

PARISH BULLETIN

St Macartan's Catholic Parish

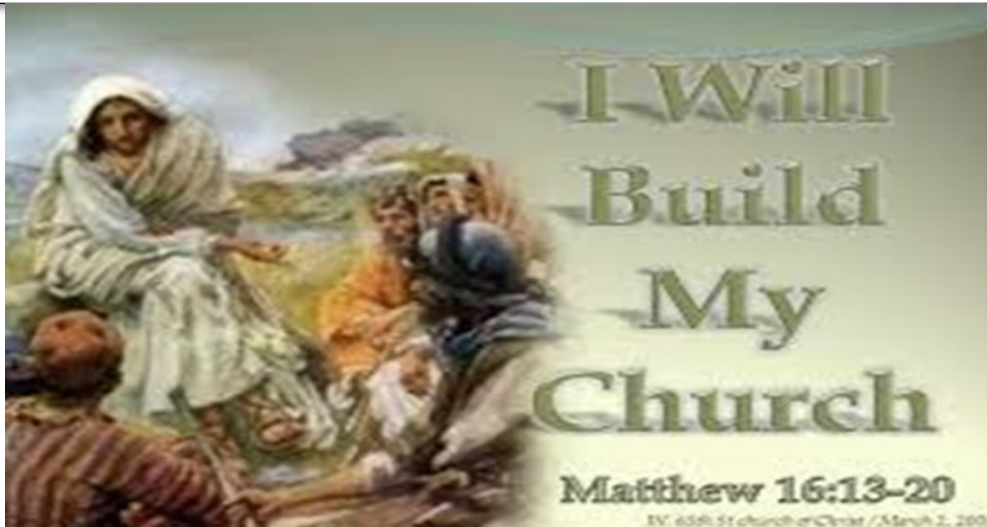


4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931

Parish Office: Tuesday and Friday 9am to 4pm; **Ph:** 5975 2200
Email: mornington@cam.org.au **Web:** stmacartansparish.com.au

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy

Parish Secretary: Theresa Collard



MASS TIMES

Sunday's Mass and weekday Masses

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
ALL MASSES ARE ONLINE

Upcoming Holy Days:

- Sat 22nd: Our Lady, Mother and Queen
- Mon 24th: St Bartholomew, apostle
- Thur 27th: St Monica
- Fri 28th: St Augustine, bishop, doctor
- Sat 29th: The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr

Office: CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
If you leave an audible voice telephone message. Fr Geoff will return your call.

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 Prep:** See Fr Geoff

Baptism Preparation: Kathy Raccanello

Next Baptismal Meeting - Postponed

All Baptisms: SUSPENDED

Recently Deceased: Gabrielle Margaret Dalmau

Anniversary: Kathleen Ryan

Mass Intentions

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Janet Smyth, Tony Ryan, Graham Oliver, Laura Castelow, Julie Nash, Margaret O'Connor, Jay Keogh, Sophie Davidson, 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 especially for Ruben Pateman.**

First Reading Is 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

((R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 16:13-20**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered lost in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Caesarea Philippi is north of the region of Galilee. It was given to Herod the Great by Augustus Caesar, and Herod built a white stone temple there, dedicating it to his patron. After Herod's death, it passed into the hands of his son, Philip, who built his capital here - hence the name, Caesarea Philippi.
- The great stone temple built by Herod was at the natural spring that is the source of the Jordan River. The temple was dedicated to the Roman god of nature, Pan. The cave of Pan is housed in a high natural edifice of rock, and it was here that Jesus reputedly told Peter that he, too, would be a rock on which the church is built - not dedicated to a pagan god but to the one true God.

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

Keys are a symbol of authority. Jesus says to Peter, 'I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.' Jesus entrusts his authority to Peter, and thus to successive popes and to the church. This authority must always be used with wisdom and compassion, and with it comes great responsibility. The crossed keys are part of the emblem of the papacy



Living the gospel

Who do YOU say I am?

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.

