



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

Assistant Priest: Fr Jude Johnson

Parish Secretary: Cynthia Gooriah



PLEASE NOTE:

Masks are not mandatory however are recommended!

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

Sunday 5pm Mass or adoration until further notice.

Last week it was announced that there were to be no Masses during the weeks Tue 27-Sat 1st and between Tue 4th-Sat 8th Feb - This No longer applies.

Masses are all on in those weekdays as per usual with Fr Jude presiding, while Fr Geoff is on leave.

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 26th: The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- Mon 27th: St John: Apostle, Evangelist
- Tue 28th: The Holy Innocents: Martyrs
- Sat 1: MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD

Parish Office Christmas Break:

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from 12noon the 23rd of December 2021 and will reopen on the 11th of January 2022.

NO NEWSLETTER 1st & 2nd Jan.

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.

Death Anniversaries: Matt Sullivan, Melanie Holden and Mariana Landman



First Reading

Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.

Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10. R. v.5

(R.) How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. **(R.)**

2. They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you;
they walk with ever growing strength. **(R.)**

Second Reading Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men, listening to them.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

Communion Antiphon Bar 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



Have you thought? Mary

We're told in today's gospel that Mary 'stored up all these things in her heart'. Mary is a model of the reflective life. When extraordinary, life-altering events occur to her, she is portrayed as pondering these events in her heart. She responds to these events by allowing them to speak to her and speak to her heart rather than simply 'reacting' as so many of us do. The ability to reflect on events, rather than react to them, can lead to a much better considered response and less chance of making the same mistakes over and over again.

EXPLORING THE WORD

It is highly likely that Jesus had been to Jerusalem many times before with his parents, but at the age of twelve, his experience is deepened significantly. The timing of his listening and questioning may have had to do with the normal education in the Jewish faith that he would have been receiving as part of the preparation for his 'bar mitzvah' at age thirteen. At thirteen, a Jewish boy becomes 'bar mitzvah'—a 'son of the law'—which means that henceforth, he must observe all the dietary and religious laws of Judaism. This is the final episode in Luke's story of the birth and childhood of Jesus, and it is Jesus himself who announces the project for the remainder of the gospel:

he will be 'busy with my Father's affairs'. The natural responses of Mary and Joseph—consternation, anxiety, fear and confusion—cause them to ask in admonishment, 'Why have you done this to us?' But Jesus, in his confident response, shifts the discussion to another level—the will of his heavenly Father.

- Have you ever needlessly worried about something?
- What part has worry, confusion or misunderstanding played in your own journey to faith?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Try to imagine the anxiety and fear that Mary and Joseph would have felt at being unable to find their son for three whole days!
- How has your family reacted to your decision to be 'busy with my Father's affairs'?
- Have you ever learnt a valuable lesson from a child?
- This week, take a note of all the questions you would like to ask about your new life of faith. Ask them next week.
- Reflect on your own experience of family life. Can you discern ways in which you came to experience God's love in your family? In what ways is the love of God for all his children reflected in the love shared by family members? Share your reflections.
- Use the responsorial psalm as your prayer this week. How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Passover was one of the three Jewish feasts that needed to be celebrated in Jerusalem at the temple if at all possible. It was common that many people from a town, or an extended family, would travel together to Jerusalem for Passover, mostly for reasons of safety on the road.
- This text demonstrates yet again that Mary and Joseph were devout and pious Jews who observed all the rituals and customs of Judaism.
- This is the only scene focusing on the boyhood of Jesus in any of the gospels. Luke includes it to highlight one of his central motifs: Jesus' later journey to Jerusalem to the cross—the new Passover.

