



4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931

Parish Office: Tuesday to 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



The Parable Of The Two Sons

**Matthew
21:28-32**

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/
UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOpptks0Fw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOpptks0Fw/videos)

Also view our Parish website:

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

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions
ALL MASSES ARE ONLINE**

Upcoming Holy Days:

- Tue 29th: Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
- Wed 30th: St Jerome, Priest, Doctor
- Thu 1st Oct: St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor
- Fri 2nd: The Holy Guardian Angels

**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.

Email vryan22@outlook.com

Marriage & Counselling: Charmaine

Holmes: 5977 2567

Marriage Prep: See Fr Geoff

Baptism Preparation: Kathy Raccanello

Next Baptismal Meeting - Postponed

Recently Deceased: Fr Vince Curtain SM (NZ), Andy Fernando and Dr. John Hutton

Mass Intentions

Anniversaries: Nicholas Presniakovas, Darren Ryan and Joe Garla

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, Torquil Hansen
And especially for Ruben Pateman.

First Reading Ez 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

Communion Antiphon 1 Jn 3:16

By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Saying "Yes!"

In many ways, it is easy to say 'Yes' and not really mean it. Some people do it all the time in their lives. They say 'Yes' when they have no intention at all of following through on their commitment. It's easy to say 'Yes' and not mean it when it comes to faith as well. It's pretty easy to turn up at Church on a Sunday and be seen to be doing the 'right' thing. But if our faith doesn't change the way we live, then maybe we're really saying 'No' to God.

EXPLORING THE WORD

A great deal has happened since last week's gospel reading in the lectionary. Jesus is now in Jerusalem. He has entered the city (Matthew 21:1–11) and has taken possession of the temple, driving out those who corrupt his Father's house (Matthew 21:12–17). The crisis point of Jesus' ministry has arrived, and he will enter into conflict with the established religious authorities. The point of this text is that it is not the 'conventionally religious'—those who mouth all the right words and go through the rituals—who will enter the kingdom. Instead it is the ones who, by their actions, carry out God's will and become the sons and daughters of God. John the Baptist, like Jesus himself, not only preached righteousness; he lived it. Jesus describes him as 'a pattern of true righteousness' (Matthew 21:32),

and it was the broken people, the tax collectors and prostitutes, who accepted what he had to bring. They believed in him, repented and experienced a change of heart and life.

- Are there leaders in our society who should recognise what is right but do not?
- Are there leaders in our society who pay lip service to the truth but fail to act on it?
- At this point in your journey, what do you think is God's will for you?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Have you ever failed to recognise the truth of a situation?
- Have you ever said you were going to do something but then neglected to do it? How did you feel about breaking the promise?
- Share stories of times when you have said 'yes' to something without the intention of actually doing it. Or of a time you felt pressured to agree to something when you wanted to say 'no'. Or of failing to do something when you knew you should act.
- Pray this little prayer often this week:

*When our words say 'yes' but our actions say 'no', forgive us Lord.
When our words say 'no' but our actions say 'yes', encourage us Lord,
so that our response to you might be perfect in word and deed.*

DID YOU KNOW?

- The 'chief priests and elders' are the leaders of the Jewish religious community. They were the ones with training and were learned in the Scriptures. They should have known and recognised what is from God, but they are like the son who says 'yes' and fails to carry out God's will.
- Prostitutes and tax collectors are often bracketed together because both were considered 'sinners'—prostitutes for their sexual behaviour, and tax collectors because they cooperated with the Roman authorities and cheated their own people.

SHARING THE TRADITION

Continue the discussion begun last week about people who came to faith in later life. This week try to emphasise the conversion experience they had. Include others, like Jonah or Moses, who initially said 'no' but changed their minds and acted as God willed. What was the cost of this commitment? You could give more recent examples of people who experienced conversion moments, like Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day or Oscar Romero. Try to find extracts of the writings of these people.

