

5th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME YrB 4th Feb 2024

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
Web: stmacartansparish.com.au
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy
Assistant Priest: Fr An Le
Parish Secretary: Cherrie Azzopardi



Mass Times:

- Weekdays: Tues to Saturday 9:15am
- Saturday night: 6 pm
- 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/4053654>

Or go to website to copy link:

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

ALSO: at our regular YouTube link:

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

Upcoming Holy Days:

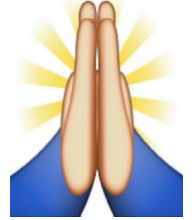
- Mon 1st Feb: St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr
- Tues 6th: Ss Paul Miki & companions, Martyrs
- Sat 10th: St Scholastica, Virgin

RETURNING IN 2024

- Holy Hour & 5pm Youth Mass - 2nd & 4th Sunday's
- Encounter junior Youth group 3-5pm - Sunday 11th Feb.
- Quinns Place senior Youth group Friday 2nd February.
- RCIA - Thur 1st Feb, 7pm in Hall.
- High Spirits (Confirmation) Tue 6th Feb 5pm in Community House
Fr An away 9th Feb - 9th March

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, Kathleen Rose, Barbara Seymour, Barbara Hent, Gai Beveridge, Barbara Hunt, Dr Ron Fitzgerald, James Tokarczyk, Sarah-Jane Sharp, Pat Guest, Rhonda Vernon, Sinead Ryan, Sean O'Leary



Death Anniversaries: Hugh Murphy, Therese Rose Canbareri

Recent deaths: Kevin Morley (Funeral 11:30am Thurs 15th here)

Mariese Jones (Funeral 11:30am Wed 7th here).

First Reading

Job 7:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the book of Job

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
his time no better than hired drudgery?

Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'

Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.

Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

1. Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due. **(R.)**

2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted,
he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. **(R.)**

3. Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Communion Antiphon

.Cf Psalm 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

Living Gospel

Prayer

In the midst of an extremely hectic 24 hours where Jesus effectively launches his public ministry, Jesus takes time to go aside to a lonely place and pray. The passage tells us that it was 'long before dawn' that he did this. It may have been his usual practice to pray early in the morning or he may have been restless after the events of the previous day and the thought of what lay ahead. Nevertheless, Jesus provides us with a model of using prayer to reflect on events and to prepare ourselves for the day ahead.

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel follows directly on from last week's reading and, as is typical with Mark's gospel, the events occur on the very same day. The urgency of the gospel is obvious in this week's reading; Jesus had a very busy 24 hours! Having launched his public ministry in the synagogue earlier that day, Jesus accompanies his new disciples to meet some of their family and have a meal. However, on arriving at the home of Simon and Andrew, they find Simon's mother-in-law is sick. Unlike the public displays of his healing power that preceded and will follow this episode, Jesus does not say anything but simply takes the woman by the hand and helps her up. Her response of beginning to wait on Jesus and his disci-

ples is a faith response and a recognition of who Jesus is. A theme that runs through this gospel is that the disciples never fully understand who Jesus is. Here, a woman who has just met him recognises him as the Messiah and begins to serve him.

Still on the same day, we see the expansion of Jesus' healing ministry. On this one day he has cast an unclean spirit out of a possessed man in the synagogue, healed Peter's mother-in-law of a fever and then healed the crowds of people who came to the door. The next morning he announces that they will take the ministry to the whole region of Galilee. In a very simple way, the gospel of Mark has described the growth of Jesus' ministry from very humble isolated examples to a deliberate reaching out to the people of an entire region.

Historical Context – Capernaum

Jesus appears to have made Capernaum his base after leaving Nazareth. He may, in fact, have based himself at Simon Peter's house. There are many references in the gospels to Jesus' actions in Capernaum. Archaeologists have identified the house in Capernaum that they believe to be Simon Peter's house – less than 100 metres from the Capernaum synagogue. Evidence reveals carved inscriptions and symbols that identify both Jesus and Peter. The house appears to have been used as a 'house-church' until a church was built on the site in the 5th Century. Excavations of the site can be seen today.

