

2nd Sunday of Advent Year B 6th December 2020

PARISH BULLETIN

St Macartan's Catholic Parish



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



MASS TIMES

Sunday'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

WE'RE BACK!!!!

All regular Mass times!

ONLINE - ONLY SUNDAY MASS

Upcoming Holy Days:

- Monday 7th St Ambrose
- Tuesday 8th

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Office Hours:

Tuesday to Friday 9am - 4pm

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 veronicaryan2250@outlook.com

Marriage & Counselling:

Charmaine Holmes: 5977 2567

Marriage Prep: See Fr Geoff

Baptism Preparation: Kathy Raccanello

Next Baptismal Meeting - 3 Feb 2021

pm Via Zoom

Recently Deceased:

Fr Jim Kershaw (NZ), Alan Lodge, Robert Bisdee

Mass Intentions

Anniversaries:

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Janet Smyth, Tony Ryan, Sue Hale, Graham Oliver, Laura Castelow, Julie Nash, Margaret O'Connor, Jay Keogh, Sophie Davidson, Cinzia Caboche, Robert Warne, Dean Pratt, Trent Wilkinson, Esma Murphy, Kate Marea 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, Maureen Spargo, Tony Formosa, John Mahony, Terry Smyth, Torquil Hansen, Betty Corke, **And especially for Ruben Pateman.**

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them 'says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord, double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power,

his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm: R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,

a voice that speaks of peace,

peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him

and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

Mercy and faithfulness have met;

justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth

and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

The Lord will make us prosper

and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him

and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading: 2 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation :

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,

GOSPEL FOCUS

Preparing the Way

The gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah (although text combines Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; and Exodus 23:20) and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey is designed to align him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history. In a very short and sharp passage the gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets.

EXPLORING THE WORD

The prophet Isaiah brought a message of hope and comfort to the people of Israel who were in exile in Babylon. Despite their failings, God is merciful and has promised them a new beginning. John the Baptist appears in the line of that great prophet and again promises Israel the chance of a new beginning if they repent and turn again towards God. The emphasis in Mark's portrait of the Baptist is very much that of the subordinate. John's self-effacing manner makes it clear that he is not the one who is promised, but the one who is to prepare the way. The emphasis in John's preaching is on judgment; for Jesus it is the reign of God and salvation.

- Advent is also a time of new beginnings, and John the Baptist's 'voice in the wilder-

ness' is a personal invitation to each of us to prepare a way for the Lord into our lives now. What special preparation for Christmas will you undertake this year? How may this be different from what you have done in the past?

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

Mark's Gospel was the first to be written down, around the year ad 70. It is generally accepted that Mark wrote for an audience in Rome who were undergoing persecution for their faith. It is the shortest of the four gospels and is told in a lively and straightforward style. Mark seeks to explore the identity of Jesus, to describe the responses of various people to him and to invite us to become disciples. In the opening verse of his gospel, Mark alerts his readers instantly to the identity of the main character. This work is the Good News about Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God.

- You could take this opportunity to do a simple comparison of the gospel portraits of Jesus and introduce the group to the different theological concerns of the authors.
- You could compare the two infancy narratives and address the question of how Matthew and Luke present Jesus' birth and why each may have written of it in that particular way.
- Ask some neophytes or RCIA how they are feeling about their own forthcoming baptism and what new beginning that will represent for them.

DID YOU KNOW?

- John the Baptist is a prominent figure in Mark's Gospel. In Luke's Gospel, he is portrayed as a cousin of Jesus, but in the other gospels he seems not to know the identity of Jesus and no family connection is mentioned.
- John's clothing of homespun camel hair tied with a leather thong around the waist is the explicit garb of a prophet.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Opportunities for discussion and personal prayer

- Who are the people who have helped you to come to the way of the Lord? Who are the people who act as God's messengers for you?
- Are there obstacles that need to be removed to make a straight path for the Lord? What stops you from focusing on God?
- To repent is to have a change of heart or mind. Have you ever had a change of heart or mind over a significant person, issue or task that has led to a new approach or new way of thinking? Discuss your experiences together.
- The wilderness or the desert can be a silent and frightening place—and yet it is into this silence that both John and Jesus withdraw to pray. For them it became a place of deep intimacy with God. Is Advent a time to retreat into the wilderness within and listen for the voice whose cries are often missed in the busyness of life?
- Think about the times or places when you are most attuned to God's presence and God's voice. Make time this week to spend a while in this wilderness within, listening to the voice that is there.
- Repeat these words often this week and act on them in a small way each day: Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

God had called the people of Israel out of Egypt and led them across the River Jordan to be a new people. God, through John, is now calling for a new people by passing them through the waters of baptism in the same river.

COVID-19: AND ST MACARTAN'S?

Hi All,

For **WEEKDAY & WEEKEND Masses**: NO bookings - First 100

Note: Church doors will only open 30 minutes prior to start of service. After Mass all must leave the Church, as the Church needs sanitizing and we are not yet allowed to be open for public worship outside Mass. Please stay and help if you can?