- Are there members of your own community who would be willing to speak of their own change of heart? I would love to hear from them as I could use them in my RCIA instructions - Fr Geoff.
- Mary the mother of Jesus is one perfect example of someone who said 'yes' to God in both word and deed. She too is 'a pattern of true righteousness'. Using Scripture as a guide, you could talk of the model of discipleship offered by Mary.

LIVING THE WORD

- Who are the people in your life who inspire you because of the consistency of their vision and action?
- Sometimes it is the simple people who inspire us the most. How might you emulate their approach? Are there ways you can be an inspiration for others? Are there ways you can publicly witness to saying 'yes' or act for justice this week?
- Each night this week, reflect on your day. What were the 'no' moments? What were the 'yes' moments? What 'no' of today might you make into a 'yes' tomorrow?
- Words are one thing but deeds are another. In the long run, it is deeds that count more. 'Actions speak louder than words.' More importantly, this little story tells us that change is possible, even after a negative decision. We have the ability to have second thoughts and respond generously; we can decide to do the right thing. Sometimes, it is those who are not expected to do the right thing who surprise us!
- If you spoke about the mother of Jesus and her response, you could use an icon or image of Mary as a focus for prayer. You could pray the Magnificat together. Pray for each other in your journey to discipleship. A suitable song could be 'I say "yes", my Lord'



HELP! MARQUEE REQUIRED

Does anyone have a Marquee that could fit approximately 20 people under it that they can loan the church for several weeks?

If so please call the parish office on 59752200 or email mornington@cam.org.au

Thank you
Fr Geoff

HIGH SPIRITS

(Catechism for State School children)

We have successfully completed 1st Reconciliation classes:

Thank you to all the participants
and especially to Faye Melhem

NEXT will be 1st Eucharist classes - so enroll NOW!

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

CHILD SAFETY NEWS



School Holidays!!

Dear Parishioners,

Zoom meetings and webinars have provided a very effective platform to connect our child safety committee with other committees not only on the Peninsula but also all over the Southern Region of Melbourne. One of the workshops focused on keeping ministry alive over the Internet where some parishes have been able to continue successful social and spiritual interaction with their parishioners.

Our committee, which now meets regularly with other child safety committees from Mt Eliza, Westernport, Sorrento, Portsea, Rosebud & Dromana, is focusing on Risk Management. We are discussing several scenarios that could take place in the near future, for example: "An Outdoor Christmas Eve Mass". So rest assured, that we are all trying to be pro-active in ensuring your child's safety.

Also the collaboration between all these different parishes has combined experiences & expertise from many perspectives, which has proved beneficial for all involved.

Carmel McGrath - St Macartan's Child Safety Officer
Mornington.ChildSafety@cam.org.au



SKOOL NEWZ

R U Ok? Day

Catholic schools around the country took part in the annual R U OK? Day on 10 September participating in various activities, learning how to check in with their peers, and the value of supportive friendships.

R U OK? Day is an national day of action dedicated to reminding everyone that every day is the day to ask, "Are you OK?" and support those struggling with life's ups and downs.

This year, it is particularly important that students are encouraged to look out for one another and lend support to peers.

Youth mental health experts have raised concerns regarding the impact of the pandemic and resulting higher unemployment, study stress and social isolation on the mental health of young people.

"While the pandemic has shone a light on this issue, the fact is that youth mental health has been a growing concern for many years." Jacinta Collins, said in a recent message.

The Youth Mental Health Report (2012-2018) from Mission Australia and the Black Dog Institute found more than 75 per cent of mental health issues develop before the age of 25.

Senator Richard Colbeck, Minister for Youth and Sport, urged young people not to battle mental health issues on their own.

"It is vital for people to understand that lifting the mental burden starts with a simple conversation – with a friend, a colleague, a family member or somebody in a support role," Minister Colbeck said in a media release.

