So as the Parish can benefit from an insightful perspective of Social Justice issues.

Fr Geoff

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

Hello everyone,

We are all aware of the seriousness of COVID-19 and the efforts to control its spread, which I commend the Andrews Government in doing as effectively as they already have. However, things don't always go to plan and because of the ever present risk of an outbreak and the speed by which this virus spreads, we have been asked to remain at restrictions of 20 people. But it is wrong to blame anyone. I'm sure the Government is just as disappointed as we all are, that restrictions couldn't be eased yet.

I had always planned to open weekday Masses when we were allowed to have 50 people, thus we wouldn't need to turn any away. That was to begin this week and even though we are to remain at 20 people, we have begun opening for weekday Masses and will continue to do so, as long as we can manage it and do not have to turn too many away. So, if you do come to weekday Mass and you are not allowed in, please do not attack or blame the person at the door, as they are only doing what we as a Church have been told we have to do. But if it becomes unmanageable, then we may have to look at possibly offering more Masses?

As announced last week, we did plan for 50 people at weekend Masses. We had started taking bookings and these filled pretty quickly. Then we had to notify some, already booked, that the restrictions had gone back to 20, so their booking was cancelled. The office received over 130 phone calls and unfortunately some people were quite irate! This is NO ONE'S FAULT! This is a pandemic, which the whole World is suffering from and **restrictions are there for all our benefits**. Consider if you will, the 103 Australians who have died from it - *there but for the grace of God go I*.

So, I am sorry for trying to reopen as soon as we could, maybe I should have waited? - *mea culpa*. But I will not tolerate rude individuals calling the office and taking it out on our Parish secretary. So, reluctantly, and I am truly disappointed, I have had to cancel our attempt to reopen for weekend Masses - We cannot fit 200+ people per Mass, into 20 seats! It was going to be hard enough into 50 seats.

I am aware of other Churches in our area are opening for weekend Masses but some only had 70-80 attending weekend Masses, so it's easier to book in for 20.

So, until further notice, weekend Masses will remain cancelled.

Our video Mass will continue and let's keep praying for these restrictions to be eased quickly.

And stay calm everyone - remember;
we are Christians and enduring suffering is part of our calling.

Fr Geoff

Spreading the Word

If you know of anyone who does not have e-mail or able to use a computer, as long as it is safe, maybe you could pass on a copy of the Bulletin, or let them know there is Mass on line, they may have family members that can access it for them.

Visitation Team

With the constant changing of Covid-19 restrictions it is difficult to know exactly when we can resume. We also have to keep in mind that our Nursing Homes and Aged Care facilities have to give us permission when we can resume visitation. There will be continued updates given as information comes to hand.
Thank you for your loyal service

COVID-19 - THINGS WE MUST GET USE TO DOING

SIMPLE - KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCING and WASH HANDS OFTEN!

**And,
if you are showing any signs or have any symptoms of a cold or flu,
stay isolated and schedule a visit to your Doctor.**

HIGH SPIRITS

(Catechism for State School children)

As with the Confirmation program, that has just ended, the proposed sacraments classes for 1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist may also be done via ZOOM Meetings? However, if restrictions are eased, then they will be in the Parish Community Centre, Tuesday nights from 4:30pm-6pm.

The proposed dates for these programs are:

First Reconciliation:

- July 14th information night

First Eucharist

- August 25th information night

To enroll your child or to get more details please email Faye at:

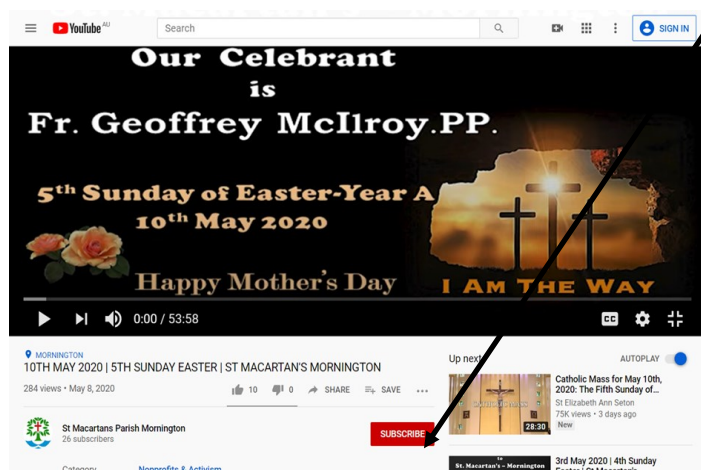
stmacshighspirits@gmail.com

PS - A volunteer assistant is needed.

St Macartans YouTube Mass

Fr Geoff is continuing to do an amazing job bringing the Mass to our homes during this very different time. **This will continue even when Masses resume.**

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. **DO NOT PURCHASE OR PAY**



Mens Night

"Greetings to all in isolation. We hope that you and your families are all fit and well. It will be some time before we can resume our monthly get together, so in the meantime remember the immortal words of Vera Lynn "We'll meet again , don't know where, don't know whenAnd that Social Distancing doesn't apply to the water of life !

Safe travelling The Three Amigos."

Church Cleaners

Could the volunteer Church cleaners please contact the office to provide us with your contact details so we can send you the new roster.

We are also looking for more volunteers to clean the Church on a rotating roster. Please contact the office on 5975 2200. thank you .

We also are looking for someone to take over the coordinating of the Cleaning Roster, please contact the office if you can help.

Parish Footy Tipping

In the past if a team could not play they forfeited the game. However in this strange year the AFL has other ideas---. So sorry Melbourne supporters Round 3 was full of surprises. Chooka Howell had a wonderful weekend and one thinks Father Geoff was also celebrating the great win by the Blues. Home ground advantage was not enough for the Cats. We have a new leader. He is LikeMisti on 19 (a well known Essendon supporter and has been a tipper since the start) He also converted his grandsons!! Well done.. Barry Murphy (18) in2nd. place and equal **3rd on 17 Terry Roberts and Tony McInerney**There are a number on **16.**

HISTORY Born in 1898 William McIlroy (closest spelling available) played for University in the VFL having come from Essendon (VFA) and Public Service FC. He played 3 games in 1913 as a 15/16 year old. Unfortunately 1914 start of WW1