Note: These are NOT OUR RULES. But we are being obedient to what we have to enforce and avoid us ... and you, getting a large fine!

NOTE!!!!

We are trialling a QR (Quick Response) code that has been authorised by the Catholic Archdiocese.

Please bring your mobile phone to scan QR code, you will then be asked to follow the prompts to enter your first name and phone number to register your attendance.

If no phone - There will still be pen and paper for you to sign in!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS - PLEASE!

If you attend Mass we need your help:

- 1) To open church 30min prior to service and count people in.
- 2) To help clean pews and contact surfaces after Mass
- 3) To help with some outdoor Christmas Liturgies we are planning - Coordinator, Gate attendants, ushers, Covid Cops, Eucharistic Ministers etc.

For any or all of the above, please email the office: mornington@cam.org.au or call 59752200 & leave a message and we will have someone contact you.

WITHOUT YOU, SOME THINGS MAY NOT GO AHEAD!

BAPTISMS - Are back!

Office is working on a schedule. All those who have contacted us will be notified. Parents please remember there is no urgency! But let me know of any exceptional circumstances and I will review.

High Spirits CONFIRMATIONS: 10 children

5pm Sunday 13th December

A BIG thank you

To all who participated in the sacrament ceremonies recently. It was a combined effort, the Teachers, Parents and children - well done one and all
They were brilliant!

Blessings - Fr Geoff



shutterstock.com • 622486811

HIGH SPIRITS

(Catechism for State School children)

Confirmation 9 Children Sunday 13th December 5pm

stmacshighspirits@gmail.com



CHILD SAFETY NEWS

Dear Parishioners, now that our church is able to open its doors and welcome everyone you may notice that in the main foyer of the church a notice board titled, "Child Safety". There is a very colorful & child friendly document displaying the "Rights & Responsibilities" of children. The last phrase encourages children to be active participants in a church community where the teachings of faith guide them to respect others, live peacefully and to care for their world.

As we go forward together as a parish, these rights & responsibilities apply to everyone.

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



Wanted: Loving Married Couples

Become a Sponsor couple

SmartLoving is a Catholic marriage ministry and is calling for enthusiastic married couples to journey with an engaged couple as they prepare to be married in the Catholic Church.

Find out more at this free information session: Wed, 9 December - 8pm AEDT

www.smartloving.org/webinar

Give a Gift this Christmas

Christmas should be a joyous occasion for us all. However, there are many families in our local community for whom it is a very stressful time, especially those who are unable to afford gifts for their children.

Mornington Community Information and Support Centre, with the support of a range of local churches, organisations and businesses, run a Present Roo or families who have children on their parent's Health Care Card and who are struggling financially. Last year the program gave out 345 major presents to children who otherwise may have missed out at Christmas.

You can help by donating a gift. We invite you to donate an unwrapped toy or book for a child under 16 years (please no soft or stuffed toys). We have found that teenagers love a gift card or voucher.

You can drop them off at the Centre, 320 Main St Mornington from 23rd November to 11th December.



St Macartans Christmas Masses 2020

Children's 24th December Mass 5pm - Outdoor (weather dependant)

Family Mass 24th December 7.30pm - Outdoor (weather dependant)

Carpark behind Church—Currently allowed **300**, but if this number is increased with the next easing of restrictions, we can have **550**.

For both the Outdoor 5pm and 7.30 Masses bookings will be required. Bookings can be done via Trybooking –Details in next weeks Bulletin

**11pm 24th December Midnight Mass - Indoor
No bookings required - First 100**

**8.30am 25th December Sunday Mass - Indoor
No bookings required - First 100**

**10.30am 25th December Sunday Mass - indoor
No bookings required - First 100**

2020 Columban Christmas Appeal

The pandemic has caused devastation in countries where Columbans work. Recently we received an update from Columban Fr Dan Harding, parish priest of St Columbans in Santiago, Chile on how your support can make a difference to those struggling in the parish. In the last few months, the parish set up a 'Migrant House' for homeless and unemployed migrants who are now working hard to become self-sufficient by setting up a bakery. The people from the 'Migrant House' and many others like them need your support to seize the opportunity to once again re-connect with society with a new-found dignity and independence. I ask you to support the Christmas Appeal that fulfils the Gospel message - For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. Matt 35:36

[← Watch the 2020 Columban Christmas Appeal video](#)



[← Watch the 2020 Columban Christmas Appeal video](#)



Advent: Great hope, expectation and patient waiting

Advent, is a time of great hope, expectation and patient waiting. And as Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reflects, 'Haven't we done a lot of waiting in these last several months!' With places of worship opening up again, Archbishop Comensoli encourages us to visit our local parish and take up the opportunities to return to the physical celebration of Mass and the other sacraments.

He's also excited to see parishes around the Archdiocese display their special Advent banners as a sign of welcoming Jesus Christ into our hearts this Christmas.