"It is particularly important this year as younger generations face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Reflection

*"Dear young people, what are your passions and dreams?
Give them free rein and, through them, offer the world, the Church and other
young people something beautiful,
whether in the realm of the spirit, the arts or society.
I repeat what I once told you in my mother tongue:
Hagan lío! - Make your voices heard!"*

- Pope Francis, 2020



Technology inclusion important for dementia

Wednesday 16 September 2020
VMCH - Villa Maria Catholic Homes

Learning how to use an iPad for the first time would be difficult for anyone, let alone when you're 84 years old, and living with Alzheimer's Disease.

But that's what Antoinetta Tenace has done, and her daughter Anna says she has never been happier. Anna has been caring for her mum for two years in the family home, which has its challenges, especially now, during Stage 4 lockdown.

'We're accustomed to it (lockdown) now; it's become the norm. But before, she could go out, she would go shopping with me, and we would visit some friends.'

Antoinetta has been receiving care in her home for the last couple of years through the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP), and was identified as a suitable candidate for the VMCH Technology at Home program, which is jointly-run by VMCH and YourLink – an organisation focused on the digital inclusion of Australian seniors.

'Oh my gosh, it's like someone switched on a button. She is so proud that she's got it (an iPad), and that it's hers. She is very happy to be thought about, that she was considered for the program.'

The Technology at Home program is part of the broader VMCH "In-Touch" program, which involves providing individuals with a device, and then YourLink provides training on certain aspects of technology, tailored towards the participant's age and skill level.

'The lead up before the lessons can be difficult, but the minute she logs on to Zoom and she sees everyone, she is very happy. I've even learned some things about the iPad! Someone suggested Spotify and it's like, "Oh my God", it's incredible. It puts me to shame really, I should've been on to it, but I don't have the time

Anna says her mum uses her iPad regularly, whether its listening to Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, watching Italian movies, or receiving emails from her children and grandchildren – she is embracing all that technology has to offer.

'Mum is always asking for her iPad now. She is a real doer, and she will physically involve herself. She is able to see people, and listen to music every day, it gives her something to do. She is excited whenever she has an email, and while I don't know how much the concept clicks, she loves to receive them. Her grandson sent a video of him playing some music and that was wonderful, she got to see him play.'

Caitlin Bell is a VMCH Community Support Worker, whose role has changed due to the COVID pandemic. Whilst she usually provides in-home care services, she now distributes and teaches clients how to use Zoom on their new iPads – a role in which Anna says Caitlin is a natural.

'Both myself and the clients thoroughly enjoy working with YourLink,' says Caitlin.

'The program has sparked excitement in the clients, even though they may never have used a device like that before. YourLink has been able to make it fun, inclusive and very relaxed.

'Involvement is a big aspect of a person's wellbeing. Keeping in touch and connected with family members and friends is so important.

This device is allowing them to keep in contact and feel a part of something.

'On top of that, learning new skills keeps the mind stimulated and active, giving people a sense of purpose during their day. I hope they are able to use the device to benefit them and make their day-to-day lives easier. But my biggest hope is that it brings them a little bit of joy during a tough and strange time.'



Bishops call for ethical development of vaccines

Published: 15 September 2020

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has previously raised concerns about the use of aborted foetal cell lines in the development of vaccines, but Archbishop Comensoli has written to the faithful on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

Archbishop Comensoli is chair of the Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement.

It is the first statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on the COVID-19 vaccine issue, following Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP's earlier public statements raising concerns about the use of aborted foetal cell lines in the development of vaccines.

Archbishop Comensoli said he met federal Health Minister Greg Hunt earlier this month to discuss and urge the provision of "ethical uncontroversial" COVID-19 vaccines.

"The development of a vaccine is vital in order to save human lives and bring the pandemic to an end. Nevertheless we have to be mindful of how vaccines are developed and discourage research that fails to respect the dignity of unborn human life," Archbishop Comensoli wrote.

"That is why Catholic bishops around the world are advocating for ethical development of vaccines."

