

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year B

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



XMAS PROGRAM IN PLACE

Weekdays: Tues-Sat 9:15am

NO WEEKDAY MASSES

until Tue 19th January 2021

EXCEPT - Friday 1st Jan Solemnity

9:15am Mass

Saturday: Vigil 6pm. As usual

Sunday: 9am , 11am. As usual.

NO 5pm Sunday until 17th January

RECONCILIATION:

By arrangement - email office.

Upcoming Holy Days:

Friday 25th: Christmas Day (Solemnity)

Saturday 26th: St Stephen, the first Martyr

Sunday 27th: The Holy Family

Monday 28th: The Holy Innocents

Fri 1st Jan: Mary, Mother of God

Sunday 3rd Jan: Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday 10th Jan: Baptism of the Lord

Video Sunday 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/>

Office Hours:

CLOSED FROM 24th Dec - 12th Jan

Phone: 5975 2200

Email: mornington@cam.org.au

Parish Contact Details

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

Child Safety Officer: Carmel McGrath
0400 076 067 Email:

Mornington.childsafety@cam.org.au

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 0418 358 213. Email
vronicaryan2250@outlook.com

Marriage & Counselling: Charmaine Holmes
5977 2567

Marriage Prep: See Fr Geoff

Baptism Preparation: Kathy Raccanello

Next Baptismal Meeting - 3rd Feb 8 pm Via Zoom

Anniversaries: Sheila Anna Butler

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 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, Betty Corke, Hugh Murphy and Ruben Pateman.

Mass Intentions

The Readings over Christmas

- ⇒ **Xmas Eve:** 1st R Isaiah 9:1-7, 2nd R Titus 2:11-14, Gosp Luke 2:1-14
- ⇒ **Xmas Day:** 1st R Isaiah 62: 11-12, 2nd R Titus 3:4-7, Gosp Luke 2:15-20
- ⇒ **Sun 27th Dec:** The Holy Family: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3 or Ecc 3:2-6, 12-14
2nd R Col 3:12-21, or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19, Gosp Luke 2:22-40

Christmas Masses from the Cathedral to be televised on C31

We are pleased to share that this year's Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses at St Patrick's Cathedral will be televised on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and streamed live on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/archmelb).

Please share this information with friends, family and fellow parishioners who may be homebound and unable to join the community physically at this time:

- 24 December: Carols from 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass
- 25 December: Christmas Day Mass from 11am

Historical

Context

The Nativity scene

St Francis of Assisi is credited with setting up the first nativity scene and thus establishing a tradition that is carried on today in homes, churches and public spaces in Christian communities everywhere. In 1223, in the town of Greccio he created a life size tableau of the nativity scene to heighten the awareness of the celebration of the birth of Christ. It included statues of the holy family and a live ox and donkey. The inclusion of the livestock has no scriptural support and it is to Francis that we owe the array of sheep, oxen and donkeys that have become standard inclusions in our nativity scenes.

EXPLORING THE WORD

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census—the first—took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's house and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the

fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.' (Luke 2:1–14)

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are different gospel readings for each of the Christmas Masses: midnight, dawn and during the day. This gospel is the reading for midnight Mass.
- Luke gives a number of historical details about the time when Jesus is born through the mention of Augustus and Quirinius. He is keen to stress that Jesus enters human history in a particular place and time.
- The date of Christmas, 25 December, was dictated by the pagan feast of the 'unconquered sun,' which occurred at the time of the northern hemisphere's winter solstice. The church 'Christianised' this feast to celebrate the birth of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

SHARING THE TRADITION

- Christmas Day is the climax of the second great season of the Church's year (Advent/Christmas), but the season of Christmastide continues for several more weeks as aspects of this child are revealed. Christmas Day celebrates the mystery of the incarnation, which means that, in Jesus, God took human flesh, lived a human life and was fully one of us. As humans we cannot, of course, see God, but through Jesus, we see God's plans for us fully revealed. St Augustine, a great thinker of the early church, put it this way: How much you have loved us, O God. If your word had not become flesh and had not dwelt among us, we would have had to believe that there was no connection between God and humanity and we would have been in despair.
- We believe that Jesus is the decisive revelation of God. What does the Christmas story show us about God?
- Talk about how you have celebrated Christmas in the past. What will be different for you this year?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Do not be afraid. Listen! I bring you tidings of great joy.' What have been the joyful experiences of your life?

- How do you now experience the joy of this great day?
- What must we do to 'enjoy God's favour'?
- In this season of gift-giving, reflect on the gifts you have received over the years. What gifts have been especially treasured? What was the best present you ever received? On a deeper level, what do you regard as your most treasured gift as a human being? How do you share your giftedness? How do others share their giftedness with you? Share your reflections with the group.
- Share good news with someone this week. Be conscious of who brings good news to you.
- Proclaim God's glory often this season. Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to God's people on earth.