EXPLORING THE WORD

At this point in the gospel today, Jesus and his chosen ones have travelled and lived together for some time. He invites them to explore what they understand of his identity. Even in his question, there is an explicit hint of his identity: 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' The people offer a variety of opinions: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. But it is Peter who adds to the title 'Son of Man' by recognising Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. This same Peter, whose faith faltered when he was buffeted by the wind and waves (see the gospel for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time), has now shown that he is open to God and recognises Jesus for who he is. But this is not the end of Peter's story.

There are ups and downs in his response,

as there are in our own. As long as we remain open to the gift of faith, we are offered forgiveness when we fail to treasure what God has given to us.

- Have you experienced the ups and downs of faith? What sustains you?
- What title would you give to Jesus?
- Are you like the Peter who doubts and falters or the Peter who boldly proclaims his faith?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

'Who do you say I am?' If you were to be asked this question by Jesus, how might you respond today?

- In this passage, Jesus speaks of the church. What are your feelings about the church at this point in your journey?
- Recall a time when you were given special authority or responsibility. How did you feel about this special position? How did you carry out the task?
- What are your responsibilities now that you have elected to follow Christ? How will being a disciple of Jesus influence the way you use authority: in your home? in your workplace? in the daily decisions you make? Exercise that responsibility this week.
- Repeat these words often this week: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God

SHARING THE TRADITION

The Pope is the Bishop of Rome, a city traditionally associated with Peter's evangelising mission. This gospel text is the one that is traditionally used as the basis for the Catholic Church's teaching on the primacy of the Pope in guiding and unifying the church, although he is assisted in this task by all the bishops. There have been 266 popes from Peter to the present pontiff, Francis. The Pope's voice is an especially privileged one in the church. This does not mean that everything the Pope says or does is without error. What he teaches must be taken with seriousness because of the office he holds. There are only rare occasions when the Pope speaks solemnly and with full authority on any particular matter. At other times he is expressing the teachings of the church and offering an 'authoritative' guide to the faithful.

- Why not look into the structure of the church and how the Pope, bishops, priests and laity function together for the good of the whole.
- Also review the idea of papal infallibility, noting especially the two statements about Mary that have been made infallibly: the Immaculate Conception - that Mary was conceived and born without original sin (noting that many people confuse this with the virgin birth of Jesus); and the Assumption - that Mary was not subject to normal corruption after death but was taken to heaven, body and soul.

Reviewing, will open the mind; as history has a treasure in store for the inquisitive mind and will reveal truths that you may have missed or misinterpreted?

LIVING THE WORD

- 'It was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.' Faith is a gift freely given by God, to which humans must respond. Apart from the Sunday liturgy, look at other opportunities that are offered in your parish community to respond in faith and to deepen faith? Maybe suggest some new ones to your Parish Priest?
- Display a large rock and a set of keys as the focus for prayer this week. Pray for the Pope in the exercise of his leadership of the church. Pray for all those who exercise leadership in whatever ministry they undertake. *A suitable song may be 'For you are my God'.*

Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Mary and Bill Sexton on your

60th Wedding Anniversary.

**Married on 20th August 1960 at St. Michael's Catholic Church
in Springbank (Ballarat)**



WEEKDAY MASSES NOW ONLINE!

(Available from approx. 11am - Tues to Fri)

(same YouTube link as Sunday Mass - see page 1)

Yes, I'm putting weekday Masses online, the same as the Sunday Mass.

Stay safe physically, emotionally and spiritually ;-)

Fr Geoff

From St Macartan's Parish Primary School

Encourage one another and build one another up .

Here is a message, just in, from Caritas Australia, organisers of our social justice project in Term 1:

"We would like to thank all schools for their support of Project Compassion, particularly as schools and parishes faced closures due to COVID-19. While donations were down this year, we managed to raise \$7.9 million to assist children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and marginalisation."

Thanks also to all in our St Macs school community for tuning-in last Friday to our video-liturgy commemorating the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was great to join together in viewing this at the same time. Huge thanks Mrs Black, Mrs Mclean, Mrs Collins and the students from the onsite Distance Learning program, who graciously gave their time to participate in presenting the readings and prayers to us. Here is an extract:

"The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This weekend we celebrate upon her death, Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven.

A major intention of this teaching is to show all Christians the anticipated resurrection that is promised to them: human beings are destined for a new life after death.

