

**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](mailto:mornington@cam.org.au) **Web:** [stmacartansparish.com.au](http://stmacartansparish.com.au)  
**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy  
**Parish Secretary:** Theresa Collard



**Mass Times**

**Weekdays: Tues-Sat 9:15am**

**Saturday: Vigil 6pm. As usual**

**Sunday: 9am, 11am & 5pm. As usual.**

**RECONCILIATION:**

**After the Wednesday and Saturday morning Masses**

**Video Sunday 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/>

**Upcoming Holy Days:**

- Mon 25th: Conversion of St Paul
- Tue 26th: Australia Day
- Thu 29th: St Thomas Aquinas

**Parish Office Hours:**

**Tuesday to Thursday 9am—4pm**

**Friday 9am—3.30pm**

**Office CLOSED Weekends & Mondays**

**Phone: 5975 2200**

**Email:** [mornington@cam.org.au](mailto:mornington@cam.org.au)

**Parish Contact Details**

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Contact Office

**Finance Committee:** Frank Crea  
0417 104 041

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

[Mornington.childsafety@cam.org.au](mailto:Mornington.childsafety@cam.org.au)

**AV Technical:** Graeme Wilson  
Email: [gpw611@bigpond.com](mailto:gpw611@bigpond.com)

**St Mac's High Spirits - Faye Melhem**  
Email: [stmacshighspirits@gmail.com](mailto:stmacshighspirits@gmail.com)

**Parish Caretaker & Memorial Wall:** John Spaziani: 0419 598 911 or Contact Office on Fridays.

**Music & Wedding Co-Ordinator-**  
Veronica Ryan 0418 358 213. Email  
[veronicaryan2250@outlook.com](mailto:veronicaryan2250@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*

**All Baptisms:** Contact Parish Office

**Schools**

**St Macartan's Primary School**

Ph: 5979 9200

**Principal:** Colleen McGreal

**Deputy:** Philip Hills, Kathleen Ronchi  
**Padua College** Ph: 5976 0100

**Anniversaries:** Elizabeth Maria Palmen, Lambertus Josephius Palmen, Eric George Fordyce and Stefano Sercia.

Mass Intentions

**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.

**First Reading** Jon 3:1-5. 10

### **A reading from the Prophet Jonah**

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**(R.) Teach me your ways, 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. 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** 1 Cor 7:29-31

### **A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

### **Gospel Acclamation** Is Mk 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near:  
believe the Good News!

### **Gospel** Mk 1:14-20

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

### **Communion Antiphon** Jn 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

# Scriptural Context

## The Gospel in a hurry

*One of the features of this week's gospel is the immediate response that Jesus inspires from the fishermen as they give up all that they previously knew to follow him. We will see throughout this year of readings that this is characteristic of the Gospel of Mark. This gospel is sometimes referred to as the gospel in a hurry as the writer uses a lot of language that implies haste – "straight away"; "immediately"; "that day"; "at once". Such language is used to describe the movement of Jesus around Galilee but it is also used to describe the powerful reactions people have to him.*

## EXPLORING THE WORD

- This week we return to the Gospel of Mark, which will be the main source of readings through the weeks of Ordinary Time this year. Mark's Gospel was the first of the accounts of Jesus' ministry to be written down. It is widely accepted that it was written about ad 65–70 for a community in Rome where Christians were undergoing persecution because of their faith. Because of this setting, Mark often recalls stories that give great hope to people and encourage them to stay firm in their faith in the face of opposition. In this gospel, the disciples do not make excuses or delay. They simply leave everything to follow Jesus. They are immediately drawn to the words and person of Jesus; nothing else is as important as the Kingdom of God and the one who preaches it.

- What is so attractive about the person of Jesus? What drew you to follow Jesus?
- The disciples undergo conversion and take up a whole new way of life. What are the signs of conversion in yourself?
- What have you left behind to follow Christ?

