

**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](mailto:mornington@cam.org.au) **Web:** [stmacartansparish.com.au](http://stmacartansparish.com.au)

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy

**Parish Secretary:** Theresa Collard

**The Parable of the Sower**

**Matthew 13:1-9**

**MASS TIMES**

**Today's Mass** On Line found on Parish's 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/>

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions**

**NO SATURDAY NIGHT or SUNDAY  
MASSES**

*And No*

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

**Now Suspended for the next  
6 weeks**

*See details in bulletin*

**Baptisms: **SUSPENDED****

**All ministry PRAYER GROUPS:  
**SUSPENDED****

**Parish Child Safety Officer:** Carmel McGrath 0400 076 067

**Email:** [Mornington.childsafety@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:gpw611@bigpond.com)

**St Mac's High Spirits** - Faye Melhem  
Email: [stmacshighspirits@gmail.com](mailto: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:** Peter Henry McKenna and Mary Watt.

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.

**And especially for Ruben Pateman**

**First Reading** Is 55:10-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.**

You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.

Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. (R.)

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. (R.)

You crown the year with your goodness.

Abundance flows in our steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flock, the valleys are decked with wheat.

They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

**Second Reading** Rom 8:18-23

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

**Gospel Acclamation** Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

**Gospel** Mt 13:1-23**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

**Communion Antiphon** Jn 6:57

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

# LIVING GOSPEL

## Scatter that seed!

*The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that the ‘good soil’ can’t always be predicted. Jesus doesn’t tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest.*

## EXPLORING THE WORD

This parable would have had a great appeal to the rural population living on the fertile land around the Sea of Galilee. There, the gentle undulating hills are green and verdant, in sharp contrast to the desert wilderness of the southern part of the province of Judea around Jerusalem. In the longer version of today’s gospel, Jesus explains the meaning of the parable of the sower. The different soils represent different human responses to hearing the word of God. The message is that, despite some failures, the sower’s work ultimately succeeds. Not everyone is open to receiving the word and acting on it, but there is encouragement for those who allow the word to take root and bear fruit.

- Discuss some of the initiatives of your parish that have taken root and flourished.
- Have there been initiatives that have encountered obstacles and didn’t take root? Why?

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

Opportunities for discussion and personal prayer

- What are the rocks and thorns in our world that may cause the word of God to choke and wither? In the modern world, what are the things that make it difficult for the word of God to take root and flourish? How can believers ‘cultivate their soil’ to help the seed of faith grow? Share your reflections with others.
- Try to be ‘rich soil’ this week, not just for the word of God but also for those around you. Listen attentively to your family and work colleagues. Try to discern what God is saying to you in the events of everyday life.
- Say this prayer each day: *Lord, may the seed of your word fall into deep soil in me. May it not return to you without yielding its fruit in me.*

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- A parable is a simple human story with a profound meaning.
- Parables were a familiar way of teaching in the time of Jesus, and some images had established meanings. For example, a vineyard, sons or servants represented Israel, while a master, king or father represented God.
- Chapter 13 of Matthew's Gospel contains numerous parables describing the kingdom of heaven.
- Matthew's Gospel uses the term kingdom of heaven rather than kingdom of God because his audience is largely Jewish converts to Christianity, and the Jewish people avoid using the holy name.
- The Sea of Galilee is also known as Lake Gennesaret and as Lake Tiberias. Jesus' base for his preaching ministry in the region was at the town of Capernaum on the northern shores of the lake. Peter had a house in this town.
- Archaeological excavations in Capernaum have revealed a house that was revered from very early times as 'the house of Peter'.

