

Fourth Sunday of Advent YrC 19 December 2021

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: Cynthia Goorah



PLEASE NOTE:

ALL COVID RESTRICTIONS ENDED!

ALL VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED CAN GATHER TOGETHER!

No proof of vaccination is required

QR code scanning is still encouraged

Mass Times:

Coming up:

No 6pm Mass Sat. 25th December

No 5pm Mass Sun. 26th December

No Sunday 5pm Mass or adoration until further notice.

No 9:15am Masses during these weeks

Tue 27th Dec to Sat 1st Jan and

Tue 4th Feb to Sat 8th Feb.

All Sat. night and Sun. morn Masses are still on!

Christmas Mass timetable within.

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:

- Sat 25th: The NATIVITY of the LORD (Christmas), Mass of Vigil/ Midnight/Dawn/Day

Youth Mass -

No Youth Mass or Sunday afternoon Holy Hour UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

Baptism Preparation:

Michael McGrath:

mcgcoach@gmail.com

Baptism Meetings:

1st Wednesday of each Month (except school holidays) - at 7pm In Parish Hall.

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Dean Pratt, Tony Formosa, Betty Corke, Sheila Wright, Wilma McCoy, Kevin Paganoni, Maria-Louisa Di Rosato, Fiona Rush, Mignon Field, Aaron Eastley and Val Carr.

Recently deceased: Zvonimir (Tom) Capan.

Death Anniversaries: Queenie Cattermole, Bernadette Robertson, Robert Ward and Mary Ebinger.



First Reading

Mi 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Communion Antiphon

Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Living the Gospel

Looking for signs

When Mary went to visit Elizabeth she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

EXPLORING THE WORD

Elizabeth's response to the visit of her young kinswoman is quite remarkable. She can have had no way of knowing what had happened to Mary, but she receives a sudden intuition from God and is 'filled with the Holy Spirit'. Elizabeth and the child she carries both recognise and respond to an in-breaking of God's action in human history. The revelation to Elizabeth is even more profound when we realise that she rejoices not only because Mary is carrying the long-awaited saviour, but also because she sees that Mary's blessedness is a direct result of her faith. 'Blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled.' It is Mary's willing acceptance of

the role God chose for her that has resulted in her being blessed among women.

- Can you think of a time when you 'knew' something without being told? What was the source of your intuition?
- What promises has God made to you? Do you believe the promises that have been made?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- 'You are most blessed.' Do you have a sense of how 'blessed' you are? Can you recognise the 'blessedness' of others?
- Have there been occasions when you have had a sense of being filled with the Holy Spirit or a sense of the closeness of God?
- This week try to visit someone who is in need of some attention, especially as Christmas is almost upon us. Make the time to reach out to another.
- Have you ever felt honoured by a visit from someone special? Is there a favourite relative that you visit on a regular basis? Do you have special memories associated with your mother or grandmother? Share your reflections with others.
- Mary's great song of rejoicing, which comes after today's gospel, makes a suitable prayer this week: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he has looked upon my lowliness; behold, from now on, all ages will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name

DID YOU KNOW?

- In Luke's Gospel, the conception and birth of Jesus are described in parallel with the conception and birth of John the Baptist. One important difference is that the announcement of the miraculous conception of John to elderly parents comes to his father, Zechariah, while the announcement of the conception of Jesus comes to his mother, Mary.
- In Matthew's Gospel, it is Joseph who is the main protagonist, while Luke concentrates on Mary's role in cooperating in God's plan for the world.
- Luke's Gospel pays a great deal of attention to the role that women play in the story of salvation.
- Mary undertakes a journey from Nazareth in Galilee, in the north of Israel, to the hill country of Judah in the south. This is an extraordinary journey for a young pregnant woman of her time to undertake alone!

SHARING THE TRADITION

Mary, the mother of God, has a unique and integral place in Christian tradition. Catholics honour her because she was chosen by God to give human form to his Son—a task she freely and willingly accepted. 'By her complete adherence to the Father's will, and to his Son's redemptive work ... the virgin Mary is the Church's model of faith and charity' (CCC, §967). There may be some lingering misunderstandings about the role of Mary within the Catholic tradition.

