

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

Weekdays: Tues-Sat 9:15am

Saturday: Vigil 6pm. **Sunday:** 9am, 11am

**SUNDAY 5pm (NOT weekly) -
ONLY 2nd & 4th Sunday each Month**

Holy Hour / Adoration

Every Friday after 9:15 Mass & 1st Saturdays
each month after 9:15am Mass

RECONCILIATION:

After the Wed and Sat 9:15am Masses

Video Sunday Mass

On Line found on Parish's YouTube page:
(Ctrl and enter) on this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOppts0Fw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOppts0Fw/videos)

Also view our Parish website:

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

Upcoming Holy Days: None

- GOOD FRIDAY

Youth Mass - 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5pm
+ Holy Hour 3:30-4:30pm

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday 9am - 4pm

Friday 9am - 3.30pm Phone: 5975 2200

Office CLOSED Weekends & Mondays

Email: mornington@cam.org.au

Schools

St Macartan's Primary School

Ph: 59799200

Principal: Colleen McGreal

Deputies: Philip Hills & Kathleen Ronchi

Padua College Ph: 5976 0100

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

Volunteer Application Support Officer:

Tim Lambourne - email Office

St Macartan's Social Justice Awareness

Group: Contact Kerry McInerney
kerrymcinerney111@gmail.com 59762155

AV Technical: Graeme Wilson

Email: gpw611@bigpond.com

St Mac's High Spirits - Faye Melhem

Email: fayesayah@hotmail.com

Parish Caretaker: John Spaziani

0419 598 911

Music & Wedding Co-Ordinator-

Veronica Ryan 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 - 5th May 8 pm

Via Zoom

All Baptisms: Contact Parish Office

Memorial Wall: Contact Parish Office **ONLY**
on Fridays.

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS



Recently Deceased: Raymond Clements, Moira Renouf and Mylee Trevitt

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Dean Pratt, Maureen Spargo, Tony Formosa, Torquil Hansen, Betty Corke, Ruben Pateman, Sue Hale and Sheila Wright.

First Reading Is 50:4-37

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the weary he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.

'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me.

They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.

O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)

I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory.

Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

Second Reading Phil 2:6– 11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus 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 Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Mk 14:1 – 15:47

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Communion Antiphon Mt 26:42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.



Easter Mass Times

**Only 140 people are allowed in the Church as per 2sqm rule!
First come - first seated.**

Holy Thursday: 7pm (NO 9:15am Mass Thursday)

Stations of the Cross Friday: 10am (NO 9:15am Mass Friday)

Good Friday: 3pm Passion of the Lord Service

Easter Vigil: 8:30pm Saturday (NO 9:15am Mass Saturday)

Easter Sunday: 9am and 11am (NO 5pm Mass Sunday)

**Remember: Daylight Saving Ends, the morning of Sunday 4th April
PUT CLOCKS BACK 1 hour.**

GOSPEL FOCUS

This man was a son of God

By the time we have stood and listened to this lengthy Passion narrative, the listener may have started to wilt by the time we get to the death of Jesus. Yet, the gospel writer keeps one of the most important messages for this moment. As Jesus dies, a centurion standing by utters the inspired words, "In truth, this man was a son of God." Famously played by John Wayne in the movie, The Greatest Story Ever Told, the centurion is the voice of the gentile – the non-Jew – representing all those throughout the world who will recognise the truth of Jesus' life and purpose.

EXPLORING THE WORD

There are many options for the Palm Sunday liturgy, thus many readings that could form the basis of reflection. Mark's story of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Mark 11) for this his last Passover is in sharp contrast to the Passion narrative. Only days before his arrest and trial, Jesus had been hailed by the crowds, who spread their cloaks on the road, waved greenery in homage and shouted Hosanna. It is this same crowd of pilgrims to the festival who turn on him and shout 'Crucify him' to Pilate and taunt him on the cross. Even the disciples are a disappointment. They are unable to stay awake and pray in the garden as he contemplates his fate. At his arrest, one young man even leaves behind his cloak rather than be taken with Jesus. Peter

denies he even knew him. Jesus dies totally alone and abandoned, his human frailty to the fore. Only some faithful women watch from a distance to see the final outcome. But the faithful come to know that through this death comes the rising and the glorification.

