



4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931
Parish Office: Tue to Fri 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



Are You the One Who is to Come?

Matthew 11:2—12



Mass Times:

- Weekdays: Tuesday to Saturday 9:15am
- Saturday night: 6pm
- Sunday: 9am, 11am
- Anointing/Healing Mass: 9:15am [1st Friday of each Month]

YOUTH MASS 2nd & 4th Sunday each Month 5pm.

HOLY HOUR / ADORATION:

- Every Friday after 9:15 Mass
- 1st Saturdays each month after 9:15am Mass
- 3:30pm 2nd & 4th Sundays

RECONCILIATION:

- After 9:15am Mass Wed & Saturday

YOUTH GROUPS: QUINN'S PLACE:
Year 7+ Friday's 6pm-10pm Community House / Hall / Church. **NOW BACK!**

ENCOUNTER Youth Group: Primary school age 3pm-4:45pm before Youth Mass 2nd & 4th Sundays of each Month.

Video Sunday Mass

NEW SETTINGS FOR VIDEO MASS

Watch Mass Live: Every Sunday 9AM

Link:

<https://vimeo.com/event/2687768>

Or go to website to copy link:

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

ALSO: Recorded/watch later Mass at our regular YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOpptks0Fw/videos>

Upcoming Holy Days:

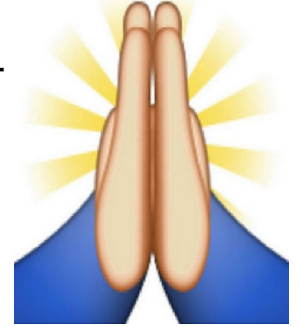
- Tue 13th: St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
- Wed 14th: St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Tony Formosa, Betty Corke, Kevin Paganoni, Fiona Rush, Aaron Eastley, Bruce Reekie, Val Carr, Denis Sullivan, Evan Senn, Athan Loucas, Adeline Lyn Tilden, Raymond Cope, Angela Turner, Laurence Turner, Roy Cahill, Lauren Evans, Sarah-Jane Sharp, Cinzia Coboche, Geoffrey Lane, Patricia Morecroft, Terry Said, Frances Spencer and Trish Robinson.

Death Anniversary: Otilia Sauerhagen and Laurie Drake.

Recently Deceased: Lindsay Arthur Watts and Eileen Patricia Robinson.



First Reading

Is 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.'

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?'

Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Historical

Context

Least and Greatest

Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.

EXPLORING THE WORD

As we have already noted, one of the main purposes of Matthew's Gospel is to reveal Jesus as the long awaited Messiah of the Jews to Matthew's largely Jewish community. In this text, Matthew cites the evidence that is before their eyes. Why is it necessary for John to question the identity of Jesus when his own eyes and ears will give him the answer he seeks? The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and good news is proclaimed to the poor! Such were the signs of the coming of the Lord that Isaiah had prophesied. Such are the actions that Jesus undertakes! His identity is clear for all who have the eyes to see it.

- How do you recognise Jesus in the events and actions of your life?
- In what ways are we called to continue the actions of Jesus in the world today?
- What do you think is meant by the final line of today's gospel: 'the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is'?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- When you look at our contemporary world, what do you 'see and hear'?
- How distant is this reality from the kingdom of God?
- Who are the people today who gather 'a great following'? What is their message? How different is that message from the one brought by John?
- Who are some of the 'great' people you have encountered in your life—not those who are famous or wealthy, but those who have had a profound influence on you. Share the memories of the gift you received from such people. Who are the great people who have made timeless contributions to the world? What has been their legacy?
- This week, find ways to be 'good news' to others, especially those who are sick or alienated or marginalised.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Word Messiah means ‘anointed one’ in Hebrew. The word Christ means the same thing in Greek.
- The healing of those who are afflicted was one of the signs given in the Hebrew Scriptures that the Messiah had come. When the blind see and the deaf hear, when the downtrodden are raised up and the lame walk, the reign of God will have come.
- John the Baptist was arrested and executed by Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great and ruler of Galilee, because John had criticised Antipas for his marriage to his brother’s wife, Herodias, who was also his niece.