- It may be necessary to distinguish between the honour that is given to Mary and the worship and adoration that are due only to God.
- You could look at the Scripture texts about Mary and explore her role as model of faith and mother of the Church.
- You could introduce and explain some of the popular devotions to Mary that have developed over the centuries, such as the rosary.
- You could introduce some of the titles given to Mary over the centuries and explore their significance—for example, Mary Help of Christians. Under this title, Mary is a patron saint of Australia.
- You could explore some of the images of Mary that have been popularised through art or film. Do these images reflect the reality of a young Jewish mother in the first century? What do you think Mary was really like?

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

It is Mary's willingness to accept her role in God's plan for salvation that makes her such a special figure. Throughout the Scriptures, God often chooses those who are lowly and apparently powerless to assist in his plan for salvation. Mary's simplicity and faith are a model for all believers. Her response to God's call is one we can all emulate.



WEEK 4

Be Still

It is nearly Christmas! We light the four candles on the wreath, wrap presents, catch up with friends and family as we are able to. Or if you don't have a wreath, light a special candle. And we remember that we do this in the name of Jesus, who comes to heal the world and inspires us to listen to God and discern the Spirit in our time.

Ponder

In his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis commends the practice of *lectio divina*, where we read God's word in prayer, dwelling on the aspects of a text that particularly strike us and asking that it 'enlighten and renew' us. The following questions may help with this:

- Lord, what does this text mean to me?
- What is it about my life that you want me to change in response to this text?
 - What troubles me about this text?
 - Why am I not interested in this?
 - What do I find pleasant about this text?
- What is it about this word or phrase that moves me?
 - What attracts me?
 - Why does it attract me?

Pray

Loving God, Awaken our hearts as we draw near to the great feast of Christmas; allow us to draw near to you and to sit in your presence. Awaken our hearts as we celebrate Christmas: and make room for your Son, the Emmanuel.

Amen.

Pope at Audience: Make room for the Word through silence

In his catechesis at the Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis reflects on St Joseph's silence in the Gospel.

By Christopher Wells

"St Joseph with his silence invites us to make room for the Presence of the Word made flesh, for Jesus," Pope Francis said at the weekly General Audience.

Silence full of listening

However, the Pope continued, "Joseph's silence is not muteness," but is instead "a silence full of listening, an industrious silence, a silence that bring out his great interiority." Quoting St John of the Cross, the Holy Father explained that God the Father spoke the Word, His Son, in eternal silence "and in silence it must be heard by the soul."

In his earthly life, Jesus, presence of silence, "with Mary and Joseph." that "He Himself sought and invited His disciples" as well.



too, had this experience the daily example of Pope Francis noted spaces of silence... to have such an experi-

The contemplative dimension of life

The Holy Father emphasized the importance of following St Joseph's example "in recovering this contemplative dimension of life opened wide by silence," but noted that it is not easy. Silence, he said, can be frightening, because "it asks us to delve into ourselves and confront the truest part of us." Pope Francis invited everyone "to cultivate spaces for silence in which another Word can emerge: that of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us." This will involve being careful of our speech, which if unchecked can become evil, and our words can become "flattery, bragging, lies, backbiting, and slander."

Learning to cultivate silence

This, the Pope said, "is why we must learn from Joseph to cultivate silence: that space of interiority in our days in which we give the Spirit the opportunity to regenerate us, to console us, to correct us." And, he concluded, "the benefit to our hearts will also heal our language, our words and above all our choices," like St Joseph, who combined silence with action."

Pope Francis concluded the catechesis at Wednesday's General Audience with a prayer to St Joseph:

*Saint Joseph, man of silence,
you who in the Gospel did not utter a single word,
teach us to fast from vain words,
to rediscover the value of words that edify, encourage, console and support.
Be close to those who suffer from words that hurt,
like slander and backbiting,
and help us always to match words with deeds. Amen.*

St Macartan's Christmas Masses 2021 TO ALL PARISHIONERS - ADULTS & CHILDREN



5pm Friday 24th December Children's Christmas Eve Mass

Children; feel free to come dressed up as your favourite nativity identity: Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, wise persons, sheep, cows, donkeys, stars etc

7.30pm Friday 24th December Family Christmas Eve Mass

11pm Friday 24th December Christmas Eve 'Midnight' Mass

8.30am Saturday 25th December Christmas Day Mass

10.30am Saturday 25th December Christmas Day Mass

[No Mass 6pm Saturday night]