### **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. The two major parts of the liturgy are known as the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. These are framed by an introductory and a concluding rite. The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from both the Hebrew Scriptures, sometimes called the Old Testament, and the Christian Scriptures, sometimes called the New Testament. The Hebrew Scriptures tell the story of God's calling of the people of Israel as his chosen people and details God's relationship with Israel through its long history. God makes a covenant with them, but with the covenant comes the obligation for the people to be faithful and to live justly. The Christian Scriptures contain four accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus (the gospels), an account of the establishment of the early church (the Acts of the Apostles), some letters of the early church and a book of visions (Revelation). This final book is a particular form of literature (apocalyptic) widely known in the first century bc and first century ad but badly misunderstood in the modern age. The church reads the 'Word of God' constantly so that members of every generation come to appreciate God's actions in history, know Jesus and reflect on the work of God in their own lives. The Scriptures are the presence of the living God among us and a rich source for our own prayer lives.

### **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**

Due to the increase in number of COVID19 cases in Victoria a number of Aged Care Facilities have again gone into lock down.  
There will be continued updates given as information comes to hand.

### **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)

### **BELOW - ALL SUSPENDED until further notice**

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](mailto:stmacshighspirits@gmail.com)**

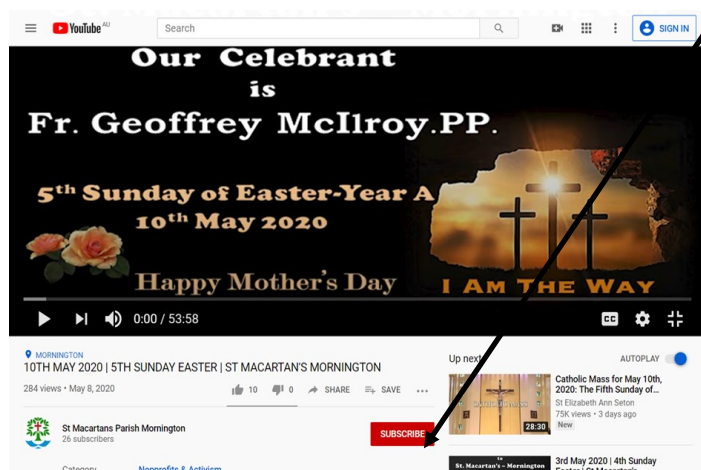
PS - A volunteer assistant is needed.



## 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 when ....And 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

Round 4 was completed and our top tipper was Myke Schultz. There is a crowded top with four tippers on 23, They are Myke Schultz, Barry Murphy, Carolyn Mierer, and Like Misti.. There are four closely on their heels. Lizzie and Judy S are performing well and are only 2 from the top spot. Once again some low scoring games and some exciting close finishes. Richmond supporters are living in the past but hope the virus will disappear and be replaced with better performances

HISTORY As we experience the cold weather let us look at the game played in snow in Canberra in 2019 between Hawthorn and GWS. Coach of Hawthorn forbade his players to wear long jumpers.. GWS scored no goals in the second half. The first game played in snow was in 1899 and another in Tasmania in 1948 where players had to stop playing to brush the snow off their boots.



## **COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE: 9th July 2020**

**Dear parishioners of St Macartan's,**

As you are aware, Metropolitan Melbourne is going back under lockdown. Metropolitan Melbourne is divided into 31 local government areas (LGAs).

Those LGAs are:

*Banyule, Hume, Moreland, Bayside, Kingston, **Mornington Peninsula**, Boroondara, Knox, Nillumbik, Brimbank, Manningham, Port Phillip, Cardinia, Maribyrnong, Stonnington, Casey, Maroondah, Whitehorse, Darebin, Melbourne, Whittlesea, Frankston, Melton, Wyndham, Glen Eira, Monash, Yarra, Greater Dandenong, Moonee Valley, Yarra Ranges and Hobsons Bay.*

So unfortunately, we are included in this lockdown – so what does that mean?

As of 11.59pm Wednesday 08 July 2020 the following will apply. If you live in the Melbourne metropolitan area and the Shire of Mitchell you must stay at home.