SHARING THE TRADITION

The word gospel means ‘good news’. The four accounts of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the Christian Scriptures. Each of the four gospels presents its story of Jesus according to the particular needs of the community for which it was written. There are some differences of theological perspective but overwhelming consistency in the overall picture of Jesus that emerges.

- Using Bibles, point out the division between the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures and explain, if necessary, the arrangement of chapters and verses.
- Give some brief introductory material on the particular theological perspective and major themes of each of the four gospels.
- Give particular emphasis to the Gospel of Matthew, which will form the basis of catechesis and mystagogy over the coming months.
- Explain how Catholic Christians read the text not as literal history but as the Word of God and as theological reflection on the person of Jesus, his identity and his role in God’s plan for the salvation of the world.

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

After the period of the exile—when Israel had been defeated, the temple destroyed and the people taken into captivity in Babylon—there developed a belief that a Messiah would come, an ‘anointed one’ of God, who would restore Israel’s greatness and usher in a new era characterised by justice, peace and joy. The Messiah was the one who would inaugurate the kingdom or reign of God. The action of this text proclaims that the Messiah has indeed come.

Pope: We must rediscover the true richness of Christmas

Addressing the delegations from Sutrio, Rosello and Guatemala, who have gifted this year's tree and nativity scenes in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis draws attention to the true meaning of Christmas.

"To meet God we must reach Him where he is; we need to lower ourselves, to make ourselves small", like Jesus did by coming to birth in a stable. Pope Francis made this remark on Saturday, as received three delegations from the Italian villages of Sutrio, and Rosello, and from Guatemala, who gifted the Vatican with this year's Christmas tree and two nativity scenes.

The two crèches, installed in St. Peter's Square and in the Paul VI Audience Hall, will be unveiled this afternoon during the traditional Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony which will take place in the Hall and not in St. Peter's Square due to bad weather.

Like trees we need roots

After thanking the delegations, and in particular those involved in their making, Pope Francis drew attention to the significance and the symbolism behind the Christmas Tree and crib.

"The tree, with its lights", he said, reminds us of Jesus who comes to illuminate our darkness, our existence often locked up in the shadow of sin, fear and pain". But it also suggests the idea that, like trees we need roots, "solid foundations" to remain firm, grow and resist the winds of life. It is therefore important "to cherish the roots, in life as in faith", Pope Francis stressed.

Jesus' littleness

He then reflected on the significance of the crib, which "speaks to us of the birth of the Son of God who became Man to be close to each one of us".

"In its genuine poverty", the Pope said "the nativity scene helps us to rediscover the true richness of Christmas", a different Christmas "from the consumerist and commercial one". It helps us "to become intimate with God, with the fragile simplicity of a small newborn, with the meekness of his being laid down, with the tender affection of the swaddling clothes that surround him".

The true richness of Christmas

The Pope therefore invited to rediscover the surprise and amazement of littleness through the nativity scene, "the littleness of God, who makes himself small, who is not born in the splendor of appearances, but in the poverty of a stable".

By Lisa Zengarini

St Macartan's Parish Christmas Masses



***Come early and enjoy Christmas Carols half an hour
before each Christmas Mass***

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve

5pm Children's Mass

7.30pm Christmas Eve Mass

11pm Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day

8.00am Christmas Dawn Mass

10.00am Christmas Day Mass

NO 5pm Mass

Monday 26th December Boxing Day

No Boxing Day Mass

The Mornington Community Information & Support Centre



The Meeting Room Café has temporarily moved to our Parish Hall, due to the recent floods.

The café will be open to all.



Café opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday: 10am—2pm

(PARKING - Church carpark, off Cook St)

"Food Donations" for St Vincent de Paul

Aussie families are struggling to survive the increasing cost-of-living pressures this Christmas.

Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas, and give them hope for a better future.

Donations would be much appreciated of imperishable foods, within the expiry date.