Pope Francis invites young people to embrace the gift of Confirmation

Pope Francis meets with young people preparing to be confirmed and emphasises the importance of the Sacrament as well as the profound connection between it and the commitments made during Baptism.

By Francesca Merlo

Pope Francis on Saturday addressed a group of children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In his welcoming remarks, the Pope greeted the parents, family members, catechists, and Bishop Giuseppe Satriano.

Pope Francis opened his address by asking the children whether they knew the date of their baptism. With this question, he encouraged both the children and the adults to reflect on this important milestone, suggesting that the day be celebrated annually, akin to a second birthday. "Have a cake made with candles, too! An extra cake... not bad!", said the Pope

The Pope went on to underline the profound nature of Baptism, saying that, "on that day, we were born to Christian life, to life in Je-

sus, which lasts forever, it is eternal!" He emphasised that on that day "we entered the great family of the Church, and the Holy Spirit came to dwell in us and never leaves us again; and finally we received the greatest inheritance there is: Paradise!"

The Holy Father went on to speak of the Sacrament of Confirmation, explaining that it serves to solidify and strengthen the commitments made during Baptism. He outlined the roles played by the Holy Spirit and the Church, saying that through Confirmation we "accept this mission as a personal commitment, as protagonists and not spectators".

The Pope illustrated his point by citing the example of Carlo Acutis, a young boy from Milan who died at the age of fifteen, but left a lasting impact through his passionate dedication to Jesus. Carlo used the internet to spread the message of the Gospel, emphasising prayer, witness, and charity. "So, boys and girls", said the Pope, "as the day of your Confirmation approaches, I propose you do the same. Go to Jesus, meet Him, and then tell everyone that it is good to be with Him, because He loves us and is always waiting for us!"

Finally, Pope Francis encouraged the young individuals approaching their Confirmation day to go to Jesus, experience His love, and share the message that "Jesus loves us and is always waiting for us", and he reminded them to always "be witnesses to how beautiful it is to be with Jesus and how much He loves us"





Jokes of the Week



Forrest Gump Goes to Heaven...

The day finally arrived: Forrest Gump dies and goes to Heaven. He is met at the Pearly Gates by Saint Peter himself. The gates are closed, however, and Forest approaches the gatekeeper.

Saint Peter says, "Well, Forrest, it's certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must inform you that the place is filling up fast, and we've been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The tests are fairly short, but you need to pass before you can get into Heaven."

Forrest responds, "It shore is good to be here Saint Peter. I was looking forward to this. Nobody ever told me about any entrance exams. Sir, hope the test ain't too hard; life was a big enough test as it was."

Saint Peter goes on, "Yes, I know Forrest. But, the test I have for you is only three questions. Here is the first: What days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Second, how many seconds are there in a year? Third, what is God's first name?"

Forrest goes away to think the questions over. He returns the next day and goes up to Saint Peter to try to answer the exam questions.

Saint Peter waves him up and asks, "Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers."

Forrest says, "Well, the first one, -how many days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?" "that one's easy; that'd be Today and Tomorrow!"

The saint's eyes open wide and he exclaims, "Forrest! That's not what I was thinking, but ... you do have a point though, and I guess I didn't specify, so I give you credit for that answer."

"How about the next one" says Saint Peter, "how many seconds in a year?"

"Now that one's harder," says Forrest. "But, I thunk and thunk about that, and I guess the only answer can be twelve."

Astounded, Saint Peter says, "Twelve! Twelve! Forrest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?"

Forrest says, "There gotta be twelve: January second, February second, March second...."

"Hold it," interrupts Saint Peter. "I see where you're going with it."

"And I guess I see your point, though that wasn't quite what I had in mind. I'll give you credit for that one too."

"Let's go on with the next and final question," says Saint Peter, "Can you tell me God's first name?"