SHARING THE TRADITION

This special feast is always celebrated on the first Sunday after Christmas Day. The feast of the Holy Family is a relatively new one in the Church's calendar, having only been introduced in 1920, although devotion to the family of Jesus has a longer history. While this feast day provides us with an opportunity to reflect on human families and their importance for our growth and nurturing, that is not its only strength. Coming as it does within the Christmas cycle, it is an opportunity to continue reflecting on the reality of God's incarnation in the human story. Jesus was born into a human family, all the members of which are models of steadfast and committed service to God. We are not only members of our human family but also members of God's family, and this brings responsibilities with it.

- What responsibilities come with belonging to our human family?
- What responsibilities come with belonging to God's family?

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

Despite the worry that he caused them in this episode, Jesus returns to Galilee to live in obedience to Mary and Joseph, just as he was obedient to his heavenly Father. This episode shows that even at an early age, Jesus is focused on the will of the one who sent him and on his search to know God completely.

Pope at Audience: Christmas an invitation to adore Son of God

At the Wednesday General Audience ahead of Christmas, Pope Francis reflects on the birth of Jesus, and says the event is a reminder that we are loved first by God without any merit of our own.

By Christopher Wells

Recalling the familiar figures of Mary and Joseph in the stable at Bethlehem, the humble shepherds, and the rich and powerful Magi from the East, the Pope explained, "The message of the Gospel is clear: the birth of Jesus is a universal event that concerns all of humanity."

Humble searching

The Pope noted the shepherds, but also the pagan wise men, who undertook a long and difficult journey to find and adore the new-born king of the Jews, in whom they recognised the Son of God made man. He emphasised that it is only through humility before God and recognising our need for His life, the reason for living."



humility of the shepherds and the religious seeking of men, who undertook a journey to find and adore the king of the Jews, emphasised that it is only through humility before God and recognising our need for His life, the reason for living."

"Dear brothers and sisters, I would like to invite every man and woman to the stable of Bethlehem to adore the Son of God made man."

Everyone is called to seek God, the Pope insisted, and with and through God's grace, everyone is able to find Him. The Holy Father invited every man and woman throughout the whole world to come "to the stable of Bethlehem to adore the Son of God made man."

Church accompanying religious seekers

In the first place, he said, "I would like to put the poor" – the hungry, the thirsty, the exiles, the naked, the ill, the prisoners, with whom Jesus wanted to be mystically identified."

Then, like the Second Vatican Council, the Pope expressed his desire to "accompany" religious seekers, even those who fight against religion. With the Council, he assured them that "the recognition of God is in no way hostile to man's dignity, since this dignity is rooted and perfected in God."

Foundation of joy

Finally, the Pope returned to the message of the Angel at Bethlehem: "Peace on earth to those with whom He is pleased." He noted, with the Apostle John, that love consists "in this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us" and that "we love because He first loved us."

This, the Pope said, is the reason for our joy, knowing that we are loved without any merit, that we are always loved first by God, with a love so concrete that He took on flesh and came to live in our midst."

Jesus is the name and the face of this divine love, and Jesus, the Pope said, "is the foundation of our joy."

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]

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.

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

PIETY STORE

Gift Shop Hours over Christmas

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



Jokes of the Week



1) **Shrewd girl:** One day, a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought for a while, and said, "Momma, how come that grandma's head is full of white hair?"



2) "Man, you don't mess around when you're hungry!" Have you heard about the little boy who loved going to Church? He enjoyed the music, the stained-glass windows, the homily, and the fellowship. The only part about going to Church that the little boy didn't like, were those long personal prayers which the pastor added to the intercessory prayers! Then on Christmas, the little boy's parents invited the pastor home for lunch... and would you believe it, his mom asked the pastor to pray the prayer of thanksgiving before the meal. "Oh, no," thought the little boy, "We will never get to eat. I am starving, and he will pray forever." But to his surprise, the pastor's prayer was brief and to the point. He said, "O Lord, bless this home. Bless this food, and use us in your service, in Jesus Name. Amen." The little boy was so astonished by the pastor's short prayer that he couldn't help himself. He looked at the pastor and blurted out what he was thinking: "Man, you don't mess around when you're hungry!"

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