He said where there is a choice, "we encourage people to use a vaccine that has not been developed using human foetal cells deriving from abortion. The bishops accept that the use of an ethically compromised vaccine is acceptable if no other option is available, in order to protect lives."

The federal Government has announced agreements with two groups working on a vaccine at this stage. These are the Oxford University AstraZeneca (AZD1222) and the University of Queensland/CSL Limited (V451) vaccine projects.

Archbishop Comensoli said while the Oxford vaccine is being developed using aborted foetal cell lines, "it is our understanding that the V451 project does not use cell lines taken from an aborted child but uses a human ovarian cell line.

For this reason, it appears to be an ethically acceptable option."

FULL STORY

A Letter to the Faithful Regarding Development of a COVID-19 Vaccine
(ACBC Media Blog)



2020 Live Streamed March for the Babies October 10 @1 p.m.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Annual March for the Babies 2020 will be a Live Streamed event @ 1p.m. Saturday October 10
Join in online www.mftb.online for Victoria's largest pro-life event in defence of the victims of Victoria's inhumane abortion laws, unborn children and their mothers. Featured speakers, powerful testimonies, music and opportunities to promote the "culture of life".

A Tribute to Anderson (Andy) Fernando

1934-2020



I had the pleasure of working with Andy at Padua over many years He was appointed to Padua by Sr Bernadette Kennedy, the last Sister of Mercy to be principal there. He, along with Adrian Duryea and others, including the first lay principal, Bernie McDowell, were the foundation staff at the "new" Padua on Oakbank rd, having relocated from Tanti Ave. In 1975. I came to Padua a year later. My wife and I and family were made especially welcome by Andy and Anna, and Patricia and Adrian Duryea. Andy was a committed and talented teacher. He was also a visionary in that he wanted to make teaching more than just "chalk and talk", and the key to that was introducing technology to the classroom which in those days was mainly audio/visual. His methods proved successful, and his students loved his classes. He was a top cricketer and coached the Padua teams successfully for many years. A talented musician and organist, he was always involved in student and staff liturgies, as well as in his own parish of St Macs. A genuine "all rounder." Most importantly he was a man of deep faith and an inspiration to staff, students and parents over many years. To Marlon, Anthony and families and on behalf of the pioneering Padua community, we extend our sincere condolences.

Peter Gurry (Padua 1976-1995)

World Mission Sunday October 18th

This year due to the current situation, donations can be made via the website -

<https://www.catholicmission.org.au/our-work/see-our-work-in-action/wmm20-cambodia-appeal>

or

By texting the word "**GIVE**" to the number: **0488 854 436**.

This prompts an immediate reply which provides a link to a platform to make a donation.





**National Solemn Assembly
Saturday 26th—Sunday 27th September 2020**

The National Council of Churches has set aside the 26th-27th September as two National Days of Prayer and Fasting for the Pandemic.

Even better, Bishop Philip Huggins, President of the National Council of Churches, has asked that the Aboriginal Christian Elders of Australia, led by Ps Peter Walker, will lead Australia's churches in a National Solemn Assembly according to Joel chapter two, over these same two days.

The team at the Canberra Declaration are also hosting Ten Nights of Prayer at 8pm (AEST) in the lead up to the National Solemn Assembly. In addition to this, on Yom Kippur, Monday the 28th September we will hold a three-hour prayer celebration 6pm– 9pm.

DATE: Nightly at 8pm (AEST) Friday 18th–25th September, and then all day Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September 2020

TIME: Nightly at 8pm Friday 18th–25th September, then 9am-9pm (AEST) each day

ZOOM URL LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/776881184>

ZOOM MEETING ID: 776881184

ZOOM TUTORIAL: <https://youtu.be/hlkCmbvAHQQ>

OVERFLOW VIEWING: We will announce options in coming days

These prayer events are completely unprecedented, and an amazing historic breakthrough for the Australian Church, and for Australia as a nation.