## DID YOU KNOW?

- John the Baptist was arrested and ultimately killed by Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, who ruled over the region of Galilee. John had been highly critical of the behaviour of Antipas in marrying Herodias, who was his niece and the former wife of his brother.
- The Sea of Galilee is also known as Lake Tiberias and Lake of Gennesaret. It is the largest freshwater lake in Israel, and is approximately 53 km in circumference, 21 km long and 13 km wide.
- Each gospel account of the calling of the disciples is slightly different. Compare this gospel to last week's reading.
- Simon and Andrew, James and John lived in the town of Capernaum on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Look at a map of Palestine. Most Bibles include one.

## **SHARING THE TRADITION**

The first disciples to be called by Jesus offer us a model of how we are expected to be followers of Christ. A disciple is one who takes another as teacher and model. As disciples, we must not only believe in the teachings of Jesus but allow them to influence how we live our lives. We are called to 'profess our faith, bear witness to it and spread it' (CCC, §1816).

- You could examine the Book of Acts and talk about the ways the early church bore witness to and spread the faith.
- You could introduce the figure of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, and examine his travels and work.
- You could explore the way the church spread throughout the world over the centuries and look at examples of how the church professes, bears witness to and spreads the faith today.

## **MAKING CONNECTIONS**

If you cast out your net, what might you catch?

- Let go of something that makes it difficult for you to follow Christ.
- Share together some experiences of leaving things behind and embarking on a new way of life: leaving home to study, travel or marry; changing jobs to something completely different; moving to a different country or city. How was the experience for you? What challenges were involved?
- This week's psalm offers a wonderful prayer for catechumens: Teach me your ways, 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. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

## **LIVING THE WORD**

You could discuss ways that your community or individuals in your community profess their faith, bear witness to it and spread it. How might the catechumens profess, bear witness to and spread their faith this week and into the future?

- Some netting resembling fishing net could form a focus for prayer. This could be an appropriate time for an anointing to symbolise being chosen and called. You can adapt the prayers in the RCIA at §102.
- Pray for the church and all those who are called to bear witness to their faith. Conclude with 'The Summons' (GA 502).

## COVID-19: AND ST MACARTAN'S?

Hi All - Happy New Year!

Well all masses are back and the Office is open again. 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 weekend Masses arrive earlier than usual. There are NO BOOKINGS!

It is still compulsory to sign in or QR phone Code register as well as sanitise hands **plus KEEP MASKS ON! inside the Church** - also wherever you may be in a congested environment for a prolonged period of time and where social distancing can't be maintained. Again, we need people to assist in sanitising pews after Mass, please help if you can?

The Sunday Video Mass is starting again after a two week break. This is connecting many parishioners now residing in nursing homes of which we have approximately 17 in our Parish. As well as connecting those who physically can't get to the Church but for those of you still sitting at home and can make it in, please come back. Your presence is missed and needed.

I am starting to review all ministry groups in the Parish and seeing what support they need in this coming year and how we as a Parish can help them grow. I will be highlighting a different one each week and inviting those who can assist by joining them, to do so.

This week, I will be meeting with the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committees and looking at what we have to do to coming out of Covid and preparing for a Covid "Normal". Whatever that is?

I'm happy to report that we, as a Parish, have survived last year Ok. Our finances were kept buoyant, thanks to the Government Jobkeeper scheme and you Parishioners with e-banking and contribution envelopes being sent in. So - Well done good and faithful servants.

There are some major maintenance projects scheduled to begin soon. One is replacing the window above church mezzanine, also rendering the façade of the church, fixing concrete cracks and cleaning and repairing the church roof. We have been saving for these items and have money already set aside for some.

I would like to say a special THANK YOU to the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Committee, Child Safety team, Office staff, the Liturgy Team, Choirs and musicians. The Mass coordinators the people counters, readers, Mass money counters, Church sanitisers, Church cleaners, gardeners, maintenance, caretaker, the Piety store volunteers, the AV operators, Church flower arrangers, SVDP, visitation team, rosary groups, the sacristans, all ministry groups and every volunteer who assisted when they were needed. Thank you for all your support and your flexibility in meeting all new Covid requirements and demands - You have all been truly exceptional, extraordinary and excellent! Well done, you are greatly appreciated.

