



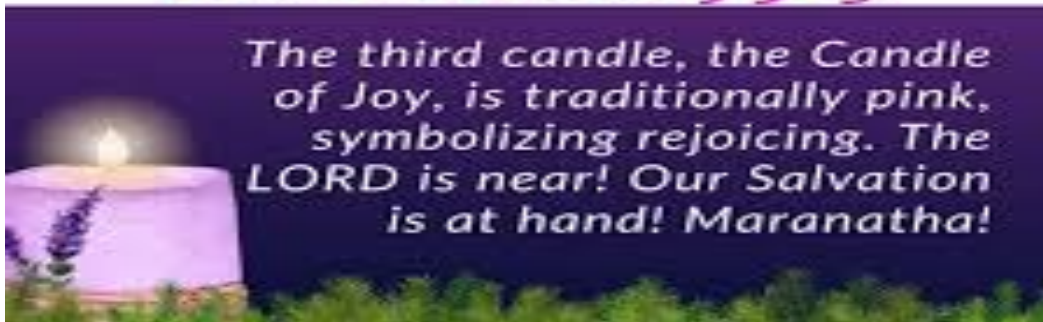
4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931
Parish Office: Tue to Fri 9am to 4pm: Ph: 5975 2200
Email: mornington@cam.org.au
Web: stmacartansparish.com.au
BSB:083 347 Account No: 547373281
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy
Parish Coordinator: Tim Lambourne



December 14, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

The Candle of Joy



Upcoming Events - here

Christmas Services

See timetable within

Children's Liturgy

Is on during 11am Mass for children aged 5-11 approx.

Children along with adult leaders, will be called up at the start of Mass and be taken to the community house and returned after approx. 20min.

**Fundraiser for building works
starts next weekend.**

Upcoming Holy Days:

- 13h Dec –St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

Youth groups

Quinns Place (Teenagers)

Every Friday 6pm-10pm

Last Quinns Place for 2025 –
17th December

Encounter Group (Primary school age)

Sunday 14th of December –Last
Encounter for 2025 –Christmas breakup

COMING UP

NO MASSES

Friday 26th December 9:15am

Saturday 27th December 9:15am

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Cinzia Paola , Joan Watts, Michaela Gabriel, Margaret Raynor, Kath O'Malley, Pam Cahill, Helen Roberts, Phil Stokes, Audrey Tunks, Therese Simmons, Tony Beale, Rosie Trianda, Tony Hannan, David Harnett & Mary Ross



Death Anniversaries: Mary Ebinger, Esma Murphy, Alexandra Presniakovas

Recent Deaths: Fred Verna

Video Sunday 14th December, 9am Mass

LIVESTREAMING: <https://vimeo.com/event/5571642>

Or go to website to copy link: <http://www.melbcatholic.org/s/mornington>

ALSO: at our regular YouTube link:

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

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]

HOLY HOUR / ADORATION:

Wednesday's 9:45 - 10:30 and Saturday's 9:45 - 10:30 approx. (after 9:15am Mass)

RECONCILIATION:

9:45am: Wed & Saturday (after 9:15am Mass) or by appointment 59752200

YOUTH GROUPS: QUINN'S PLACE:

Year 7+ Friday's 6pm-10pm Community House & Hall

ENCOUNTER: Youth Group: Primary school age Midday-1:30pm after 11 AM mass on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each Month in the Community House



TO DONATE TO OUR CHURCH ACCOUNT & FOR THANKSGIVING:

St Macartan's Parish BSB: 083 347 Account Number: 547 373 281

Account name: St Macartan's Catholic Church



First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?'

Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

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.

Historical context

Least and Greatest

Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finishing praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.

Gospel reflection

Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving that prison alive and may have been leading his disciples to the next step in their

discipleship by having them go and scrutinise Jesus. The indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!' The reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

Scriptural context – John the Baptist

Jesus is not recorded as asking the messengers about John's wellbeing. He doesn't appear to express any concern about John's imprisonment. Yet Jesus must have felt this situation very deeply. The depth of his feeling is reflected when Jesus speaks so positively and powerfully about John. It reads almost as a eulogy that might be given at a funeral; praising the greatness of the deceased. Yet regardless of John's greatness, Jesus assures his audience that even the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

Living the Gospel – Gaudete!

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means Rejoice! The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.' When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration.



VATICAN NEWS

Pope: 'I was thinking of retiring, but instead I surrendered to God'

Aboard the papal plane returning to Rome from Lebanon, Pope Leo XIV speaks to journalists about the role of the Holy See, which works "behind-the-scenes" in peace negotiations, so that all parties may lay down arms. Regarding Ukraine, the Pope underlines Europe's involvement and the important role Italy could play, and answers a question about how he reacted to his election, stressing the importance of giving one's life to God and letting him "lead the way".

Vatican News

"First of all, I want to say thank you to all of you who have worked so hard; I would like you to pass on this message also to the other journalists, both in Türkiye and in Lebanon, who have worked to communicate the important messages of this journey. You too all deserve a big round of applause for this visit." Pope Leo XIV greeted the 81 journalists on board the flight from Beirut to Rome with those words, before answering several questions, speaking in English, Italian and Spanish. He spoke about his just-concluded Apostolic Journey, the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, Europe's presence in peace negotiations, and the situation in Venezuela. He also received a gift from a Lebanese correspondent: a hand-made painting, created live on television in recent days, depicting him and the symbolic places he visited in the Land of the Cedars.