Pope's December prayer intention: For a life of prayer

The Pope Video for December, the last one in 2020, has just been released with the prayer intention that Pope Francis is entrusting to all the Catholic Church through the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#) (which includes the Eucharistic Youth Movement – EYM). In a year marked by the global Covid-19 pandemic, the Holy Father shares with us the secret of Jesus' life, "the key for us to be able to enter into dialogue with the Father": prayer. Through a life of prayer, it is possible to have a personal and profound relationship with Jesus Christ and to change our hearts. Prayer—listening to Jesus, contemplating Jesus, speaking with Him as with a friend—transforms our lives. It is the path to drawing closer to the Father.

The Pope's prayer during the pandemic

The Pope himself is a man of prayer, and The Pope Video bears witness to this with images taken from the most emotive moments of 2020: the prayer service for the pandemic in an empty St. Peter's Square; a pilgrimage of the crucifix of San Marcelo in Via del Corso, in the middle of Rome; and moments of recollection before the Byzantine icon of *Salus Populi Romani* at the Roman Basilica of St. Mary Major.

Jesus Christ: a life marked by prayer

For Pope Francis, prayer cannot be reduced to just a space or moment of interior contemplation. "By praying, we change reality. And we change our hearts," he says in The Pope Video.

Prayer always produces a change. "We can do many things, but without prayer, it does not work," he says. In the General Audience on 4 November, he also took advantage of the opportunity to explain Jesus' life of prayer. "During his public life, Jesus constantly availed himself of the power of prayer. The Gospels show this to us when he retired to secluded places to pray. These are sober and discreet observations that allow us only to imagine those prayerful dialogues. They clearly demonstrate, however, that even at times of greater dedication to the poor and the sick, Jesus never neglected his intimate dialogue with the Father."

Prayer as the heart of the Church's mission

Today, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network connects millions of Catholics around the world from diverse countries, cultures, and social and ecclesial contexts, through prayer: not just through The Pope Video, but also through the prayer platform Click to Pray and the Camino del Corazón, a path of prayer for the mission. The Pope Video this month concludes with Pope Francis' invitation to prayer, observing a few moments of silence, during the Audience with the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network on its 175th anniversary.

DECEMBER: FOR A LIFE OF PRAYER

The text of the December 2020 prayer intention:

- *The heart of the Church's mission is prayer.*
- *Prayer is the key for us to be able to enter into dialogue with the Father.*
- *Every time we read a short passage from the Gospel we hear Jesus speaking to us.*
- *We have a conversation with Jesus.*
- *We listen to Jesus and we reply.*
- *And this is prayer.*
- *By praying, we change reality.*
- *And we change our hearts.*
- *Our heart changes when we pray.*
- *We can do many things, but without prayer, it does not work.*
- *We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the*

CAROLS BY HEADLIGHTS!!

A wide range of local organisations have been working hard to bring us “Carols by Headlights” at Dromana Drive-in on 21st, 22nd and 23rd December from 9pm-11pm. Gates open at 6pm. Tickets are free, but booking are essential at www.trybooking.com/687402.



BLUE CHRISTMAS

The holidays can be difficult when you are missing someone.
It can feel like the whole world is happy and you alone are grieving.

Blue Christmas is a time of remembrance, comfort and hope. There will be quiet music, prayers, readings and an acknowledgement of those we have lost.

This will be followed by coffee, cake and an opportunity to share with others who are feeling 'blue' around Christmas time.

Remember...You are not alone this Christmas.

BYO chair or picnic rug and a photo of your loved one to display for the evening



SUNDAY DEC 20th at 8.30pm
Beauty Park, Frankston



This event is supported by Chasing Change, Frankston City Council and Support After Suicide
For more information go to <https://www.facebook.com/Chasingchangespn/>

Piety Stall

I know we have had it tough the last few months, but we are blessed to live in Australia , probably the safest place to be right now.

I'm excited that we can now open the Gift Shop and be there to assist you with any purchases you wish to make whether it be for Christmas, Confirmation or just a small gift for a friend or loved one.

Due to entering the Church by one door and leaving by another, the Gift Shop, for now, will only be opening 30 minutes before each Mass is due to commence, so drop in on your way into Mass as it will be closed at the end of each Mass.

Anyone who would like to Volunteer to work in the Gift Shop for half an hour one Sunday in the Month, Please let me know. We have had a few resignations during Covid.

I can be contacted on 0425 749 379

Regards Trish and Graham Thomas.



Every Monday Evening at 8pm

The Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet

are prayed In the Church.

All Welcome.

THANK YOU GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANT

Rev Fr William (Bill) Gill is leaving the Peninsular and moving to a retired Priests home in North Fitzroy, where he already knows some retired Priests there.

Personally, I will miss Bill, we were just getting to know one another sharing fish n chips on Friday nights and having a good chat, until COVID-19 hit. Bill is a wise Priest and I enjoyed his sagely advice and cheery company.

I am sure many of you parishioners will also miss him, so Bill will be concelebrating at his last Mass at ST MACARTAN'S on Sunday 6th December 9am Mass.

Best of luck Bill and you will always have a holiday home here and are welcome back anytime!

**Blessings
Fr Geoff**