Sunday 26th Boxing Day - 9am and 11am

[No 5pm Sunday Youth Mass]

CUPPA AFTER 9AM MASS - IS BACK!
COME AND ENJOY A SOCIAL CUPPA AND
CHAT
(COMMUNITY HOUSE)



CHILD SAFETY

Dear Parishioners, as we come to the end of a most unusual year we look forward to a new year with new hopes & goals continually focusing on achieving positives outcomes for all our endeavors. At St Macartan's we will continue to hold the care, safety & well-being of children & all vulnerable people as a central & fundamental responsibility. I would like to thank the volunteers of St Macartan's who have applied & renewed their Working with Children check this year, read & signed the Code of Conduct & are willing to continue to become more aware of child safety even though their ministry rarely involves the presence of children. I would like to thank the members of the Child Safety Committee, Faye Melhem, Jacinta Jolly, Tim Lambourne, Michael McGrath & especially Fr Geoff for his continual support & advice, Carmel McGrath.

St Vincent de Paul's Christmas Appeal

EXTRA COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND - PLEASE BE GENEROUS



The Christmas Appeal for our local St Vincent de Paul Conference will take place at weekend Masses on 18 and 19 December. The Conference would be grateful for financial support. There will be a third collection at each Mass. Also please note that any pay pass donations will be given to St Vincent de Paul for this appeal. Also, envelopes will be placed at all Masses. Non-perishable food donations also would be appreciated.

The Conference would welcome any new members. If interested in joining, please contact the new Leader Barry Murphy on 0419 225 455.

Our two Mornington Vinnies shops are seeking new volunteers. If interested in helping for the Mornington-Tyabb Rd shop, please contact Fiona on 59768526; or for the Main St shop, please call Jo on 59754166.

PIETY STORE

Christmas is upon us and If you don't want to fight crowds in shopping centres looking for those special gifts, come along and visit the St Macs Gift Shop. The Gift Shop has been stocked with a variety of goods to assist you when you are after something special for whatever the occasion, so take advantage and pop in, you will be pleasantly surprised. There are some truly beautiful gifts for family and friends at Christmas, the perfect time to give a religious gift, and I have no doubt you will find it in the St Macs Gift Shop.

The Lanterns are divine. I've been told Lanterns is the wrong word to describe them so let me explain. There are 16 different designs, with either a wooden or white porcelain base. We have white or brightly coloured domes or others with beautiful prints, some taller than others. A light sits on the base under the dome which brings the beautiful pattern on the dome to life.

Consider a gift from the Gift Shop this Christmas. It just may be the gift to rekindle someone's faith. Other top sellers – Columbian Calendars – Crystal Angels and Butterflies – Rosary Bracelets which are walking out the door – Prayer Books – Comfort Crosses – Rosary Beads and St Christopher Magnets. Eftpos is available.

Gift Shop Hours over Christmas

21st December – Tuesday: 8.30am – 10.30am, **23rd December – Thursday:** 8.30am – 10.30am, **24th December – Saturday – Christmas Eve:** 4.00pm through to 9.00pm closing for the 5.30pm and 7.30pm Mass, 10.30pm – 12.00pm midnight closing for 11.00pm Mass
25th December – Christmas Day – To be Advised

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A PARISH EXTRAVAGANZA!!!!

After 11am Mass on Sunday 6th February

Let us ALL come together and celebrate a NEW YEAR - 2022
By welcoming our new prep / foundation children and their parents
plus any new teachers, from our terrific Primary School.

How? - By having fun and food at a Parish run Picnic / BBQ & Parish Expo
Where? - On the Church grounds

And we would like ALL our parishioners there.

So, we would greatly appreciate help on this day, as we plan for it to be a very
special Parish celebration day - Why?

Because WE NEED IT! It will be good for us all.



We would like:

- Scone and cake makers
 - BBQ cooks
 - Safety Marshalls
- Ministry leaders to showcase your ministry group
 - Welcomers
- Helpers for a variety of things?

If you are interested, please contact Cynthia on 5975 2200.