LIVING THE WORD

Practical ideas in connecting Scripture and daily life, with suggestions for music and environment

- How does your parish usually celebrate this season of joy and rejoicing? Will it be different this year? Are there special rituals or gatherings that catechumens could take part in?
- How does your community proclaim the birth of light into the world? How will you bear this light to the world this year?
- Pray for the world, so much in need of light and joy, and pray for each other. You could adapt the prayer of exorcism in the RCIA at §9

God of infinite wisdom, you chose the apostle Paul to proclaim your Son to every nation.

We pray that these your servants, who look forward to baptism, may follow in the footsteps of Paul and trust not in flesh and blood, but in the call of your grace.

Probe their hearts and purify them, so that, freed from all deception, they may never look back but strive always toward what is to come. May they count everything as loss compared with the unsurpassed worth of knowing your Son, and so gain him as their eternal reward, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

Living the Gospel

Faithful

A strong image that emerges from this passage is the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Their whole purpose in visiting the Temple is to fulfil the requirements of their faith. They are faithful to the Jewish tradition and it is into this tradition that they initiate Jesus. The faithfulness of Mary and Joseph is a hallmark of their life as a family. Their faithfulness is a significant element of what we celebrate in the feast of the Holy Family and their faithfulness to God and to one another is a model for all families and for all people.

THE HOLY FAMILY EXPLORING THE WORD

All four characters in today's gospel are devout and observant Jews, faithfully waiting for the fulfillment of the promises made to Israel. But the time of waiting has come to an end. In many ways, Simeon's words are universal, representing the whole of Israel's wait: 'Now Lord, you can let your servant go in peace ... because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all nations.' Likewise, Anna proclaims to all Jerusalem the identity of this child. Both point to Jesus as the visitation of God, not only to those traditionally seen as the people of God but to all the nations. The salvation brought is universal. Mary's 'yes' to God's plan has brought ful-

fillment of the promise, but still she is left wondering what that will mean in the future.

- Do you wonder what it will mean for your future now that faith in Christ has become a focus of your life?

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. This feast of the Holy Family is a rather new feast in the church's calendar. It was instituted by Pope Leo XIII (1878–1903) at a time when the industrial revolution and other social forces were destructive of family life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Christian family as 'a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit' (§2205). It calls on society to support and strengthen families, but it notes that family ties are not absolute. For the Christian, following Jesus is always the first priority.

- What forces today are destructive of family life?
- What are some of the ways that family life reflects the creative love of God, the self-sacrificing love of Jesus and the nurturing love of the Spirit?

LIVING THE WORD

- What activities does your parish community provide specifically to build families in faith or socially in community? Are there ways the community seeks to involve young people in the life of the parish or the church? Can catechumens become involved in these?
- Invite participants to bring a family photograph and place next to a lighted candle as a prayer focus. A suitable hymn could be 'World without end' (GA 428). Pray for each other's families and for families who are struggling. Pray for the family of faith that participants are preparing to enter.



Dear Parishioners

Well we may not have thrived in 2020,
But we did survive.

Here's hoping we all come back together in 2021
stronger,
In health and spirit.

My prayers are with you and
I thank you all for your Love & Support you have
shown my Mother and me, but most of all - each other.
Well done - Good & faithful servants of the Lord!
It is my pleasure and honour to be your Priest
and serve this community of St Macartan's.
Blessings for Christmas & the New Year

†
Fr Geoff

COVID-19: AND ST MACARTAN'S?

Hi All,

As we are still restricted to how many can be in the Church = 133 people. I would suggest any people intending on coming to one of our four indoor Masses arrive earlier than usual. There are NO BOOKINGS!

The 5pm Outdoor Mass is the ONLY one requiring bookings.

During the week: NO WEEKDAY MASSES UNTIL Tuesday 17th January

Doors to the Church are open early as they used to be, so feel free to enter and pray but you must still sanitise and sign in or QR Code phone scan in. The seats need sanitising after each use. Spray and cloths found behind altar.

Weekend Masses:

Because numbers are bigger, there will be a Mass usher, who will be counting people in the Church and when maximum number reached the Church doors will be closed. Again it is compulsory to sign in or QR phone Code register and sanitise hands **plus KEEP MASKS ON! when in a large numbers inside the Church - especially all Christmas Masses**, also when amongst strangers for a prolonged period of time. Again, we need people to assist in sanitising pews after Mass, please help if you can?

OUTDOOR 5pm CHILDREN'S MASS

If too wet, windy or hot, the 5pm will be cancelled and move indoors with restricted numbers. But so far the forecast looks Ok.