National Solemn Assembly

We are praying for 'times of refreshing' and the 'healing of the land' as the scripture says in Acts 3:19, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." The 'times of refreshing' from the presence of the Lord that Peter the Apostle is talking about is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that is found in Acts 2:1-21 That is what Australia needs.

We are praying that Australia will get a revelation of the love of God through Jesus Christ. Matthew 18:20 gives us the key, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name there am I in the midst of them." We thank the National Council of Churches Australia and the National Day of Prayer & Fasting and other groups who are helping to facilitate the National Solemn Assembly on behalf of the First Nation People.

We encourage you to pray together in your churches, in your homes and on the hills as we lift our nation up before God. Join us as you are able on Zoom between 9AM – 9PM any time on both days at meeting room number 776881184: <https://zoom.us/j/776881184>

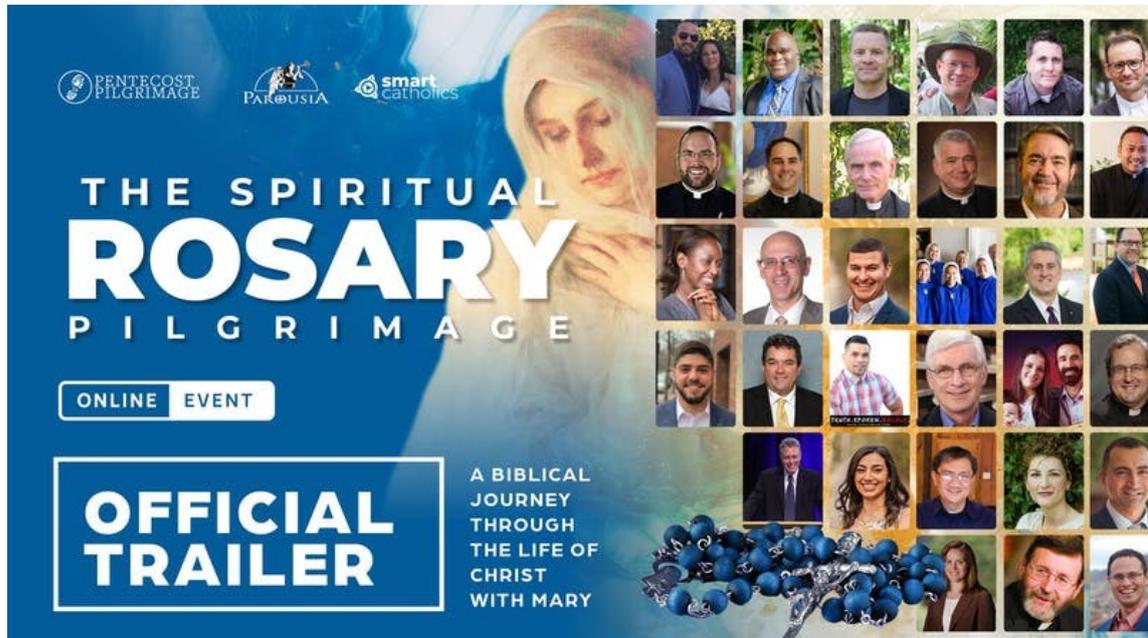
Yours for our Nation,
Ps Peter Walker

The Spiritual Rosary Pilgrimage.

Your reflection for 'The First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation', by Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, is now available.

Click the link to watch this reflection.

<https://parousiaondemand.com/programs/deacon-harold-annunciation-v2mov-9f62e7>



We are so excited that are sharing the power of the Rosary with us.

Parish Footy Tipping Round 18

We made it. The Home and Away Season is completed. Believe it or not there will be no AFL football this weekend as the top eight teams prepare for the Finals and the bottom 8 celebrate Mad Monday. Though that may not be the case in their huns in Queensland unless they have returned home WA or SA. The Sydney teams will probably be too sad. Our tippers excelled themselves with 5 scoring the 9 winners. The top tipper was Morprince who was only 1 point short of the correct winning margins of the 9 games. Others to score 9 and receive the bonus point were Judy Schultz, Father Bill Gill, Carolyn Meier and Paul Stinner, (a previous winner in 2019) The prize winners will be announced next week. There will be a summary of this season's highlights.

