

2nd Sunday Advent YrB 10th Dec 2023

## PARISH BULLETIN

## St Macartan's Catholic Parish



4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931  
**Parish Office: Tue to Fri 9am to 4pm: Ph: 5975 2200**  
Email: [mornington@cam.org.au](mailto:mornington@cam.org.au)  
Web: [stmacartansparish.com.au](http://stmacartansparish.com.au)  
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy  
Assistant Priest: Fr An Hoang Le  
Parish Secretary: Cherrie Azzopardi



### **Mass Times:**

- Weekdays: Tues 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.

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

### **Video Sunday Mass:**

Watch Mass Live: Every Sun. 9AM

<https://vimeo.com/event/3935727>

Or go to website to copy link:

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/mornington>

ALSO: at our regular YouTube link:

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

### **Upcoming Holy days:**

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

**Also, new 2023-2024 Thanksgiving Envelopes in Foyer. Anyone who took No. 007 PLEASE RETURN THEM. Also the person with number 082 please contact the office.**

### **2023**

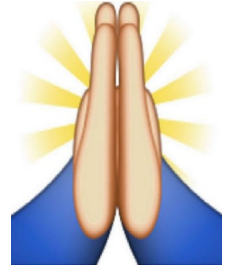
**LAST** St Mac's Café: Wed 20th Dec

**LAST** Encounter: Sun 10th Dec

**LAST** Quinns place: Fri 15th Dec

## **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, Evan Senn, Adeline Lyn Tilden, Angela Turner, Poala Solvy, Terry Said, Kathleen Rose, Barbara Seymour, Barbara Hent, Gai Beveridge, Barbara Hunt, Dr Ron Fitzgerald, James Tokarczyk, Sarah-Jane Sharp, Pat Guest, Rhonda Vernon, Sinead Ryan and Sean O'Leary.



**Death Anniversary:** Laurie Drake,

**Recently Deceased:** John Marshall [Funeral here on Wed 13th at 1:30pm]  
Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/event/3938433> or go to our website.

### **First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God.

‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord, double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,

‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power,

his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

### **Responsorial Psalm:**

R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,

a voice that speaks of peace,

peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him

and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

Mercy and faithfulness have met;

justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth

and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

**Second Reading: 2 Pt 3:8-14**

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

**Gospel Acclamation :**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel Mk 1:1-8**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

**Communion Antiphon**

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

# **gospel focus**

## **Preparing the Way**

*The gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah (although text combines Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; and Exodus 23:20) and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey is designed to align him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history. In a very short and sharp passage the gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets.*

## **EXPLORING THE WORD**

The prophet Isaiah brought a message of hope and comfort to the people of Israel who were in exile in Babylon. Despite their failings, God is merciful and has promised them a new beginning. John the Baptist appears in the line of that great prophet and again promises Israel the chance of a new beginning if they repent and turn again towards God. The emphasis in Mark's portrait of the Baptist is very much that of the subordinate. John's self-effacing manner makes it clear that he is not the one who is promised, but the one who is to prepare the way. The emphasis in John's preaching is on judgment; for Jesus it is the reign of God and salvation.

- Advent is also a time of new beginnings, and John the Baptist's 'voice in the wilderness' is a personal invitation to each of us to

prepare a way for the Lord into our lives now. What special preparation for Christmas will you undertake this year? How may this be different from what you have done in the past?

## **SHARING THE TRADITION**

A closer look at the Scripture of the day, to see how it makes more explicit God's word to us through the teachings of Jesus Christ

Mark's Gospel was the first to be written down, around the year ad 70. It is generally accepted that Mark wrote for an audience in Rome who were undergoing persecution for their faith. It is the shortest of the four gospels and is told in a lively and straightforward style. Mark seeks to explore the identity of Jesus, to describe the responses of various people to him and to invite us to become disciples. In the opening verse of his gospel, Mark alerts his readers instantly to the identity of the main character. This work is the Good News about Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God.

You could take this opportunity to do a simple comparison of the gospel portraits of Jesus and introduce the group to the different theological concerns of the authors.

You could compare the two infancy narratives and address the question of how Matthew and Luke present Jesus' birth and why each may have written of it in that particular way.

Ask some neophytes or RCIA how they are feeling about their own forthcoming baptism and what new beginning that will represent for them.