Parking will not be available in Church back car park for the 5pm outdoor service, so be prepared to park elsewhere and walk, or share a ride. There will be a drop off area for disabled and limited disabled parking. Chairs and or blankets would be an advantage to bring, with only limited chairs available.

Children coming to the 5pm Masses are encouraged to dress up as traditional Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Stars, Angels, Manger Animals etc. And take part in the procession and the liturgy, with two live donkeys - true!

All outdoor masses follow a COVID-19 plan, have marshals/attendants, child safety officers and the plan has been reviewed and approved by the Police.

Let us celebrate this Nativity, joyfully and have some fun.

Blessings
Fr Geoff

St Macartan's Christmas Masses 2020



24th December **Outside Masses**

5pm Children's Mass

Book via Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/BNINI>
(BYO chair/blanket)

In the event of inclement weather this outdoor "Christmas Eve Masses" will be cancelled, and a small number invited into the Church.

7.30pm Outdoor Family Mass—Cancelled
Now will be inside—NO BOOKING REQUIRED

Inside Masses

No Bookings required for these below:

7.30PM Family Mass (Inside)

11.00pm Christmas Evening Mass

25th December Xmas Day

8.30am

10.30am





St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

The Vinnies Christmas Appeal once again reflects the marvellous generosity of parishioners , even in these extremely difficult times . \$3660 was donated direct to our Conference : \$ 1460 from the Church collection and \$ 2200 from individuals given to me .

Many, many thanks to you all.

Paul Girolami, Pres. SVDP Mornington

THANK YOU

St Macartan's wish to thank **Party Pets 2U**
for providing our donkeys for the 5pm Children's Mass

Thank you for your kind and generous support!



**Party Pets 2U
Mountain Road
Cockatoo Vic 3781
Tel: 0436 393 390
partypets2u@gmail.com.au**

HOLIDAY MASS TIME CHANGES

WEEKDAY MASSES:

No Morning Masses on Thurs 24, Mon 28, Tue 29, Wed 30 or Thu 31st December.

Friday 1st Jan - Yes, Mass is on 9:15am: Solemnity Mary Mother of God

Also **no Weekday Morning Mass** from Monday 4th Jan to Mon 18th Jan. (This includes Saturday Mornings)

They resume on Tuesday 19th Jan 9:15am

SUNDAY 5PM MASSES:

No Sunday 5pm Mass from Sunday 3rd January to Sun 17th January.

Resume on Sunday 24th January.

WEEKEND Masses Sat 6pm, Sunday 9am & 11am - NO CHANGES.

All Masses as per normal.

DURING THE DAY:

The church will be opened in the morning for private prayer and / or rosary and locked in the afternoons. ALL people entering Church MUST sanitise and sign in. It would be helpful for any groups entering to also sanitise their pews after leaving.

I will be taking some time off during the weekdays to attend to some things and have a bit of a break. But returning every weekend to celebrate Mass.

The Office will be closed from 24th Dec and reopen on Tuesday 12th January.

The next newsletter will be on the 15th January

Regards - Fr Geoff

December 2020 Mass Times

December 2020						
◀ November						January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Xmas Eve NO 9:15am Mass 5pm Mass is Outside 7:30 & 11pm Are Inside	25 Xmas Day 8:30am Is Inside 10:30am Is Inside	26 SATURDAY No 9:15am Mass 6pm Mass as usual
27 SUNDAY 9am & 11am Masses as usual NO 5pm Mass	28 No Mass	29 No Mass	30 No Mass	31 No Mass		

January 2021 Mass Times

◀ December	January 2021						February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1 9:15am MASS Community	2 SATURDAY No 9:15am Mass 6pm Mass as usual	
CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS (All must still sanitize and sign in)							
3 SUNDAY 9am & 11am Masses as usual NO 5pm Mass	4 No Mass	5 No Mass	6 No Mass	7 No Mass	8 No Mass	9 SATURDAY No 9:15am Mass 6pm Mass as usual	
CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS (All must still sanitize and sign in)							
10 SUNDAY 9am & 11am Masses as usual NO 5pm Mass	11 No Mass	12 No Mass	13 No Mass	14 No Mass	15 No Mass	16 SATURDAY No 9:15am Mass 6pm Mass as usual	
17 SUNDAY 9am & 11am & 5pm Masses as usual	18 No Mass	19 9:15am Mass as usual	20 9:15am Mass as usual	21 9:15am Mass as usual	22 9:15am Mass as usual	23 SATURDAY 9:15am & 6pm Mass as usual	
24 SUNDAY 9am & 11am & 5pm Masses as usual	25 No Mass	26 9:15am Mass as usual	27 9:15am Mass as usual	28 9:15am Mass as usual	29 9:15am Mass as usual	30 SATURDAY 9:15am & 6pm Mass as usual	
31 SUNDAY 9am & 11am & 5pm Masses as usual							