



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



*Prophecies of Jesus
Will Surely Be Fulfilled*

*And she shall bring forth a son, and
you shall call his name JESUS: for he
shall save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21*

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/2712308>

Or go to website to copy link:

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

ALSO: at our regular YouTube link:

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

NO MASSES ON:

24th Dec Saturday 9:15am

26th Dec Monday 9:15am

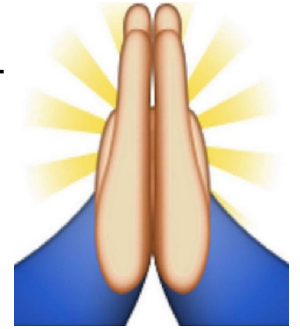
OFFICE WILL CLOSE FROM:

22ND OF DECEMBER AND WILL REOPEN ON 10TH OF JANUARY.

MASS TIMES WILL REMAIN AS USUAL THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS.

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 and Frances Spencer.



Death Anniversary: Alexandra Presniakovas, Robert Ward, Mary and Carmello Aquilina, Joseph and Mrs Montesin, Julia and Carmello Mifsud.

Recently Deceased: Lindsay Watts and Trish Robinson.

First Reading

Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Communion Antiphon

Is 7:14

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

LIVING GOSPEL

Advent

Emmanuel; God-is-with-us – that's what we celebrate through Christmas and that's what we've been preparing for during Advent. We celebrate God-with-us in a particular time and place through our celebration of the birth of Jesus. But we remember it every year because we also use the Christmas celebration to remind ourselves that God continues to be with us. That is what is so remarkable about the Christmas season: that God-is-with-us now, not just in a stable in Palestine so many years ago, but now! Advent is the time to remind ourselves of this incredible truth and prepare ourselves to acknowledge it once again.

EXPLORING THE WORD

In Palestine, the betrothal period was akin to our period of engagement but was somewhat more binding. The couple are considered married but have not yet come to live together. An indiscretion of the nature described by Matthew requires a formal divorce and thus public knowledge. Joseph seeks to spare Mary this public disgrace, but God intercedes and alerts Joseph to the real identity of this child, which is in her 'by the Holy Spirit'. For Matthew, this is the most important point of his infancy narrative. The child Jesus is the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy that the maiden will conceive 'God-with-us'. God has freely chosen to come among people. The second important point

in this text is Joseph's response. The anguish and turmoil he must have felt is overcome by his trust in God's ways, and he obeys. He simply 'did what the angel told him to do'. Through his trust and acceptance of God's will, human history will never be the same because 'God-is-with-us'.

- You could tell something of the story of King Ahaz (featured in the first reading) and his disregard of God's commands and compare this with the response of Joseph.
- What does this convey of the nature of faith?

MAKING CONNECTIONS

- Have you ever undertaken a bold and trusting action, even though you were dubious about the outcome?
- How was your trust rewarded?
- Spend some time thinking about how each of these characters would feel: Mary, the young maiden, who finds herself inexplicably with child; Joseph, the man who must have doubted her fidelity and felt betrayed by her. Each character took a great risk in accepting this situation as God's will and being willing to see where it would take them.
- Have you ever had the experience of having made up your mind to do something, only to have doubt cast on your chosen path by an 'inner sense' or 'gut feeling'? How well did you trust in your own intuition? What was the outcome? Conversely, have you ever taken a great risk, with little idea of the outcome but with a willingness to follow that path wherever it may lead? Share your reflections.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In Matthew's Gospel, Joseph is the main protagonist in the infancy narrative, while Luke's story of the birth of Jesus centres on Mary and her response.
- There are significant differences between the two accounts, which can be understood as reflecting the particular theological perspective of each author and the way each seeks to point to the identity of Jesus and address the concerns of his own community.
- Did you notice that there is no stable or manger in Matthew's account of Jesus' birth? Jesus is born at the home of Joseph and Mary, who live in Bethlehem. Look at the birth stories in Luke (chapters 1–2) and in Matthew (chapters 1–2) and see who visits the infant Jesus.

