

Christmas Readings—5pm Xmas Eve Children's Mass & 11pm Xmas Eve Mass

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

Assistant Priest: Fr An Le

Parish Secretary: Cherrie Azzopardi



Mass Times: Coming up:

Christmas Eve: 5pm, 7:30pm & 11pm

Christmas Day: 8am & 10am

Boxing Day: 9:15am

ALL OTHER MASSES ARE AT NORMAL TIMES

Video Xmas Day Mass - 8am Mass

<https://vimeo.com/event/4786503>

Or go to website to copy link:

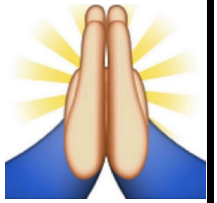
<https://www.stmacartansparish.com.au>

ALSO: at our regular YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOppts0Fw/videos>

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Tony Formosa, Betty Corke, Fiona Rush, Aaron Eastley, Bruce Reekie, Val Carr, Evan Senn, Adeline Lyn Tilden, Angela Turner, Poala Solvy, Kathleen Rose, Barbara Seymour, Barbara Hent, Gai Beveridge, Barbara Hunt, Dr Ron Fitzgerald, James Tokarczyk, Sarah-Jane Sharp, Rita Fordyce, George Carolini, Anne Hosemans, Michael Kesik, Jane Payne, Peter Clark, Barbra Solech, Grazyna Novak, Rob Turner, Fred Verna, Margaret Raynor, Margaret Wall & James O'Meara



First Reading

[Is 9:1-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David
and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11](#)

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)

4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

Second Reading

[Ti 2:11-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation

[Lk 2:10-11](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

[Lk 2:1-14](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Creed is said. All kneel at the words and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate.

Communion Antiphon

[Jn 1:14](#)

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

CHRSTMAS WISHES

Hello all, I write this hoping & praying you will be able to enjoy this festive time, where we celebrate families, friends, and Jesus Christ - Our Saviour!

The true gift of Christmas is the gift of our open hearts to the Lord, from where He will work miracles in and around us. The first of which, is where we get more pleasure out of giving than receiving! Where we look out for the needs of others first, rather than our own, and where we share our abundance with those who have less.

So if you come across a poor, frail, sick or lonely person this Christmas. Help them where you can, and your Christmas will be truly Blessed.

Peace be with you all.

Fr Geoff & Fr An



A Christmas Blessing

*May all the days
of all the years
That God has still in store
Be filled with every joy
and grace
To bless you more and more;
May hope of heart
and peace of mind
Beside you ever stay,
And that's the golden
wish I have
For you, this
Christmas Day!*

Pope: May Christmas bring peace to our world and turn sorrow into joy

The Pope said we look to the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem during these times, sadly marked by "sorrow and silence." Yet the birth of the Saviour there and the proclamation of the angel, "To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord," give us great hope as "the Lord has been born for us...the eternal Word of the Father, the infinite God, has made His home among us."

"Yes" to the Prince of Peace

We must say "yes" to peace and "no" to war the Pope decreed, as every war marks "a defeat without victors, an inexcusable folly." He also called for a "no" to weaponry given that with human weakness we can often end up using it for war sooner or later.

Peace is even more observed, "when sales, and trade are public funds spent come at the expense for the hungry. He estimates and the profits puppet strings of must be brought to about and written emphasised, since idea how much of are being spent on as they should be



difficult, he arms production, on the rise" and on arms can sense of bread decreed "the interests that move the war." And these light, "talked about," he many have no their public funds weapons, where-informed.

He prayed that "with God's help" may we make "every effort" for the day when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation."

An end to violence in the Holy Land

Looking at parts of the world where peace is distant, the Pope prayed for an end to the war devastating the lives of people in Israel and Palestine. He offered his consolation to the people of Gaza and the entire region and in particular the Christian communities.

He said his "heart grieves for the victims of the abominable attack of 7 October," and he repeated his "urgent appeal for the liberation of those still being held hostage."

Peace for our world

The Pope named other nations struggling to arrive at peace and stability, mentioning war-torn Syria, Yemen, and struggling Lebanon, assuring all the people of his prayers for their well-being. He implored peace for Ukraine, asking everyone to "renew our spiritual and human closeness to its embattled people" so that they also "may feel the concrete reality of God's love."

A Jubilee of grace and hope

In conclusion, the Pope said that in just one year, the Jubilee of 2025 will be inaugurated, marking a "season of grace and hope," but one that requires our preparation through a "conversion of hearts, for the rejection of war and the embrace of peace."

WHEN ARE WE BACK?

With Christmastide allowing for many to take a break and relax, so too have many of the Parish ministry groups, but like all good things they do return and we hope bigger and better than before.

Return dates 2024

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Parish Office | Tuesday 7th Jan |
| • St Mac's Café | Wednesday 15th Jan |
| • Encounter Youth Group | Sunday 26th Jan |
| • 3:30pm Holy Hour and Youth Mass | Sunday 26th Jan |
| • Quinn's Place | Friday 24th Jan |
| • Baptism Information Sessions | Wednesday 8th Jan |
| • Minister Unto God | Tuesday 11th Feb |
| • Men's Night | Thursday 20th Feb |
| • High Spirits | TBC Feb |
| • The Prayer Cenacle | Tuesday 21st Jan |
| • Choir Rehearsal | Thursday 30th Jan |
| • RCIA | Thursday 23rd Jan |
| • SVDP | Tuesday 21st Jan |
| • Visitation | 20th Jan |

"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.



Jokes of The Week



What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

A Holly Davidson!

What do you call a cat in the desert?

Sandy Claws!

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

A Christmas Quacker!

What did Adam say to his wife on Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

What says Oh Oh Oh?

Santa walking backwards!

What's Santa's favourite type of music?

Wrap!

What do Santa's elves learn in school?

The elf-abet!

Why is Santa so good at karate?

Because he has a black belt!

What do you call an elf that can sing and dance?

Elf-is Presley!

Which one of Santa's reindeer has the best moves?

Dancer!

What do the elves cook with in the kitchen?

U-tinsels!



DID YOU KNOW?

The legend of Santa Claus can be traced back hundreds of years to a monk named St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas became the subject of many legends. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and travelled the countryside helping the poor and sick. The name Santa Claus evolved from Nick's Dutch nickname, Sinter Klaas, a shortened form of Sint Nikolaas (Dutch for Saint Nicholas). In 1804, John Pintard, a member of the New York Historical Society, distributed woodcuts of St. Nicholas at the society's annual meeting. The background of the engraving contains now-familiar Santa images including stockings filled with toys and fruit hung over a fireplace.

In 1809, Washington Irving helped to popularize the Sinter Klaas stories when he referred to St. Nicholas as the patron saint of New York in his book, *The History of New York*. As his prominence grew, Sinter Klaas was described as everything from a "rascal" with a blue three-cornered hat, red waistcoat, and yellow stockings to a man wearing a broad-brimmed hat and a "huge pair of Flemish trunk hose."

Eighteenth-century America's Santa Claus was not the only St. Nicholas-inspired gift-giver to make an appearance at Christmastime. Christkind or Kris Kringle was believed to deliver presents to well-behaved Swiss and German children. Meaning "Christ child," Christkind is an angel-like figure often accompanied by St. Nicholas on his holiday missions. In Scandinavia, a jolly elf named Jultomten was thought to deliver gifts in a sleigh drawn by goats. English legend explains that Father Christmas visits each home on Christmas Eve to fill children's stockings with holiday treats.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

On a peaceful Christmas night, may
you find peace in your heart and
love all around you

Blessings from
Fr Geoff, Fr An & Cherrie