## St. Peter's Basilica unveils charity projects ahead of 2025 Jubilee

*As preparations continue in Rome for the upcoming 2025 Jubilee year, St. Peter's Basilica announces two new charity projects, aimed at helping refugees and prisoners.*

*By Joseph Tulloch*

More than 30 million pilgrims are expected to arrive in Rome for the 2025 Jubilee Year.

Preparations are already underway in the city, including directly outside Vatican News' offices, where a new pedestrian area is being constructed. In the midst of all this, St. Peter's Basilica has announced some preparations of its own for the Jubilee: two charity projects aimed at helping refugees and incarcerated people.

### The projects

The first of these projects is entitled "Sea Rosaries" and is being organised in collaboration with the House of the Spirit and the Arts Foundation.

Two individuals with refugee backgrounds are working in St. Peter's to build rosaries from the wood of boats used by migrants to reach Europe.

Moreover, some initial work in the construction of these rosaries is being carried out by individuals incarcerated in various prisons throughout Italy.

The second project is a collaboration with the Second Chance Association, a non-profit which works to offer employment opportunities to prisoners and ex-prisoners.

One inmate of Rome's Rebibbia prison has been employed full-time as an electrician in the Basilica for several months, and inmates in the Mammagialla prison in Viterbo have been tasked with making bags.

### Press conference

At a press conference held in the Vatican on Tuesday, Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, the Archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica, discussed the relationship between the upcoming Jubilee and the Basilica's new charity projects. According to the Mosaic law, he said, Jubilees were to be held every fifty years in memory of the Jewish people's escape from slavery in Egypt. In ancient times, he noted, Jubilees involved freeing slaves, forgiving debts, and leaving land untilled in order to let it regenerate.

These practices, Cardinal continued – like the Basilica's new social projects – promoted a spirit of solidarity and the dream of giving everyone a second chance. Also present at the press conference were Flavia Filippi and Arnoldo Mondadori, the founders of the "Second Chance" Association and the "House of the Spirit and the Arts," respectively, as well as Giovanni Russo, the head of Italy's Department for the Administration of Prisons. Both Filippi and Russo suggested that the partnership between St. Peter's and the Second Chance Association would continue to grow, with Russo describing the employment of one electrician in St. Peter's as a "first step" toward further collaboration.





## **ADVENT REFLECTIONS**

with Fr Joe O'Shea

Father Joe returns leading the faithful through Lectio Divina and into a reflection of the Gospels in Advent.

Come and enjoy this prayerful and insightful 45minutes with this Holy Priest.

**St Macartan's Church - 6pm Monday evenings. It's free, tell your friends!**



### **NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST**

**I would like to introduce to you our new Assistant Priest  
Fr An Hoang Le**

Fr An, 39, credits his own faith, and that of his family's to his grandmother, Nguyễn Thị Chiểu, his father's mother. Born in Cam Ranh, about 350 kilometres to the north-east of Ho Chi Min City (formerly known as Saigon) in Vietnam, he and his five siblings—four brothers and one sister—grew up with his grandmother due to family circumstances. Fr An says that his call to the priesthood was 'a journey', one that 'wasn't really clear.' There was an initial curiosity, but eventually, he discovered something deeper in his heart, which was the calling to be a religious. He initially joined the Scalabrinians in Vietnam and undertook philosophy studies at a Jesuit seminary in Ho Chi Min City. He then left and was invited by some Scalabrinian priests to visit Sydney and Melbourne in 2015 to see whether he might continue to become a priest. Recognising the 'goodness of God and the goodness of the people for him and his vocation and his family', Fr An decided to continue the journey towards priesthood. Fr An undertook studies in English at the Australian Catholic University in 2016 and in 2017, and officially entered Corpus Christi College, in Carlton.

**Fr An begins on Tuesday 12 December and I feel we are blessed to have him here.**

**Fr Geoff**



### **NEW PARISH SECRETARY**

**I am also pleased to announce and introduce to you our new  
Parish secretary**

**Cherrie Azzopardi**

Cherrie begins on Tuesday 12 December and Yes, if the name sounds familiar it is because Cherrie is a local and her and her family are long serving members of our congregation. Cherrie recently graduated from college and was one of two applicants interviewed by myself and a supervisor from the Archdiocese Human Resources Dept.

