

3rd Sunday Advent YrB 17h 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
Web: 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/3954540>

Or go to website to copy link:

[https://www.melbcatholic.org/
mornington](https://www.melbcatholic.org/mornington)

ALSO: at our regular YouTube link:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOppts0Fw/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOppts0Fw/videos)

Upcoming Holy days:

- Thur 21st: **St Peter Canisius,
Priest, Doctor.**
- Sat 23rd: **St John of Kety, Priest**

**Also, new 2023-2024 Thanksgiving
Envelopes - collect from Office**

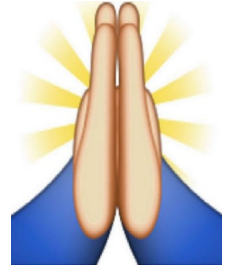
2023

LAST St Mac's Café: Wed 20th 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: Alexandra Presniakovas, Mary Ebinger

Recently Deceased: Apolonijia (Paula) Zmegac (Funeral here Thurs 21st Dec 11:30am) - <https://vimeo.com/event/3960558>

The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**

2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. **(R.)**

3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 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

John 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Isaiah 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Have you thought?

A time to Rejoice!

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

Living the Gospel – A Witness? Me?

It came as something of a surprise to me to think that other people might observe the way I treated others and draw conclusions about my motivation. It was when I started to work with young people that the truth of this was revealed. I realised that my actions could speak so much louder than anything I might say. I hoped that the young people I was working with might stop some time and think to themselves, 'I wonder why he treats us all that way? I wonder how it fits with that religion stuff he talks about?' Well, I can hope can't I?

Gospel Focus – Same but different

Having the same gospel passage from two different gospels used in the liturgy in consecutive weeks is an ideal opportunity to highlight the different focus adopted by the different gospels. The language of John's gospel is remarkably different from that of the three synoptic gospels (synoptic = 'seen together'). The synoptics share a fairly common narrative style, while John relies much more on metaphor and imagery – it is a more poetic language. In the gospel account of John the Baptist we see in John gospel's greater emphasis on the conversation around what was occurring, while the Markan version emphasises recording the event.

Pope renews appeal for immediate Gaza ceasefire

"No to weapons, yes to peace", Pope Francis says, renewing his appeal for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and the release of all hostages there.

By Joseph Tulloch

Speaking at the end of his weekly General Audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis made a new appeal for an end to the war in Gaza.

"I continue to follow the conflict in Israel and Palestine with much worry and pain," he said. "I renew my call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire: there is so much suffering there."

"I encourage all parties involved to resume negotiations," the Pope added, "and call on everyone to make an urgent commitment to get humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza."

He stressed that the population of Gaza are "on their last legs, and really need it."

Pope Francis also renewed his appeal for the immediate release of all Israeli hostages, saying, "Let all those who had seen a few days ago, be free, so that this hope in the truce freed immediately great suffering Palestinians might come to an end."



renewed his appeal for the immediate release of all Israeli hostages, saying, "Let all those who had seen a few days ago, be free, so that this hope in the truce freed immediately great suffering Palestinians might come to an end."

"Please", he concluded, "no to weapons, yes to peace."

cluded, "no to

Gaza on the cusp of 'total breakdown'

Israel is continuing its barrage of Gaza, with the focus now on Khan Younis in the south. There has also been fighting in Rafah near the Egyptian border, and in Jenin in the occupied West Bank.

Amid all this, international pressure is growing over the humanitarian crisis. US President Joe Biden has said Israel is starting to lose global support over its "indiscriminate bombing" of Gaza.

The UN's agency for Palestinian refugees, meanwhile, says the rest of the Gaza Strip is on the brink of a total breakdown of civil order. The Hamas-controlled health ministry in Gaza says more than 18,000 people have been killed since the start of the war,

Israel began heavily bombing the Gaza Strip after Hamas killed more than 1,200 people and took more than 200 hostage.



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) Christian home: After the Baptism of his baby brother in Church one Sunday, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys!" Father got the message, and they began to go to Church regularly... Needless to say, the family had a bit of catching up to do. But one day the Sunday School Teacher asked Johnny, "Now, Johnny, tell me – do you say prayers before eating?" "No ma'am," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My Mom is a good cook."

2) Sign on a church bulletin board: "Merry Christmas to our Christian friends. Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish friends. And to our atheist friends, good luck."

3) Heaven and hell on your face: A drama teacher was instructing his students about acting. He was trying to get them to realize the idea that they convey the message in their faces. When they are doing different scenes in a play, they have to project whatever that scene is on their face. He used the example of Heaven and Hell. Their faces should look very different if they are talking about Heaven or if they are talking about Hell. He said to the students, "When you are talking about Heaven, your faces should light up. Your smiles should radiate, and your eyes should look to the skies. People should be able to see Heaven on your faces." He said, "When you are talking about Hell, well, your normal faces will do." Let there be heaven on your face on "Gaudete Sunday."



" Vinnies Says Thanks"

Our St Vincent de Paul Conference would like to express a big thank you to all parishioners who contributed so generously to the recent Christmas Appeal. Our St Macartan's community always stands up and acts to help the poor.

We thank you very much.

Also a separate thank you to all those who help the Conference with their donations of non-perishable food stuffs - be assured these donations go to good use."

Many thanks Father and God bless you.

Barry Murphy



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 24th December Christmas Eve

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

7.30pm Christmas Eve Mass

11pm Christmas Eve Mass

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

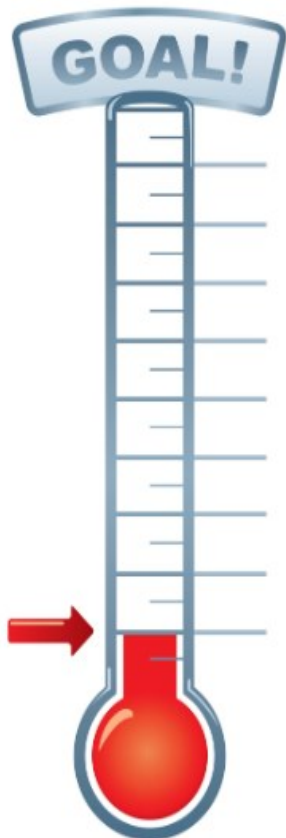
8.00am Christmas Dawn Mass

10.00am Christmas Day Mass

NO 5pm Youth Mass

Tuesday 26th December Boxing Day

No Boxing Day Mass



ROOF RESTORATION FUND RAISING

**Currently you have donated
\$9,144 - Increase of \$3097 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

3rd 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

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time – 13/14 January 2024

6.00pm Readers Carmel McGrath, Kees Duyvestyn,

Eucharistic Mins Mairi Duyvestyn, Joyce Ward

9.00am Readers Paul Girolami, Michael Kerr

Eucharistic Mins Pat Girolami, Kathleen Ronchi

11.00am Readers Joan Clements, Patricia Duryea

Eucharistic Mins Bridie Sexton, Shiela Goddard

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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