- What does the passion of Jesus tell us about where God is in the suffering of the world and in our own personal suffering?
- What is Mark expressing in this image of Jesus as abandoned even by those who have followed him?
- If, as scholars suggest, Mark is writing for a community of believers in Rome who are undergoing persecution and even death, how may this image of Jesus' suffering resonate with them? What comfort may they take from this image of Christ?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- What moments of utter abandonment have you experienced?
- Have you ever been jeered at by others? How did you feel?
- Spend time reflecting on the events of the Passion of Jesus. What does it mean for you that Jesus died for all humanity?
- Share stories of occasions of desolation in your life.
- Share reflections on how you respond to the abandonment that Jesus experienced. Can you make connections?
- Make this prayer often this week: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.

SHARING THE TRADITION

One of the great devotions associated with this period of the Church year is the Stations of the Cross (sometimes called the Way of the Cross). There are traditionally fourteen stations associated with events of the arrest, trial and death of Jesus. To travel and meditate on these events is a centuries-old practice, with some evidence of similar devotion going back as far as the fifth century. It is a practice that was promoted by the Franciscans who were given custody of the Holy Places in the Holy Land in the 1300s.

- You could view a video of pilgrims following the traditional Way of the Cross in Jerusalem.
- You could examine the Stations of the Cross in your church or use a contemporary Stations of the Cross that draws parallels between current issues and the Passion of Christ.

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

The palms used today symbolise Christ's triumph, while the cross is the symbol of the death through which his triumph is achieved. Traditionally, Catholics take the palms and place them in a position of prominence in their homes as a reminder of the passion Christ endured for us. The palm is often attached to a cross, uniting these two symbols. Do you have a cross or crucifix in your home?

DID YOU KNOW?

- Golgotha is a Semitic word that means 'skull'. The name Calvary comes from the Latin translation of 'skull'. It is likely that the name comes from the habitual use of the site for executions.
- Passion or Palm Sunday is the beginning of what is known as Holy Week, a period of intense preparation for the ceremonies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.
- The Passion of Christ refers to his arrest, trial and death.
- Jesus is in Jerusalem at this time to celebrate the Festival of Passover.

LIVING THE WORD

- In what ways does your community celebrate the events of the Passion? Are there roles which the elect could take in the ceremonies of Holy Week?
- Use a cross and some palms as a focus for prayer. Allow some quiet time for meditation on the events of the Passion, perhaps singing or quietly listening to 'Jesus remember me'. Pray for each other, especially those who are approaching baptism.

Visiting Seminarian Toan Ho

Welcome to Toan Ho who is a 7th year Seminarian from Copus Christi Melbourne.

We will have the pleasure of sharing Holy week with Toan, and I'm sure you will all make him feel welcome

Fr Geoff



Project Compassion
27th March 2021

PROJECT COMPASSION
BE MORE

Please remember to bring back your Project Compassion boxes or envelopes next week, thank you. You can also donate by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



Catholic Theological College

Newman and the Nineteenth Century Church
Online unit via zoom on 12 Saturday mornings

Lecturer:

Rev. Prof. Austin Cooper OMI AM

Audit, Undergraduate and Postgraduate Options available

Enquiries: Dr Rosemary Canavan, Academic Dean

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication.

Attend in the comfort of your own home or experience a residential weekend

Our **on-line weekend** gives couples the chance to sleep in their own beds and check-in on kids or animals during meal times.

Come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing!

The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

Couples from regional areas may find the virtual Weekend option ideal.

Next **On-line** weekend is on **30 April – 2 May 2021.**

Next **Residential** weekend is on **21 -23 May 2021.**

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

Volunteers needed to join the Visitation Team

With the number of nursing homes and aged care facilities increasing in our area **more hands are needed.**

We would like to extend an invitation to volunteers to join our group.
There will be coaching and training provided to put you at ease.
please call Barb (0410649622)

The Hands of Christ.

Christ has no Body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours
Yours are the eyes with which he Looks
Compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which he Blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands ,yours are the feet.
Yours are the eyes, you are his Body.

Thanks for your support
Barb and Clive



In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to
“Take fresh courage.”

This year is the ten year anniversary of Mary’s canonisation.

During the challenging times we all face, please pray and support Mary MacKillop Today, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vital works and carry on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross.