Forest says, "Well Sir, I know God's first name. Everybody probably knows It's Howard."

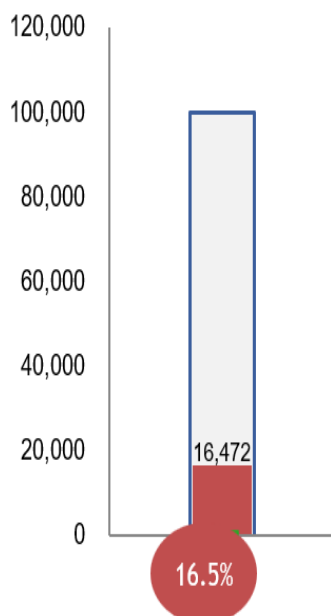
"Howard?" asks Saint Peter. "What makes you think it's 'Howard'?"

Forest answers, "It's in the prayer."

"The prayer?" asks Saint Peter, "Which prayer?"

"The Lord's Prayer," responds Forest: "Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Howard be thy name..."





ROOF RESTORATION FUND RAISING

Currently you have donated

\$16,472 (16.5%)

Increase of \$1,451 from last week.

Thank you

Dear parishioners,

The roof is scheduled to get repaired early in February so we still have time to raise the funds we desperately need.

We expect it to cost \$100,000. Your generosity is needed!

See our website video: <https://youtu.be/G4UgPcjSOk0>

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

HELP WANTED!

Men needed as Safety officers for Quinns place youth group

Friday 6pm-10pm.

If we get enough volunteers, we can implement a roster based on your availability.

You will be given a high visibility vest and will be working with others to help the Quinns youth group feel safe and protected.

You will be asked to patrol the outside area and ask non-youth group members to please move on. You will not be put in danger or need to be physical in any way. IT IS SIMPLY A PRESENCE OUTSIDE THE YOUTH GROUP

Please contact Fr Geoff: 5975 2200

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

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time – 3/4 February 2024

6.00pm Readers Marlene Tesmann, Brian Scantlebury

Eucharistic Mins Mairi Duyvestyn, Joyce Ward

9.00am Readers Kathleen Ronchi, Don Ziino

Eucharistic Mins Frank Crea, Michael Kerr

11.00am Readers Irene Hackett, Joan Clements

Eucharistic Mins Barb Ensill, Rosina di Petta

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time – 10/11 February 2024

6.00pm Readers Fay Murphy, Iris Hallinan

Eucharistic Mins Tricia Hird, Michael Turner,

9.00am Readers Paul Girolami, Michael Kerr

Eucharistic Mins John & Mary Lewis, Patricia Thomas

11.00am Readers Gabriella Fialla, Patricia Duryea

Eucharistic Mins Sue Fletcher, Shiela Goddard

1st Sunday of Lent – 17/18 February 2024

6.00pm Readers Kees Duyvestyn, Marlene Tesmann

Eucharistic Mins Mairi Duyvestyn, Joyce Ward

9.00am Readers Kathleen Ronchi, Kevin Morley

Eucharistic Mins Frank Crea, Rosemarie D'Silva

11.00am Readers Irene Hackett, Joan Clements

Eucharistic Mins Bridie Sexton, Sandra Barrett

JOIN ONE OF OUR TEAMS

If you are a regular at Mass and would like to help, we would love it!

Instruction and support will be given. Amongst other volunteers, we need more Mass Managers to ensure each Mass has all it requires to operate successfully.

If that's you, then please see Fr Geoff or contact Jody: jody54@westnet.com.au



NCPR releases findings on 'social profile' of Catholicism in Australia

The National Centre for Pastoral Research (NCPR) has released its findings on the 'social profile' of Catholicism in Australia, offering a national profile, diocesan profiles, and individual profiles of 1,230 parishes. The findings draw on data from the 2021 Australian Census with the aim of offering parishes valuable information about their local settings.