HISTORY It is great to see St.Kilda in the finals. It has been a long time since they won their first lag in 1966. The Grand Final was played at the MCG in front of 101,655 spectators and we had standing tickets. The final four were Essendon, (different to this year), Geelong, Collingwood and St.Kilda. The final score in the Grand Final was St.Kilda 10=14=74 Collingwood 10=13=73. Barry Breen will always be remembered for the point he scored. The pro-St.Kilda crowd wildly acclaimed the first St.Kilda premiership, a premiership the club had unsuccessfully sought for ninety-three years. Will history repeat itself?

FINALS KNOCKOUT COMPETITION starts next Thursday, October the 1st. In week one of the finals the tippers have to choose the four winners. Those that do have to choose two. If no get the four correct we all start again.. It is not too late to join us.



Are you thinking of
becoming a Catholic?

R.C.I.A.

RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Is a guided faith journey towards becoming a Catholic

WHO IS RCIA FOR?

Adults who are not baptised.

Adults who are already baptised in another Christian Church.

Non-practising Catholics who wish to renew their faith.

Where do you begin?

New sessions begin with an information night TBA.

There is no obligation – Call and find out more:

LAST CALL!

The RCIA process is a period of reflection, prayer, instruction, discernment and formation.

Those who join the process are encouraged to go at their own pace but on average the journey takes several months of weekly or fortnightly sessions leading to, if the candidate wishes, reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at Easter, with an on-going attendance at Sunday Mass and observance of Catholic teachings and practices.

Like to find out more?

Ring the Parish office at 5975 2200

Or email: mornington@cam.org.au



SEND IN YOUR PHOTO

We want to include it on our Mass video

Parish Office: mornington@cam.org.au

COVID-19: REOPENING ROADMAP FOR MELBOURNE WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US AT ST MACARTAN'S?

PREPARE, PREPARE, PREPARE!

Yes, we have all been praying for restrictions to end and for us to be able to gather together for the Eucharist. Well it's nearly here - but are you ready?

Are we prepared, physically, emotionally and spiritually?

I am preparing as well as I can for the return of you,
the St Macartan's congregation.

You are the Parish and we all form the One Body of Christ, the Church.

But a shepherd can't be a shepherd without a flock.

He's just a spiritual preacher, wandering around looking for lost sheep.

That is how many of us clergy have been feeling but we have been preparing.

We have increased our own prayer lives, we have increased our own examen of consciences and our own spiritual confessions to the Lord.

To come to the Lord and receive the Eucharist - His real presence! Is, as we know, a privilege and a great blessing, which we must be prepared for.

So - When I can, I will be offering reconciliation.

Until then - relax, stay physically, emotionally and spiritually safe.
Stay prayerful and speak to the Lord with contrite hearts.

HOWEVER - THERE IS A WARNING!

Yes, I need to warn you that restrictions will be eased very, very slowly!

We clergy have been informed, that restrictions will most likely be eased
in these stages:

1. 5 people + minister
 2. 10 people + minister
 3. 30 people + minister
- } ***BUT ALL OUTSIDE ONLY!*** *This may change?*

Am I happy about this - err no! I also assume you won't be either.

However, like every restriction, that we clergy and you yourselves have been forced to obey, we will of course do the same with these
and make the most of what we can do.

So I ask for your patience in what we as a Parish can come up with and hopefully we can accommodate as many as we practically can, in whatever ways we can?

But don't be disheartened

as the famous Dame Vera Lynn once sang:

"We'll meet again, don't know where don't know when?"

But I do know where - St Mac's, and when - soooooooooon!

Blessings to you all - Fr Geoff