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray:

That the Church and her people will be inspired by the Mother of God, knowing always they can share the unspoken prayers in their hearts to her.

That those who have died may share with Mary the glory and peace of heaven.

We pray to Mary, our mother, Queen of peace, for an end to unrest and hatred in our world.

Amen.

HIGH SPIRITS

(Catechism for State School children)

We have begun 1st Reconciliation classes:

They are via Zoom

NEXT will be 1st Eucharist

To enroll your child or to get more details please email Faye at:
stmacshighspirits@gmail.com

GOOD NEWS

I'm sure you have all heard of something good happening in the last week, or how about your personal story, please feel free to share them with me via the office and I may highlight it in our newsletter for others to also enjoy.

Here's one:

Spontaneous Amazing Grace performance from mystery highway bagpiper leaves Gold Coast family moved



A spontaneous performance of Amazing Grace by a mystery bagpiper wearing high-vis work fluoro's on the M1, has emotionally touched a local family mourning the recent loss of a family member. Amber-May Robertson and her husband, Andrew, were driving on the M1 to get pancakes with their granddaughter, Ryleigh, when something caught their eye. "As

we went under the bridge at Oxenford, we both sort of looked up and there was a gentleman playing the bagpipes," Ms Robertson said. "And we both looked at each other — because my husband's father, Alex, was Scottish and he'd just passed away the week before."

Ms Robertson said they could not believe what they were seeing and it felt like a sign. The family, who had been in Canberra before the border closure for Alex's funeral, decided to pull off at the nearest exit and to see if they could find the man.

"Just as we pulled into the carpark ... he was putting his bagpipes into the back of the ute," he said.

"My husband was just so choked up he couldn't speak.

"So, I'm leaning through the window going, 'Excuse me, my father-in-law is Scottish and he's just passed away and we were just wondering if we could hear some of your bagpipe music?'

"He just looked at us — and I think he could just tell, because we were both crying at that point, and he's just like 'sure'."

The mystery musician placed his hat on the four-year-old Ryleigh and began to play Amazing Grace to the Robertson family.

"It was just beautiful," she said.

"She [Ryleigh] was the only family member who did not go to his funeral, and she was the only one missing, that's why it makes it super special."

Mystery bagpiper

The family only knew the man by the name Shane and posted to the Locale Northern Gold Coast Facebook group in the hope of tracking him down to offer their thanks.

"Now that we've calmed down we'd like to see him again," she said.

"I just want to give him a little gift."

The ABC reached out to the mystery bagpiper but he respectfully declined to be interviewed. His daughter, Taylor Richardson, said he would prefer to leave it "as a mystery good deed".

Ahhh - now isn't that nice
Blessings and my prayers to you all
Fr Geoff

GOOD NEWS - HERE'S ANOTHER



Romeo and Juliet

An 88-year-old Massachusetts man barred from visiting his wife's nursing home because of the coronavirus used a bucket truck just to get a glimpse of his beloved.

Footage posted to Facebook by relatives of Nick Avtges shows the Watertown senior waving goodbye as he was hoisted on April 8 to a third-story window outside Maristhill Nursing & Rehabilitation, where his wife of 61 years, Marion, has been living for the past year, according to reports. "Don't do anything silly," one relative told Avtges before he was lifted up to the window where Marion, 85, waved hello, video shows.

The unorthodox reunion took place after the idea by Avtges' family was approved by administrators at the rehab center, where Nick Avtges had visited every day before the coronavirus crisis struck, the Boston Globe reports.

"He's been a very devoted husband," Maristhill president and administrator James Tracy told the newspaper. "He never missed a day." Chris Avtges, Nick's son, thought of the crafty solution after reaching out to friends and family on Facebook to see if they could rent or borrow a bucket lift or truck. A high school friend soon said he could help, Chris Avtges said.

"So I reached out to nursing home and spoke with them and made sure they were all set with it, and the ball started rolling from there," he told the Globe. "By Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock, my dad was up in the air."

Nick Avtges said he was happy just to be able to talk to — and briefly touch — his wife while hanging outside the third-story window. "We touched each other through the screen," "Our fingertips touched."

Avtges said he now plans to take a vacation with his wife as soon as possible.