**Well done Cherrie, we are delighted to welcome you to our Parish team.**

**Fr Geoff**



# Jokes of the Week



1. The church was holding baptisms during the service, so they brought in a large tub. As the sermon continued, a boy near the front stared at the tub. He nudged his father. The father turned and the boy whispered, "Where did they get such a big bucket for the leaking roof?"
2. The church was holding baptisms during the service, so they brought in a large tub. As the sermon continued, a boy near the front stared at the tub. He nudged his father. The father turned and the boy whispered, "Where did they get such a big bucket for the leaking roof?"
3. A man goes out ice fishing one morning. He reaches the ice and is about to cut a hole in it when he hears a voice from above: "There are no fish here." The fisherman is shocked but gets up and moves to another spot. As he's about to cut a hole, he hears a voice from above again, "There are no fish here either." He gets up and moves to a third spot. Before he's even finished walking, the voice says, "I'm telling you, there are no fish here." The fisherman says, "God, how can you be so sure there aren't any fish here?" The voice replies, "This is the ice rink manager."

## THE RECTOR DROPS IN ON THE PAGEANT REHEARSAL



**NOTE:**

4th Sunday Advent Masses - As per usual Saturday night and Sunday morning:  
Saturday 23rd - 6pm and Sunday 24th - 9am and 11am (No 5pm Youth Mass)

## **St Macartan's Parish Christmas Masses**



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

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve**

**5pm Children's Mass (Children encourage to dress up)**

**7.30pm Christmas Eve Mass**

**11pm Christmas Eve Mass**

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day**

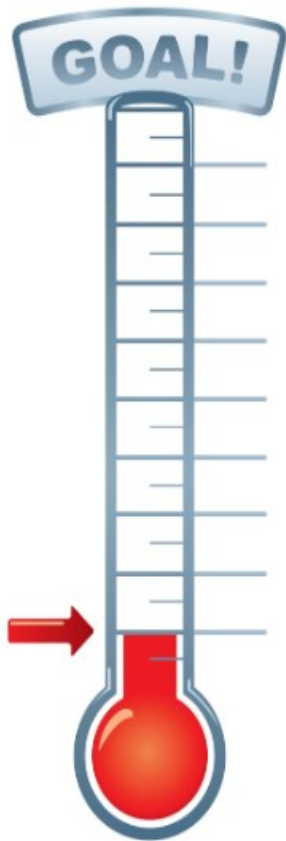
**8.00am Christmas Dawn Mass**

**10.00am Christmas Day Mass**

**NO 5pm Youth Mass**

### **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December Boxing Day**

**No Boxing Day Mass**



# ROOF RESTORATION FUND RAISING

**Currently you have donated  
\$6,047 - Increase of \$992 from last week.**

**Thank you**

Dear parishioners,

You may be wondering why after so long; the Church roof is still leaking and has not been fixed? It may appear like we are ignoring a serious problem and just putting out more and more buckets to catch the water? Well that is true in a way – we do have more buckets collecting water, but we have not been ignoring the problem.

Over the years, maintenance has been conducted on all church buildings in our Parish; such as plumbing, lighting, painting, minor repairs etc. at an already significant cost to the Parish but maintenance costs are expected. However; some large maintenance issues have been deferred because of costs and need to be planned for.

The roof at St Macartan's Church has been repaired several times. However, new leaks open and then the repaired ones eventually begin to leak again. Why? Because the current roof is past its 'best before' date and increases in large rain events >30mm, are becoming more & more regular and were not expected in the design of this roof. See our website video: <https://youtu.be/G4UgPcjSOk0>

The Parish has spent a lot of money in repairs and we have had three roof plumbers give us advice on more permanent solutions. All are extremely expensive, none of which fit within our normal maintenance budget. But we are going to deal with it, and hopefully have it fixed within the next three months. However, we need to raise funds - our bank balance will get us started with the roof restoration but we will need it replaced and topped up. We expect it to cost \$100,000.

So this fundraising starting today, will continue until we raise all the money. The sooner we raise it, the sooner we stop asking! There are several ways to donate!

1. Via a specific 'roof fundraising' Tap & Pay machine in the main foyer
2. Via our website and give - under donations
3. Send a cheque to the church

I thank all of you for your patience and I know your generous support in this matter.