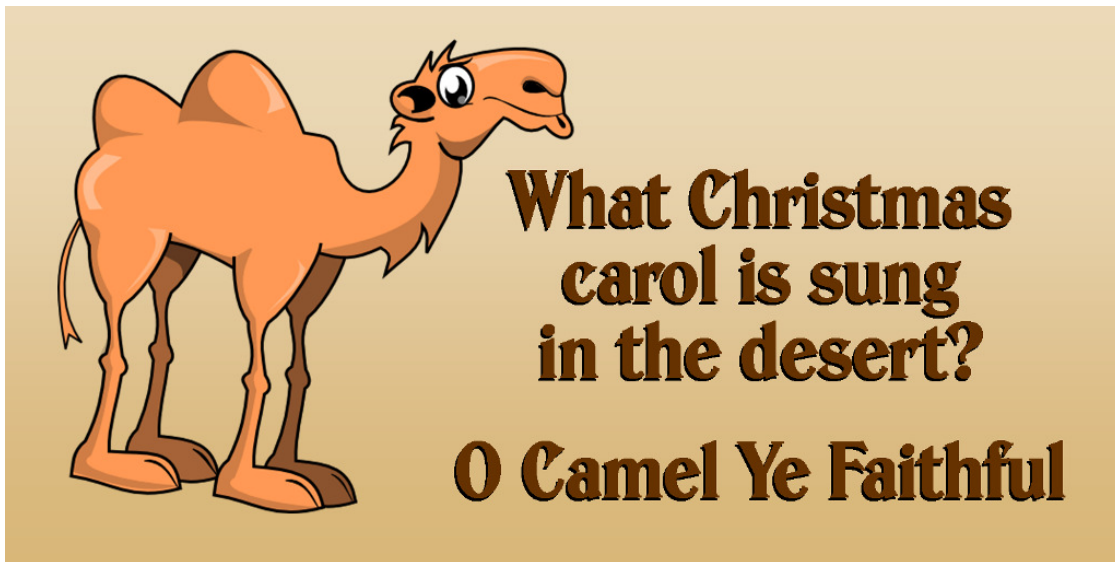
Email: mornington@cam.org.au



Jokes of the Week



1) **Christmas telegram:** The Protestant preacher and his pregnant wife had left for a conference in France, forgetting to give instructions for the banner which was to decorate the hall at the Christmas Carol Concert, the following weekend. The parish secretary was astonished to receive a telegram from France, which read simply: UNTO US A SON IS BORN. NINE FEET LONG AND TWO FEET WIDE. REV. AND MRS. JOHNSON.



2) **Christmas Stamps:** A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What denomination?" asked the clerk? "Oh, good Heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well, give me 20 Catholic stamps for me and 20 Baptist stamps for my husband."

3) **On whose side?** During the American Civil War, a lady exclaimed effusively to President Lincoln: "Oh Mr. President, I feel so sure that God is on our side, don't you?" "Ma'am," replied the President, "I am more concerned that we should be on God's side."

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday to Friday 9am - 4pm
Office CLOSED on Weekends & Mondays
Email: mornington@cam.org.au
Phone: 5975 2200

Schools:

St Macartan's Primary School: Ph: 59799200

Principal: Colleen Mc Greal **Deputies:** Philip Hills & Kathleen Ronchi

Padua College: Ph: 5976 0100

Parish Contact Details:

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): Jody Kerrins (Chairperson)

Email: jody54@westnet.com.au

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: timlambourne@yahoo.com.au

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

Pastoral Youth Minister: Joe Melham:

Email: Morningtonparish.youth@cam.org.au

Music & Wedding Co-Ordinator: Veronica Ryan: 0418 358 213

Email: veronicaryan2250@outlook.com

St Macartan's Gift Shop: Trish Thomas: 0425 749 379

St Vincent de Paul: Barry Murphy: 0419 225 455.

Marriage & Counselling: Charmaine Holmes: 5977 2665,

Email: charhomes@aapt.net.au

Marriage Prep: See Fr Geoff

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays after 11am Mass, Contact Office: 5975 2200

Baptism Preparation: Michael McGrath, Email: mcgcoach@gmail.com

Memorial Wall: Contact Carmel in Parish Office **ONLY on Fridays: 5975 2200**

Catholic Mission Parish Ambassador: Jody Kerrins jody54@westnet.com.au