"We've been married 61 years, and love [each other] today as much as we did when we first met," he told the station.

Very uplifting :-)

Blessings - Fr Geoff



Coping with isolation

It's how many weeks? "I've lost count" of lockdown now, and with each day the desire for human interaction and connectedness grows stronger.

As an introvert, I was quite comfortable during the initial lockdown period. In fact, I was pleased that for once in my life it was acceptable to remain indoors for an entire week.. Or more.

But never in my life has it been so long since I've seen my parents. My family. My friends. Phone calls and video chats don't quite do it justice. The presence of another human being, and basic interactions like a hug or a warm smile, have such a profound impact* on our day-to-day life. So in a time when face-to-face interaction is so limited, how can we cope?

Stay in contact as best you can

During a discussion on isolation, my friend told me that connectedness is about the quality of our relationships, not about our proximity to another person. Proximity helps, of course, to reduce feelings of isolation. But proximity on its own cannot cure loneliness. I resonated with this thought, feeling grateful that I could engage in such meaningful conversation while at such a great distance apart.



Phone and video calls may not feel nearly as enriching as face-to-face interaction, but they are the closest form of "normal" interaction we have available to us right now. Just as we would schedule time to meet or talk with our loved ones, make time for phone and video calls to keep in touch. Writing letters is another great way to communicate. Letters

can help foster deeper or more meaningful conversations, as we take more time in thinking about what we want to say. Post isn't the only way of sending letters either - we can send photos of handwritten letters, or use our texting method of choice (including messaging apps) to have long-length letter-style conversations.

Remember, it won't be like this forever

There may be a new "Covid normal" in times to come, but no matter what that is, we will eventually be able to see our family and friends again. Life will go on, and we will adapt.

To have hope that things will get better is important too,
no matter how bleak it may feel right now.

"Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light." - Albus Dumbledore, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.

Coping with ill loved ones

Our hearts go out to those who have ill loved ones, as we know visiting is often restricted or sometimes completely off limits, and other forms of contact may be limited too.

This can be frustrating and stressful, but focusing on prayer, on hope, or on something that is meaningful for you both can help. Take feelings of fear or anger and use the energy for good – if your loved one is an avid gardener, consider starting a garden project. If knitting is their thing, try your hand at knitting. Or maybe DIY is more their style. This can help strengthen your connection with them in an abstract way, too.

Keep busy and maintain routine

Feelings of isolation can be exacerbated when we're bored. Because when we're bored, sitting alone and pondering the meaning of life, it is never more blatantly obvious that there is no one around us. Sing, dance, learn a new skill or just take more notice of the things around you.

On another note, maintaining a daily or weekly routine can help to create a sense of normality during such an abnormal time. Routine can also give us a sense of control in our lives, increasing feelings of calm and safety. Setting a regular wake up/sleep time is a good place to start! Remember that no matter how lonely or isolated you feel, help is always available. Speaking to a counsellor can, in itself, reduce feelings of isolation and increase connectedness. But counsellors can provide coping strategies and other support too. .

Beyond Blue have some great resources for coping with isolation too.

From our CatholicCare family to yours, we hope that you are all keeping safe and well during these challenging times.

Act now to protect religious freedom

Catholics need to take steps in the protection of religious freedom.

There is currently a bill being considered by NSW Parliament that would protect religious freedom in that state. The Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020 provides fair and equal treatment

for people of faith by:

making it illegal to discriminate against a person on the basis of their religious belief or activity in employment, education, the provision of goods and services and more;

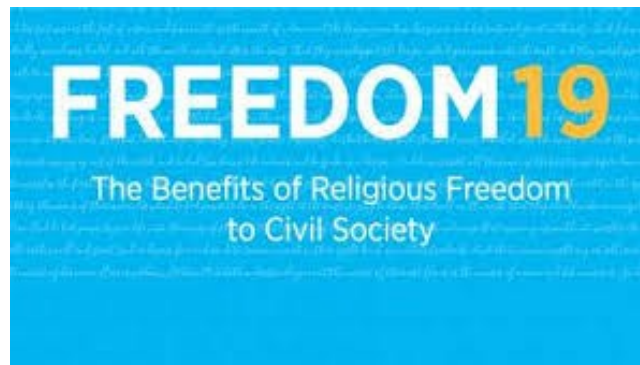
preventing employers from sacking employees for religious activity that occurs outside of work time; and

allowing religious organisations to hire people who share the same beliefs, in the same way that political parties are able to do.