For more information please call 02 8912 2777 or visit
marymackilloptoday.org.au

HIGH SPIRITS - 2021 **ENROL NOW!!!!**



This is catechism for primary aged school children, that do not attend a Catholic School and is designed to instruct them about the Sacraments.

It will held every Tuesday from 4:00 to 5:15pm in the Parish Community House

Classes for Confirmation start on the 2nd March.

Reconciliation Info night June 22nd & 1st Eucharist Info night Aug 24th.

Enrolments will be taken now. Please e-mail : fayesayah@hotmail.com

Business Owners

St Macartan's would like to support our Parishioners who are business owners by advertising their Business in our Bulletin.

Please contact the office during business hours on 5975 2200 or e-mail your Ad to mornington@cam.org.au



Donato Cafe Restaurant Mt Martha | Mornington | Italian

In the original corner store known as MPH Café, and now three generations on, 88 Craigie Road, Mt Martha is the new home to Donato est. 1980.

A fresh new face for a local, Italian family café.

We have created a unique meeting place for our local community and regular visitors to the Mornington Peninsula.

Coffee has become part of a daily routine for so many of us and we are proud to have Coffee Mio as our supplier of choice – of course, every cup being made with a whole lotta love.

Come in and see Frank and Luana

St Macartan's Gift Shop

Holy Week is only a couple of weeks away so I just want to remind you of the Holy Week Missals we have in stock. We have sold 6 and only have about 5 left. If you don't have a Sunday or Weekday Missal, this is perfect to assist you follow all Masses through Holy Week. We also have some beautiful Crosses. The Crucifixion and another with all 14 Stations of the Cross around the Crucifix. We have one copy left of Making a Holy Lent – a beautiful book of Meditations through Lent, a book that will serve you year after year. For those who were asking, we have received further copies of the Weekday Missal, proving to be very popular.

El Salvador Crosses are now back in stock and these make beautiful gifts, especially for Grandchildren. We have them for Baptism, Communion and Confirmation and others just for the Family. Come in and have a browse. We have many new items with more expected next week.

Please support the Gift Shop, after all it is there to assist you when looking for that special gift.

Gift Shop Hours

Saturday 5.30 – 6pm

Sunday 8.30am – 9am and 10am – 11am

Wednesday 9am – 10am



Tip Tickets

Dear Parishioners,
If anyone has spare Tip Tickets that they are not using, could you please drop off at the office (one we are out of lock down), we are needing to remove some green waste that has built up around the church grounds.

AV Operators needed for mass

Training available. Please contact parish office



Flower Arrangers for the Alter Required

If you love Flower and arranging, please contact Mary on
0437102483



Child Safety



Dear Parishioners,

At our recent meeting it was decided to conduct three (3) information sessions to assist with updating our St Macartan's volunteer records. The aim of these informal chats is to clarify any enquiries and or misgivings you may have regarding volunteering at St Macartan's.

Please be reassured your efforts as a volunteer at St Macartan's is valued highly, however we must be compliant to the standards as outlined by the Melbourne Archdiocese.

At this point in time we aim to have our "Child Safety" records up to date by the end of June 2021. In order to achieve this goal we need to have everyone on board & up to date.

Information Sessions with Tim Lambourne, Michael McGrath, Carmel McGrath
Thursday 25th March, Thursday 22nd April, Thursday 29th April
Any time between 1.00 and 3.00 in the Parish Hall

Please contact Tim Lambourne, timlambourne@yahoo.com or the Parish Office for any more information.

Carmel McGrath
Child Safety Officer



Scripture reflections for Holy Week

During this past year, all aspects of our lives have been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. But as Pope Francis said in a homily given at St Peter's Basilica on Palm Sunday 2020:

'When we have our back to the wall, when we find ourselves at a dead end, with no light and no way of escape, when it seems that God himself is not responding, we should remember that we are not alone. Jesus himself experienced total abandonment in a situation he had never before experienced, in order to be one with us in everything. He did it for me, for you, to say to us: Do not be afraid, you are not on your own. I experienced all your desolation in order to be ever close to you.'

Far from being absent or turning his back on us, Jesus is with us, supporting us and sharing in our suffering.