Please leave donations in the bin located in the main foyer of the Church or contact Barry Murphy on 0419 225 455.

From 1 January 2022 to 30 November 2022, we have:

1. Assisted 199 Households
2. Given out \$40,020 worth of Supermarket Cards
3. Paid \$20,294 for utilities
4. Spent \$4,959 on Whitegoods
5. Spent \$2,486 on Prescription & Medicines
6. Given out \$4,775 worth of Vinnies Cards
7. Total expenditure for the 10 months is \$106,023
8. 41% of the people we assist are on the Disability Support Pension
9. 20% are on Newstart Allowance
10. 19% are on Parenting Payment
11. 85 receive the Age Pension



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS



MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for 4 school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. A Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding will take place prior to commencement in 2023. Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact). Tel: 9326 1895

Mercy Night for Healing **Thursday, 8 December 6-8 pm**



St Dominic's Parish will celebrate the Mercy Night for healing commencing with Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sung Mass on Thursday, 8 December at 6pm followed by a consecration prayer to Mary, and adoration with reflective music. Mercy Night for Healing is an opportunity to have a personal encounter with God in the Blessed Sacrament and pray for personal physical, emotional or spiritual healing or to pray for others.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

St Dominic's Parish Church, 816 Riversdale Road, Camberwell, VIC 3124

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION

A volunteer based missionary organisation with a focus on providing face to face assistance to disadvantaged communities

For Donations, please visit: <https://mom.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=622447>

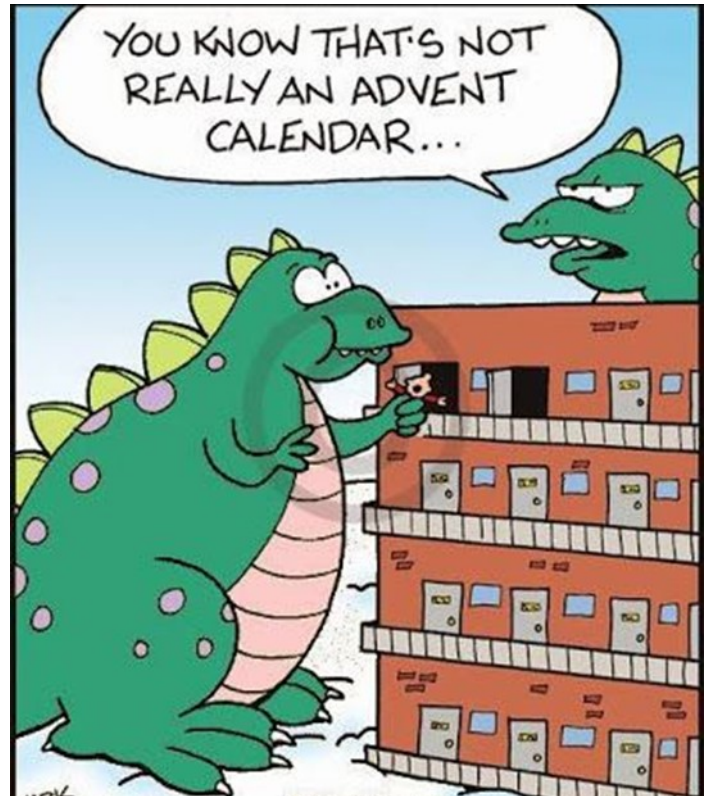
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When making a donation, please ensure you let us know if you would like tax deductibility.

Contributions of \$2.00 and over for relief and development projects are tax deductible.



Jokes of the Week



An elderly man called his oldest daughter, Jane, to tell her that he and her mother were separating after 50 years of marriage. Jane went ballistic and called her brother and sister to give them the news. The siblings were all hopping mad by the time the youngest child, Bob, called the father back. "You and mom are NOT splitting up!" he yelled into the phone. "Jane, Karen and I are taking a plane tomorrow, and we'll see you both this weekend." -- click. The man then turned to his wife and chuckled, "The kids are coming for the weekend – and they're paying their own way!"