SHARING THE TRADITION

In the two stories that have come down to us of the birth of Jesus, one of the common aspects is the faith response of the two protagonists. Both Mary and Joseph face risking their personal security in the world of their time by choosing to cooperate in God's plan. The price, especially for Mary, is high. If she is found to have committed adultery, the penalty, under Jewish law, is death (see John 8:1–11). Instead, they risk all and place their trust in God's ways, becoming for the Church the models of discipleship.

- You could explore the response of Mary offered in Luke's Gospel.
- You could identify images of Mary and Joseph in your church or parish buildings. Point out the difference between revering an image and honouring the one it represents.
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church offers useful material in discussing the role of Mary in God's plan for salvation and in the Church.
- You could explore the concept of discipleship and what is required of catechumens as they journey towards baptism.

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

One of the common ways for God to communicate with human beings, as related in the Hebrew Scriptures, is through dreams—Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and Hannah are famous examples. In this text, God communicates the importance of this child and the integrity of his mother to Joseph using this favoured method. Being intuitive to the voice of God is an important aspect of faith.

Pope: 'Celebrate Christmas with people of Ukraine in our hearts'

At the conclusion of the General Audience, Pope Francis calls on everyone to renew our closeness to our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who are suffering greatly, to help them with humanitarian aid and keep them in our hearts throughout Advent and Christmas.

By Thaddeus Jones

Pope Francis has called on everyone to "renew our closeness to the battered Ukrainian people" and to persevere in "prayer for these our brothers and sisters who are suffering so much."

(An elderly woman in Ukraine lights a candle in a partially destroyed building to keep warm)

The Pope's words came just before he gave his final blessing at the Wednesday General Audience.

Recalling the immense suffering the people of



Ukraine are experiencing, the Pope emphasized that we must keep them in our hearts and thoughts, especially as we draw near to celebrations for Christmas and intensify our spiritual preparation.

Christmas and intensify our spiritual preparation.

'Toned-down Christmas'

He suggested we celebrate "a more humble Christmas" and gift exchange and send what we have saved to help Ukrainians who desperately need assistance due to the extreme cold, illness, lack of doctors and medical facilities, and hunger now.

Charitable closeness to Ukraine

Earlier during the General Audience when addressing the Polish pilgrims present, the Pope thanked the people of Poland for joining a local Caritas initiative called "Family to Family" whereby support is offered to people affected by armed conflicts and humanitarian crises around the world.

This year's collection will also go to Ukrainian families, and he encouraged them to persevere in sharing with those in need.

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 **closed for the year** and may be returning to our Parish Hall in the new year? We hope!



"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 and Christmas gifts can be left under the Christmas Tree in the Church.

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

The conference wishes to publicly acknowledge two recent acts of generosity from different quarters. Firstly, we extend grateful thanks to New Peninsula Baptist Church for donating food for our charitable works. Secondly, we thank the Social Justice Group of St. Mac's School for organizing a marvellous contribution of toys and goodies towards the Christmas Hamper programme with which we are associated. A truly splendid effort !



ST MAC'S GIFT SHOP



Good Morning to you all

Again, a big thank you to all who supported our clearance sale allowing us to purchase extra Christmas stock with a selection of beautiful gifts that may assist you with your Christmas shopping or help you to find that meaningful gift for friends and family.

We currently have a great selection on show but all reserve stock have just about finished. All sold orders have been filled. We still have a few Inspirational Books, and a couple of Nativity's. We currently have two lanterns and not sure about further deliveries.

If you are thinking of purchasing any of the above products or other items from the Gift Shops great range, please do it sooner rather than later so you don't miss out. Once the Christmas stock we have is sold, unfortunately we will not be replacing it. All suppliers close in a week and do not reopen until mid-January, 2023 so if you have any events coming up early in the new year, again, look now because after the Christmas rush we are not sure what stock will be available.

I have 10 Columban Calendars left and just about out of Christmas Cards. If you want either of these, put on your running shoes and run. We were expecting another 10 packets but to date haven't sighted them.