'Today, in the tragedy of a pandemic, in the face of the many false securities that have now crumbled, in the face of so many hopes betrayed, in the sense of abandonment that weighs on our hearts, Jesus speaks to each one of us, saying,

Courage, open your heart to my love. You will feel the consolation of God who sustains you.

'The Father, who sustained Jesus in his Passion also supports us. May we reach out to those who are suffering and those most in need. May we not be concerned about what we lack, but what good we can do for others.'

This Holy Week, we suggest you spend some time each day meditating on the compassion of Jesus (from the Latin *compati* – 'to suffer with'). That compassion is for us all, whatever our age or walk of life. Each reflection in this booklet invites us to remember how Jesus in his compassion responded to human need, as we hear him say to us, too:

I know how you feel. You are not on our own.

I am with you, let my compassion enfold you. Lean on me.

As we pray through Holy Week with these words, we look forward with hope to Easter Sunday and the Resurrection.

MONDAY

Jesus suffers with the sick, and those who care for them at home or in hospital

READING

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to,' he said, 'you can cure me'. Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once, and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' Mark 1: 40

REFLECTION

'I'm not a hero – that's not what I ever asked for. I just want to do the job I've been trained for – to get people better, to help them cope, to keep them safe, to stop their pain, to make life worth living. But the impact of Covid – it's just relentless and it's getting so hard to keep bouncing back. On my way out of the door today though, I remember a prayer: 'Christ has no body but yours', and in that instant I know he's there. I hear Jesus say ...

'I know how you feel. You are not on your own.
I am with you, let my compassion enfold you. Lean on me.
Do you remember what I did for the leper?
You'll be my outstretched hands today.'

As I recall that story, it's hard to imagine what leprosy looks like – but I can envisage the isolation, the loneliness, the despair. And then there is Jesus – reaching out with his healing touch, and the leper is cured. Again, I hear his voice, feel the compassion – 'I will be there for you and all those you'll care for today'.

As I begin my journey to work, I am strengthened by knowing that the Lord will be suffering with us today – with me, my colleagues, and the ones we'll be there for."

PRAYER

Christ has no body now but yours ...
Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which he looks
with compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
– Teresa of Avila (1515–82)

TUESDAY

Jesus suffers with the families kept apart by Covid



READING

Soon afterwards, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep'. Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Luke 7: 11–16

REFLECTION

"After yet another frustrating video conference with the younger generation in my family, and a long phone call with my elderly parents, I feel very low. How I long to be able to touch them, hug them, explain yet again why I can't visit them. So, I decide to spend some time with the Lord. I tell him what is in my heart, my deepest longings, and I listen:

'I know how you feel. You are not on your own.
I am with you, let my compassion enfold you. Lean on me.
Do you remember what happened
when I went to Nain and met that poor widow?'

I take a few moments to read the story. I try to visualise the people, the widow, Jesus himself ... and I imagine the pain of the woman who now has no family, no social status. I pause and ponder. 'Do not weep'.

I hear the compassionate tone of Jesus's voice. He is saying this to me too. My family will be given back to me. We will be reunited once more. They and I need to be patient.

I tell the Lord what is in my heart now, and in gratitude I thank him for his compassion and sustaining consolation."

PRAYER

Oisín at 6

Streetlamps pale into dawn. I drive by your house,
Straight from a hospice ward,
And think of you
In the heavy warmth of your room,
Your comfort-blanket fallen from your fingers:
And pray a bright angel to visit you in your dreams,
Telling you how deeply loved you are
In your earnestness,
Your tripping-excitedly-over-words-iness,
Your joy in being in the world:
For all the shining self of you.
– Padraig J Daly OSA, God in Winter (2015)

WEDNESDAY

Jesus suffers with children and young people suffering from disrupted education or abuse

READING

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. – Mark 10:

13–16

REFLECTION

"I look at the brother and sister again. With so few children in school now, it's easier to see the signs. How do I feel, knowing that I might be the only one who smiles at them today; the only one who says, 'Well done! Good job!'; the only one they're safe with? These are the ones really suffering behind closed doors in lockdown. So many times this week I've wanted to yell at God, 'Why aren't you there for them?' But as I'm looking at them today I'm moved by a whisper ...

'I know how you feel. They are not alone.

I am with them, my compassion enfolds them. They can lean on me.

Do you remember what I told my disciples
when the people brought the children to me?'