Where possible, the statistics in the 2021 parish profiles have been compared with data from 2016. 'It will be a valuable tool to help parishes understand their local communities,' said Professor Gabrielle McMullen, chair of the Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research. 'It is important that parish leaders have the latest information, so they can assess the pastoral needs of people and then plan the best way to meet those needs.'

Some interesting stats are:

The changing parish landscape

There has been a noted decline in the Catholic make-up of the general population. In 2016, Catholics made up 22.6% of the Australian population; this has dropped to 20% according to the 2021 data. That said, the general population of Australia also increased by 8.6% between those censuses (about two million people). A drop in the number parishes around Australia has also been revealed. For the last census in 2016, NCPR created profiles for 1,297 parishes. In 2021, by contrast, profiles were made for 1,230. Amid the drop, however, parish boundaries have also been changing significantly. More than 100 parishes were involved in geographical changes to their parish boundaries, adapting to the various needs of their settings.

The rise in the 'nones' (those selecting 'no religion' in the census) is also reflected in the parish profiles. In 2016, just 11 parishes had half or more of their local populations who did not identify with any religion. In 2021, this number had risen to 139 parishes. The median age of Catholics has increased to 43 in 2021 from 40 in 2016. In 1996, the median age of Catholics around the country was 33.

There are a greater number of women across Australia who identify as Catholic, and Catholic women are more likely to be employed as 'managers or professionals' (39 per cent of women versus 35 per cent of men), while Catholic men are far more likely to have a 'blue collar' occupation (45 per cent of men compared with 12 per cent of women).

The top five birthplaces overseas for Catholics are: the Philippines, Italy, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland), India and New Zealand. Interestingly, the highest proportion of recent arrivals are from Colombia, Brazil, Iraq, Argentina, and the Philippines.

The Archdiocese of Melbourne

The data for Melbourne does reflect some of the broader national trends. According to the NCPR findings, in 2021 the Catholic population of Melbourne was 20.9% (1,038,276) of the general population (4,962,431).

Interestingly, 84% of Catholics in Melbourne live in a family setting, compared with 82% in 2016—the percentage of those who have never been married and those who have been separated or divorced continues to steadily increase, however. In 2021, 10% of Catholics in Melbourne lived alone.

To see the full report go to:

[NCPR releases findings on 'social profile' of... | Melbourne Catholic](#)

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Contact Details:

- **AV & Livestreaming Technician:** Didier Le Miere: 0400 801 891
Email: 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
- **Finance Committee:** Frank Crea: 0417 104 041
- **Marriage & Counselling:** Charmaine Holmes: 0413 394 085
Email: charholmes59@gmail.com
- **Marriage Preparation:** Fr Geoff, Email: Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au
- **Memorial Wall:** Contact Parish Office: 5975 2200
- **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** Jody Kerrins (Chairperson)
Email: jody54@westnet.com.au
- **Safeguarding Officer:** Tim Lambourne Mornington.ChildSafety@cam.org.au
- **Spiritual Director/Pastoral Counsellor/Psychotherapist:** Angelo
Campagna Ph: 0411 305 478, Website: 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 An email: An.le@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
- **Youth Worker (Encounter):** Kate McInnes, Email: morningtonparish.youth@cam.org.au

Schools:

- **St Macartan's Primary School:** Ph: 5979 9200
- **Principal:** Colleen McGreal
- **Deputy:** Andrea Kershaw
- **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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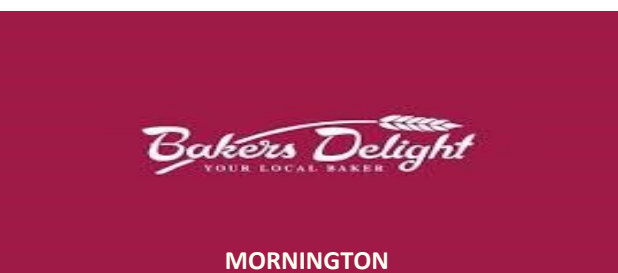
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