It is really easy to show your support for these changes, telling the Members of Parliament that religious freedom protection is important. Simply go to the below link and say that you support the Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Religious Freedoms and Equality) Bill 2020.

SUPPORT THE BILL

<https://canberradeclaration.org.au/join-us/read-declaration/>



Parish Footy Tipping Round 9

The top tippers for R12 were Father Bill and Maree O'Halloran with 8 correct. Sydney surprised everyone except 3. It was only natural Fr.Bill was one of the three to pick Sydney as he grew up a Sth Melb. follower and had an uncle play for South. Likewise with Debbie (Hannah) whose grandfather, Hugh McLaughlin, played in the South Premiership team in 1932 and his son, Debbie's Mum's brother, also played for South. Borgie (75), still leads with Paul Stinnear second on 73, then we have John Franks, Carolyn Meier, Hafey's Hacks and Barry Murphy all on 72. Getting very close at the top three on 71.

HISTORY: On the weekend we remembered the end of World War 11. It made us think of the 1945 Grand Final played at Princess Park. Carlton supporters remember it as the "Blood Bath" Grand Final. The four teams in the finals were North Melbourne (1st. time), Collingwood, Carlton and South Melbourne, with Carlton and Sth Melb. in the Grand Final. In attendance at the game at Princess Park was 62,986 as the Armed Forces occupied the MCG. Ten players were reported and Ted Whitfield (Sth,) was suspended for all of 1946. Four were given 8 weeks, Fred Fitzgibbon (Carlton) already serving 3 week received another 4 weeks for running onto the field and joining in one of the numerous brawls Carlton won the premiership!!





THE SPIRITUAL ROSARY PILGRIMAGE

A BIBLICAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH MARY



SEP 8 - OCT 7 • 4 WEEKS • 20+ SPEAKERS • 5 KEYNOTE TALKS • FREE ONLINE

ONLINE EVENT

PAROUSIAMEDIA.COM

Hello all,

I have copied you into this virtual Rosary pilgrimage as I have been on one of these pilgrimages before and found it to be excellent. So whilst stuck at home why not share in this journey, join this powerful prayerful online pilgrimage.

A Biblical Journey through the Life of Christ with His Mother

Blessings

Fr Geoff

Dear Pilgrims,

Pilgrims, we are less than 4 weeks away for the four-week pilgrimage into the life of Jesus in scripture "The Spiritual Rosary Pilgrimage".

We are happy to unveil the line up of speakers now. There will still be some more surprises coming. Twenty key events, twenty five plus talks by internationally renowned speakers.

Keynote speakers include Dr Scott Hahn, Fr Donald Calloway, Jason Evert, and Dr Edward Sri with more surprises coming!

Other speakers will also include Sonja Corbitt, Dr Christine Wood, the Immaculata sisters, Madeline Carrington, Sarah and Tomas Tuszczak, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Christopher West, Fr Mitch Pacwa, Dr John Bergsma, Steve Ray, Deacon Peter Pellican, Mann Rentoy, Fr Robert Spitzer along with many more!

You can register now at <https://www.parousiamedia.com/the-spiritual-rosary-pilgrimage/>

Thousands have already signed up for this worldwide pilgrimage focusing on key events of Jesus' life in the scriptures, accompanied by His mother.

Mark your calendars as this pilgrimage starts on September 8 (the birthday of Mary) and concludes on October 7 (the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary).

This pilgrimage will take us deep into the life of Jesus (and you will never again view or pray the rosary the same!)

Join the Rosary Pilgrimage group here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/237167150722245>

Look out for more updates on this life-changing opportunity to go on pilgrimage with the mother of Jesus!

Enjoy this invite from Jason Evert below and please help us spread the good news again.

We're so looking forward to sharing the road with you!

With every blessing

Charbel Raish	&	Martin Brennan
Parousia Media		Pentecost Pilgrimage