I'm drawn into that scene, watching as Jesus draws these children closer to him, and blesses them. As he speaks he looks straight at me, and the warmth of his compassion is almost overwhelming: he knows, he cares, he is suffering with them. I return to the reality of my classroom thanking the Lord for showing me the depth of his love for me, and for these little ones.

I will be here for them too, their education will not be disrupted and they will be safe today."

PRAYER

Whoever Welcomes

'Welcome', the word is always on your lips,
Each welcome warms another one inside,
An interleaving of relationships,
An open door where arms are open wide.

First welcome to the child and through the child
A welcome to the Saviour of the world
And through the Saviour's welcome all are called
Home to the Father's heart. Each call is curled
And nested in another, as you were
Nested and nestled in your mother's womb,
As Mary carried One who carried her,
And we are wrapped in you, deep in the tomb,
Where you turn our rejection into welcome,
And death itself becomes our welcome home.
– Malcolm Guite, Parable and Paradox (2016)

HOLY THURSDAY

Jesus suffers with the furloughed, the unemployed, the bankrupt,
the hospitality industry



READING

Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.' The disciples said to him, 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?' Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves have you?' They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.' Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Matthew 15: 32–37

REFLECTION

"I'd worked so hard building up my business; things were beginning to take shape nicely. Then the lockdown came: we had to close. No income for me, or for those working with me, and the bills keep coming in. The government does try to help, but it's not enough. I am so downhearted and desolate. So I turn to the Lord. I tell him how I feel, how my heart aches, and I listen:

'I know how you feel. You are not on your own.
I am with you, let my compassion enfold you. Lean on me.
Do you remember what happened that evening
when I was surrounded by this crowd who had no food?'

I take a few moments to read the story. I try and imagine that I am one of the people present in the crowd, or one of the disciples. I feel their hunger or their powerlessness. I hear Jesus say: 'I have compassion for the crowd ... How many loaves have you?' I pause awhile. I hear the compassionate tone of his voice. I ponder. In time, I realise that he knows; he will sustain us, feed us till we are full. Thank you Lord, for giving me hope and courage, for helping me to find new ways to reach out to those in need around me."

PRAYER

Blessing the Bread, The Cup – for Holy Thursday

Let us bless the bread that gives itself to us
with its terrible weight its infinite grace.

Let us bless the cup poured out for us
with a love that makes us anew.

Let us gather around these gifts
simply given and deeply blessed.

And then let us go bearing the bread,
carrying the cup laying the table
within a hungry world.

– Jan Richardson, Circle of Grace (2015)

GOOD FRIDAY

Jesus suffers with the terminally ill



READING

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.' – Luke 23: 39–43

REFLECTION

"It's often worst when I wake up very early in the morning; I'm alone and have to admit that I'm so frightened sometimes. It's like an enormous wave engulfs me – I feel like I'm drowning. I can't get my breath, and everything is black around me. I'm so afraid of what will happen at the end.

How will I leave behind these precious ones whose love and care have carried me through this far? My heartbeat quickens and I feel the panic arising again, but then, in the sliver of light that is coming through the gap in the curtains, I catch sight of the crucifix on the wall of my room, and at that moment I know Jesus is here with me. His voice surrounds me:

'I know how you feel. You are not on your own.

I am with you, let my compassion enfold you. Lean on me.

Do you remember what I promised the thief
who was put to death beside me?'

I recall our Lord's suffering, and his kindness and compassion to all those he encountered along the journey to his own death. My fears begin to subside. I know I won't be alone – the Lord will be with me on every step of my journey towards his kingdom.

When my time comes, I know I will be with him in Paradise."

HOLY SATURDAY
Jesus suffers with the bereaved

READING

Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother Lazarus would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'

Jesus said to Martha, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' – John 11: 30.31–36, 40, 44

REFLECTION

"We thought we'd taken every precaution, followed all the rules, but to no avail. We rushed him to hospital, but they couldn't help. He waved to us as we left him. We could not stay. And then the phone call. He'd died.

Suddenly, all seems dark, empty, barren, hopeless. Why? What's the use?

'Where were you Lord?' I cry bitterly. And from the depth of my heart, there is a small inner voice:

'I know how you feel. You are not on your own.
I am with you, let my compassion enfold you. Lean on me.
Do you remember what happened when I went to see Lazarus
and his sisters Martha and Mary? I wept with them, too'.