Blessings - Fr Geoff

### **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 - Danielle Field: 0410 596 637

### **Rosters for Special Ministers and Commentators**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 9/10 December 2023**

6.00pm Readers Louise Renshaw, Marlene Tesmann

Eucharistic Mins Michael Turner, Alis Fisher

9.00am Readers John Azzopardi, Spencer Meier

Eucharistic Mins Richard Jolly, Clive Tucker

11.00am Readers Michael Harrison, Terry Roberts

Eucharistic Mins Barb Ensil, Rosina di Petta

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 16/17 December 2023**

6.00pm Readers Carmel McGrath, Kees Duyvestyn,

Eucharistic Mins Mairi Duyvestyn, Joyce Ward

9.00am Readers Kathleen Ronchi, Paul Girolami

Eucharistic Mins Pat Girolami, Richard Jolly

11.00am Readers Joan Clements, Patricia Duryea

Eucharistic Mins Bridie Sexton, Shiela Goddard

#### **Feast of The Holy Family – 30/31 December 2023**

6.00pm Readers Fay Murphy, Iris Hallinan

Eucharistic Mins Mairi & Kees Duyvestyn

9.00am Readers Michael Kerr, Don Ziino

Eucharistic Mins Joseph Thoppil, Richard Jolly

11.00am Readers Irene Hackett, Gabriella Fialla

Eucharistic Mins Sue Fletcher, Sandra Barrett

#### **The Epiphany of the Lord – 6/7 January 2024**

*7th Jan 11am - Archbishop Denis Hart presiding with Bishop Les Tomlinson*

6.00pm Readers Marlene Tesmann, Brian Scantlebury

Eucharistic Mins Michael Turner, Alis Fisher

9.00am Readers John Azzopardi, Spencer Meier

Eucharistic Mins Richard Jolly, Clive Tucker

11.00am Readers Michael Harrison, Terry Roberts

Eucharistic Mins Barb Ensil, Rosina di Petta

## PARISH CONTACTS

### Parish Contact Details:

- **AV & Livestreaming Technician:** Didier Le Miere: 0400 801 891  
Email: [Didier.lemiere31@gmail.com](mailto:Didier.lemiere31@gmail.com)
- **Baptisms:** Every Saturday at 11am (Except the 1st Saturday of the month):  
Contact Office: 5975 2200
- **Baptism Preparation:** Fr Geoff: Wednesdays of each month 5:30pm -  
Bookings are necessary. 5975 2200.
- **Catholic Mission Parish Ambassador:** Jody Kerrins  
[jody54@westnet.com.au](mailto:jody54@westnet.com.au)
- **Finance Committee:** Frank Crea: 0417 104 041
- **Marriage & Counselling:** Charmaine Holmes: 0413 394 085  
Email: [charholmes59@gmail.com](mailto:charholmes59@gmail.com)
- **Marriage Preparation:** Fr Geoff, Email: [Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au](mailto:Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au)
- **Memorial Wall:** Contact Parish Office: 5975 2200
- **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** Jody Kerrins (Chairperson)  
Email: [jody54@westnet.com.au](mailto:jody54@westnet.com.au)
- **Safeguarding Officer:** Tim Lambourne [Mornington.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:Mornington.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)
- **Spiritual Director/Pastoral Counsellor/Psychotherapist:** Angelo  
Campagna Ph: 0411 305 478, Website: [www.angelocampagna.com.au](http://www.angelocampagna.com.au)
- **St Mac's High Spirits:** Teacher is Michael Kerr: Contact office: 5975 2200
- **St Mac's Café: Coordinators are** Fr Geoff 5975 2200
- **St Macartan's Gift Shop:** Trish Thomas: 0425 749 379
- **St Vincent de Paul:** Barry Murphy: 0419 225 455
- **Volunteer Application Support Officer:** Contact Parish Office: 5975 2200
- **Visitation Group:** Fr Geoff email: [Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au](mailto:Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au) 59752200
- **Weddings contact the Office or Fr Geoff : 5975 2200**
- **Youth Worker (Quinn's Place):** Kristina Turner,  
Email: [Kristina.b2906@bigpond.com](mailto:Kristina.b2906@bigpond.com)
- **Youth Worker (Encounter):** Kate McInnes, Email: [morningtonparish.youth@cam.org.au](mailto:morningtonparish.youth@cam.org.au)

### Schools:

- **St Macartan's Primary School:** Ph: 5979 9200
- **Principal:** Colleen McGreal
- **Deputy:** Andrea Kershaw **Deputy:** Meegan Blackney
- **Padua College:** Ph: 5976 0100
- **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.*



74 Main Street, Mornington, Victoria 3931  
Fr Geoff rates it as: Yum, Yum, & Yummy!  
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