The Gift Shop hours starting 10th December through to the 1st January are as follows:

Saturdays 8.30am – 10.00am

5.00pm – 7.00pm

Sundays 8.30am – 12.30pm (Closing for 9am and 11am Masses)

Tuesdays 8.30am – 10.00am

Christmas Morning 7.30am – 11.00am

I'm not sure if the Gift Shop will be open on Christmas Eve, so please in case we are closed, now is a good time to start your shopping.

Again, thank you for your support, without you the Gift Shop wouldn't exist.

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Cao Gangchuan

A Christmas Message from

Archbishop Comensoli

Friends, I recently heard an Advent prayer that has a striking line in it, describing Jesus' birth. It said:

**[Jesus], when the soles of your feet touch the ground,
... you become one of us, to be at one with us.**

The image of God's bare feet touching the earth is such an evocative one.

Especially at this time of year, we know only too well what it feels like to do the 'great Aussie dance' across a hot beach or prickly lawn!

But of course, this image is far more than a physical reminder.

For Christmas is the divinity of God born into our humanity.

Through the Incarnation, God comes to us, withholding nothing of himself from us.

Barefooted—taking on our flesh, our human condition—in order to touch, and to be touched, in the particularities of our lives: this is Emmanuel—God with us.

Christmas is God placing an exclamation mark on his words, 'I am with you!'

Our God, whose name is Jesus, has walked with us through the tough years of the pandemic and is touching the ground now where healing and renewal is needed.

The Son of God is walking through the streets of Ukraine and Myanmar, Ethiopia and Lebanon, with feet bloodied from war, conflict and repression, yet still taking the steps needed towards peace and liberation.

He has seen and felt both the joy of our existence and the suffering of those who are lost or vulnerable. He has awakened us to an attentiveness for our global humanity, and a care for our common home.

So I wonder if, this Christmas and for the year ahead, it is time to remove the 'shoes' that keep us from standing barefoot with Jesus—to feel the sacred ground of our lives with God?

Might we come before him 'barefoot' in our frailties, yet alive in the wonder of our humanity—made in his image—ready and willing to live as the people of God he has created us to be—fraternally, lovingly, caringly; generous, forgiving and hopeful.

May Jesus, the barefooted child of the living God, fill you and your loved ones with abundant joy and peace. Happy Christmas!



A Prayer of Love

for the Fourth Week of Advent

Holy Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, your greatest gift of love to your people. Fill my heart with such love, opening my heart to accept your great love for me. Overflow my heart with your love, so I may pour it out into the world. Help me to love others as you've loved me - even those who aren't so easy to love. For following you means loving others as you love me. Lord, thank you for your great gift of Jesus as we celebrate Christmas. May I ever walk in your love and show the world I am your disciple by the love I show to others, keeping Jesus, your Son, close in my heart. Amen.



Jokes of the Week



1) **"I am John the Baptist!** A man who thought he was John the Baptist was disturbing the neighbourhood, so for public safety, he was committed. He was put in a room with another crazy one. The new inmate immediately began his routine, "I am John the Baptist! Jesus Christ has sent me!" The other guy looked at him and declared, "I did not!"

2) **A Politically Correct Christmas Greeting?** Best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low-stress, non-addictive, gender-neutral, winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most joyous traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, but with respect for the religious persuasions of others who choose to practice their own religion as well as for those who choose not to practice a religion at all. (Disclaimer: This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It implies no responsibility for any unintended emotional stress these greetings may bring to those not caught up in the holiday spirit.)

3) **What happens when pastor's mom lives in the rectory as his housekeeper?** On a Sunday morning he couldn't get out of bed. His mother tried to get him out of bed, but to little avail. She shouted up the stairs, "Get up!" and he shouted down the stairs, "No!" Then she shouted again, "Get up!" and he shouted down, "Why should I?" She said, "Well, first of all your breakfast is ready, secondly this is the fourth Sunday of Advent, and thirdly you're the Pastor and you have to say two Masses today!"



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

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

5pm Christmas Eve Mass Saturday 24th December

10 Eucharistic Ministers

10 Collectors

7:30 pm & 11pm Christmas Eve Mass Sat 24th December

6 Eucharistic Ministers

6 Collectors

8am & 10am Christmas Day Masses Sunday 25th December

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

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