People may leave their home for four reasons:

1. Shopping for food or other essential items
2. To provide care giving, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
3. For exercise (outdoor exercise only, with only one other person or members of your household)
4. Work or study, only if you cannot work or study from home

PLEASE NOTE: The Government has indicated that police patrols will be present in the Hot Zone Postcode areas to restrict travel to the four reasons listed above

### **Additional restrictions have also been put in place:**

- Weddings will be limited to 5 people (the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant).
- Baptisms are **to be postponed** where possible, unless there is an urgent and grave pastoral need. (Can. 857; 860). In that instance, numbers will be limited to 5 people (the child, couple and godparents within the total of 5 limitations) + celebrant.
- Funerals will be restricted to 10 people plus those required to conduct the funeral.
- A wedding or funeral held in a private residence outside of a restricted postcode will be limited to five visitors, plus the celebrant.
- Religious services and private worship will need to be streamed online as places of worship will be closed except to hold weddings, funerals or public services such as foodbanks.
- For those liturgies permitted above, all density, number and hygiene regulations must be adhered to, including the recording of participant contact details (first name and phone number).

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Except for the exemptions noted regarding Weddings and Funerals, **all public Masses, Liturgies and communal devotions (whether indoors or outdoors) are temporarily suspended for 6 weeks or until further notice.**

Also affected by this closure are church buildings, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services.

Priests may celebrate Mass privately in a closed church, including for the purposes of live streaming. In doing so all precautions such as physical distancing and hygiene measures must be modelled and met.

Masses in family homes or other such private or domestic locations are not permitted until further notice.

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So, for us at St Macartan's, the church will be closed (no private worship and no masses). I am, however, allowed to, and will continue to do, the video Mass for Sunday.

As a Priest, closing the church goes against everything I have come to believe and profess but these are extraordinary circumstances. Who would ever have thought we would see the day when not only our own church was closed but not long ago, we saw the Pope close St Peters and all the Churches in Italy, but they did eventually re-open and we will too.

So yes, we are living in extraordinary times. Regardless of this, we will overcome!

It is during extraordinary times when we are asked to become extraordinary people. To show extraordinary patience, resilience, and cooperation. It's the time for 'fortitude – endurance from within to survive suffering. To some extent, we are all suffering hardship, whether it be physical, emotional and/or spiritual. But it is now when our faith needs to kick in. It is not the time for any "blame game", to point the finger or have unfair expectations of others. I am sure not one person, including myself, hasn't relaxed their own guard in this pandemic and to some extent become a little complacent. So let us again stay committed to this struggle we have been asked to endure, we have travelled this road before, so we know the way and through our faith we will endure.

#### Count our blessings:

When restrictions allowed, I had been visiting many of our nursing homes in the Parish and caught up with parishioners who had recently moved in there and others who had been residents for many years. It is lovely to see that some are now receiving the video mass and parish bulletin, as sadly, many hadn't had access to mass for many a year.

So, remember, there are many worse off than us, who have been coping for a lot longer than us. Their faith has not diminished but has strengthened their resolve to stay obedient in prayer and be grateful for all they have. Many now recognise, what they had and what they took for granted and have said to me they would love to have another chance at attending Mass – Which I'm working on.

So please all stay safe and stay at home for the next six weeks!      cont'd>>>>

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The Parish Office will again be closed but emails and any phone messages will be promptly answered.

If you get bored at home, why not try reading – Hey, how about the BIBLE?  
(allow 2hrs per day to complete the whole Bible in 6 weeks).

Or try this unique look at the week ahead:

**MONDAY** -- WASH DAY God help me wash away my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

**TUESDAY** -- IRONING DAY God, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

**WEDNESDAY** -- MENDING DAY God, help me mend my ways so that I will not set a bad example for others.

**THURSDAY** - CLEANING DAY God, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

**FRIDAY** -- SHOPPING DAY God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and all others in need of love.

**SATURDAY** -- COOKING DAY God, help me to brew a big kettle of brotherly/sisterly love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

**SUNDAY** -- God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart as my honoured guest so I say spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.

Blessings to you all

Fr Geoff

Joshua 1:9: *Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

Psalms 145:18-19: *The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.*