Blessings  
Fr Geoff



## **St Macartan's Gift Shop**

Dear Parishioners,

Due to COVID-19, the Gift Shop, has been closed for many months, but we are now open and ready to be of service to you all. We have had a few Volunteers step aside for the moment due to health issues. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope to see them back soon. If you would like to become a Volunteer, please contact me for the details.

Due to regulation still in place, the Gift Shop will now be opening 30 minutes **before** the 6pm – 9am and 11am Masses, and for your convenience 9am – 10am on Wednesdays. If you need anything urgently outside of these hours you can contact me on 0425 749 379 and if I can assist, I will.

We currently have some great items in the Gift Shop. My favourite is a large print Prayer Book which has Mass and so many beautiful Prayers for all occasions. I love this book so much I bought one for each of my four sisters for Christmas. We also have a selection of Bibles but there is one in a zip cover which would make a fabulous gift for friends or family. While we have stocks take this opportunity to purchase one for your own home.

With children and grandchildren not attending Mass as they should, seize the opportunity to give them a Catholic gift for whatever the occasion. A simple Cross for the wall, a religious crystal block or a simple Prayer book. Columban Calendars have also arrived for those who requested them.

Christmas stock was light on this year due to Covid but what we have left will now be marked down and cleared to make room for new stock next Christmas. All sale items will be on a table outside the Gift Shop before the 9am and 11am Masses Sunday.

Please support the Gift Shop. It is there to assist both you and the Parish.

Regards

Trish Thomas



## St Macartan's Parishioners Photo Display



### **PLEASE SEND IN YOUR PHOTO**

**The photos will then be included at the start of our Video Mass**

**Take a selfie and then e-mail it to our Parish Office at—  
[mornington@cam.org.au](mailto:mornington@cam.org.au)**

## Child Safety

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome & Best Wishes for 2021.

The Child Safety Committee is looking forward to a new year with new goals & new resolutions that focus on ensuring the safety of all our children & young people.

Our initial goal is to address all parish groups with the intention to introduce the Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct Declaration that needs to be signed by all volunteers, as directed from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

These documents are available on our website. Our committee aspires to have members from all components of our parish community, therefore we willingly welcome anyone who is interested in becoming an active participant.

Yours Sincerely

Carmel McGrath  
Child Safety Officer





**Praising God purifies the soul, is like breathing 'pure oxygen,' pope says.**



**It may seem illogical, but Christians are called to give God praise — not complaints — in times of darkness and difficulty, Pope Francis said.**

**Jesus and the saints “show us that we can always give praise, in good times and bad, because God is the faithful friend — this is the foundation of praise, he is the faithful friend and his love never fails. He is always by our side; he always waits for us,” the pope said Jan. 13 during his weekly general audience.**

**This is why, he said, “praising God is like breathing in pure oxygen. It purifies the soul, it helps you look at the horizon” and not see oneself as imprisoned or trapped in the current moment.**

**He reflected on the time in Jesus’ early ministry when his great works and miracles were still met with disbelief: St. John the Baptist, who had been imprisoned, was unsure whether Jesus was truly the Messiah; some towns remained unrepentant; and the wise and learned had rejected his preaching.**

**According to St. Matthew, “Jesus does not lift up a lament to the Father, but rather a hymn of jubilation” and praise during this time of crisis and disappointment, he said.**

**“Why?” the pope asked.**

**“First and foremost, he praises him for who he is: ‘Father, Lord of heaven and earth.’ Jesus rejoices in his spirit because he knows and he feels that his father is the God of the universe” and he is “my father,” he said.**

**“Praise springs from this experience of feeling” that he is the son of God and is loved. Jesus rejoices in this fact, and “we too must rejoice and praise God because humble and simple people welcome the Gospel.”**

**Pope Francis asked people to take inspiration and courage from the examples of Jesus and the saints, who lived in a world that did not fully change with their preaching and who themselves would ultimately face death.**

**“Let us have the courage to say, ‘Blessed are you, Lord,’ and praise the Lord,” he said.  
“This will do us good.”**