I spend a few moments reading the story again ... I might as well, what else is there to do? I ponder ... slowly, I start leaning on the Lord.

No, I am not on my own, thousands of others suffer like me, thousands like me feel numb and sorrowful. I pray for them.

Maybe today, with the Lord's help, I will be able to see some light at the end of the tunnel. Jesus suffered with me, died on the cross for me, but his death was not the end. There will be a new dawn tomorrow."

PRAYER

Nothing
I must come to understand
what it means
to hold on to nothing –
it is the ultimate experience of faith.
There is nothing left,
only God,
only God
and me –
my little self
in God.

Edwina Gateley, Growing into God (2000)

QUARATAINE QUATRAINS

O Christ who suffers with us, hold us close
Deep in the secret garden of the rose,
Raise over us the banner of your love
And raise us up beyond our last repose.
Malcolm Guite, Quarantine Quatrains (2020)

SMYIM – St Macartans Youth Ministry!

Youth Mass

St Macartan's currently has three congregational Masses
6pm Saturday, 9am & 11am Sundays.
The 5pm Sunday service was always intended for a Youth focus.
But over the years has become another congregational Mass.

We are trying again to allow a liturgical outlet for the Youth,
and so will NOT be having a 5pm Mass every week.
It will Only be on the
2nd and 4th Sunday's of the Month.

We will be encouraging the Youth to support the liturgy with:
Readers, Music, Singing etc
It will be orientated to the style the Youth themselves want.

Anyone is welcome to attend and show your support for the Youth
and hopefully it will take off.
So keep them in your prayers.
(pray to Saint Frassati)
Fr. Geoff

Encounter Youth Group (Years 7-9)

Every 2nd and 4th Friday's of the month. 6:30pm-8:30pm

**'Encounter' youth Group for students in high school years 7-9 will
kick off this Friday! 26th of March.**

Details:

Location: St Macartans Hall, 4 Drake Street Mornington
Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Free Pizza provided!
All are welcome!
Bring: Good vibes only!

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

1st COLLECTION: The Money Collected goes to the running of the Presbytery and the Parish Priest
Last Week: \$1,425

2nd COLLECTION: This Collection consists of the Pledged Sacrificial Giving and any Loose Cash donated, this goes to the running of St Macartan's Church. Paying staff, Bills, Suppliers, insurances and maintenance of all Buildings plus Gardens.
Last Week: \$2,864

THANK YOU

Parish Footy Tipping Round 1



Round 1 was a great start to the competition. Unfortunately no one tipped the 9 but four managed to score 7. They were Adam Bulldogs, Debra Star, Deb and GTL. The lowest was 2 Essendon supporters who changed channels at half time to watch Call the Midwife and were devastated when they returned to watch the last term. Quote of the week. When asked which team has the most Catholic the reply was Carlton. "They sit at the bottom of the ladder so as to help the other teams move up the ladder"

History Will history repeat itself Fifty years ago the four teams were Richmond, Collingwood, St. Kilda and Hawthorn. The premiership was won by Hawthorn defeating St. Kilda in the Grand Final by seven points.

Enjoy Slavery—Free Chocolate this Easter

Australians will spend more than 2 million dollars on chocolate this Easter! No doubt we will all join the fun. But how many of us will check for Fairtrade certification before buying?

**How many of us even recognize the three symbols -
Fairtrade, UTZ, Rainforest Alliance**

Pope Francis remind us that "purchasing is always a moral act."
That is especially true of buying chocolate.

It is estimated that there are up to 2 million child slaves picking cocoa beans in Ivory Coast and Ghana. These children are separated from their families and communities, some are even kidnapped from neighbouring countries. They are thrashed if they work too slowly, grow up knowing they are hated by society and hate society in return. They live in poverty and inevitably graduate to petty crime, violence and jail. They provide the beans for cheap chocolate. No chocolate is worth such suffering. Slavery-free chocolate is available in all the local supermarkets but you may have to look for it.

Regrettably some major manufacturers have not been able to meet their commitments to use only cocoa beans which are ethically sourced.

Names you can trust include Whittakers, Alter Eco, Moser Roth, Choceur, Haighs and many others.

Simply Check for the sign on the wrapper and we'll be part of a worldwide movement to abolish child slavery.