Catholic Combine Parishes Raffle 2022

Thank you for supporting the Catholic Combined Parishes Raffle (CCPR) for 2022. The CCPR Draw took place as scheduled at Keysborough in their Little Chapel at 7:30pm on Saturday 3rd December. All the winners received a call Saturday night and the results were published in the Herald Sun and on Resurrection Parish's website. The tickets numbers for St. Macartan's Parish were not the best of luck in the drawing at this time.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

The Parish of Ivanhoe has a couple of vacancies for its Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 11th – 28th April 2023. If you are interested, please visit their Parish Website: www.melbcatholic.org/ivanhoe and click on the News Page or phone Fr. Bill Edebohls: 0427 879 733.

Rosters for Special Ministers and Commentators - Mass Co-ordinators

6.00pm - Carmel Coles: 5975 3080

9.00am - Helen Britton: 0437 279 029

11.00am - Patricia Duryea: 0418 139 599

5.00pm - Marino Casamento: 0408 394 792

3rd Sunday of Advent – 10th & 11th December 2022

6.00pm Readers: Kees Duyvestyn, Faye Murphy

Eucharistic Ministers: Carmel McGrath, Mairi Duyvestyn

9.00am Readers: Spencer Meier, Kathleen Ronchi

Eucharistic Ministers: Tricia Thomas, Joseph Thoppil

11.00am Readers: Joan Clements, Bernard Butler

Eucharistic Ministers: Sheila Goddard, Bridie Sexton

4th Sunday of Advent – 17th & 18th December 2022

6.00pm Readers: Iris Hallinan, Carmel McGrath

Eucharistic Ministers: Fay Murphy, Joyce Ward

9.00am Readers: John Azzopardi, Don Zinno

Eucharistic Ministers: Marcelle Azzopardi, Joseph Thoppil

11.00am Readers: Michael Harrison, Patricia Duryea

Eucharistic Ministers: Sandra Barrett, John Spaziani

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

5 pm Christmas Eve Mass

10 Eucharistic Ministers

10 Collectors

7 pm & 11pm Christmas Eve Mass

6 Eucharistic Ministers

6 Collectors

9am & 11am Christmas Mass

4 Eucharistic Ministers

4 Collectors

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Patricia Duryea on 0418 139 599.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Contact Details:

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

Email: jody54@westnet.com.au

Finance Committee: Frank Crea: 0417 104 041

Safeguarding Officer: Carmel McGrath: Mornington.ChildSafety@cam.org.au

Volunteer Application Support Officer: Tim Lambourne:

Email: timlambourne@yahoo.com.au

AV & Livestreaming Technician: Didier Le Miere: 0400 801 891

Email: Didier.lemiere31@gmail.com

St Mac's High Spirits: Teacher is Michael Kerr: contact the office 5975 2200

St Mac's Café: Coordinator is Michael Ensil - Mob: 0423 375 650

Parish Caretaker: John Spaziani: 0419 598 911

Email: Mornington@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: 0413 394 085

Email: charholmes59@gmail.com

Marriage Preparation: Fr Geoff, Email: Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au

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

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

Memorial Wall: Contact Parish Office: **5975 2200**

Spiritual Director/Pastoral Counsellor/Psychotherapist: Angelo Campagna

Ph: 0411 305 478, Website: www.angelocampagna.com.au

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

Youth Worker: Kristina Turner, Email: Kristina.b2906@bigpond.com

Schools:

St Macartan's Primary School: Ph: 5979 9200

Principal: Colleen McGreal

Deputy: Andrea Kershaw **Deputy:** Meegan Blackney

Padua College: Ph: 5976 0100

Principal: Acting Principal Kelly McGurn

Vice Principal: Mission, Identity & Community: Matthew Williams

FRIENDS OF OUR PARISH

I have always appreciated good customer service and good value for money. Therefore, whenever I find someone who supports our Parish in these ways, they become friends and I truly believe we should show our support to them too.

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”

“

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- Matt Watkinson

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