Below is a working English transcription and translation of the press conference:

Joe Farchakh (LBC International): You are an American Pope who is leading a peace process. My question is whether you will use your contacts with President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. On

the plane, you said that the Vatican is a friend of Israel. Will you raise the issue of stopping Israel's aggression against Lebanon? And is a sustainable peace possible in the region?

[Pope Leo XIV, in English]: First of all, yes, I believe sustainable peace is achievable. I think that when we talk about hope, when we talk about peace, when we look to the future, we do so because I believe it is possible that peace once again come to the region and come to your country, to Lebanon. In fact I have already, in a very small way, begun a few conversations with some of the leaders of places that you have mentioned, and I would intend to continue to do that, personally or through the Holy See, because the fact is that we do have diplomatic relationships with most of the countries through the region, and it would be our hope certainly, to continue to raise that call for peace that I spoke of at the very end of the Mass today.



For the full interview please go to:

https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-12/pope-leo-xiv-inflight-press-conference-turkiye-lebanon.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NewsletterVN-EN



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Flowers Team—2025

We offer our sincere gratitude to our wonderful Flowers Team for their creativity, dedication, and quiet service throughout 2025. Week after week, this faithful group has prepared beautiful floral arrangements that enhance our worship space and lift the hearts of all who enter the church. Their work has supported every Sunday Mass, countless weekday liturgies, funerals, weddings, and special celebrations across the parish. Although the team is small, their impact is seen and appreciated by the entire community. As we look ahead to 2026, we warmly welcome new volunteers who may wish to share their time and talents in this meaningful ministry.

St Mac's Café – December Report

As we draw to a close for 2025 and head into the Christmas season, I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to the generous St Mac's parishioners who supported this ministry through the many weekly contributions in the way of casseroles, desserts and other food dishes. Without your continued help, we would NOT be able to continue this outreach to the many 'guests' who have passed through the doors on a Wednesday night.

Many of the guests have told us on several occasions that we were the needed listening ear, the positive meeting place, the salvation for their loneliness as well as a springboard for their participation in our community through meeting others. On occasions, we have been able to direct a number to services both within the parish and the community.

Further, I would like to thank the small group of willing volunteers who gave their time, their talents and willingness to adapt to the many and varied demands placed on them throughout the year. Without them, we would not be able to bridge this gap in our society. THANK YOU!

Peter Lynch

CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER • 3PM
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL



The AV Team –2025

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated AV Team for their extraordinary service throughout the past year. This small but deeply committed group has supported more than 1,000 Masses, over 70 funerals, and numerous parish and community events this year—often working quietly behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. The fruits of their labour are visible each week during our liturgies and through the many people who join us online via our YouTube channel. As we look ahead to 2026, we warmly invite new volunteers to join this vital ministry and support the wonderful work already being done.

Tim

Thank You

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Kate McInnes as she finishes her time as our Encounter Youth Leader. Kate has given so much of herself to our young people through her joy, dedication, and gentle leadership, helping them grow in faith and friendship. As she now turns her focus to her studies, we offer her our prayers and very best wishes for the journey ahead. May God continue to bless her with wisdom, strength, and every grace she needs in this next chapter.

Tim & Father Geoff

Group	Date End 2025	Date Return 2026
Men's Group	20/11/2025	19/02/2026
St Mac's Café	17/12/2025	28/01/2026
Children's Liturgy	21/12/2025	25/01/2026
Quinns Place	12/12/2025	30/01/2026
Encounter	14/12/2025	TBA
Minister unto God prayer	02/12/2025	03/02/2026
Little Macs Playgroup	10/12/2025	4/2/2026

The parish office will be closed from the afternoon of the 24th of December 2025, and will reopen on the Tuesday 6th of January, 2026.

There will be no 9:15am Mass: Friday 26th, or Saturday 27th, December

St Macartan's Parish Christmas Masses



Carols half an hour before each Christmas Mass

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

- **5pm Children's Mass**

(All Children encourage to this Mass and to dress up):

[Angel/Mary/Joseph/Star/Donkey/Cow/Sheep/Camel]

- **7.30pm Christmas Eve Mass**
- **11pm Christmas Eve Mass**

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

- **8.00am Christmas Dawn Mass**
- **10.00am Christmas Day Mass**

Friday 26th December Boxing Day

- **NO MASS**

Volunteers needed for the Christmas Masses:

Mass Coordinators, Greeters, Ushers and Collectors

Readers and Commentators, Eucharistic Ministers

Can all those wishing to volunteer for the above, please email Jody Kerrins and confirm which Mass you will be attending – jody54@westnet.com.au



Jokes of the Week



1) "I am John the Baptist!" A man who thought he was John the Baptist was disturbing the neighborhood, 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!"



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 third Sunday of Advent, and thirdly you're the Pastor and you have to say two Masses today!"

4) A unique gift: A priest was getting on a bus. Somehow his shoe came off and fell into the street. Since he could not retrieve it, he took off the second one. He threw it out the window in the direction of the other one. To a puzzled looking passenger, he said, "The fellow who finds the first shoe now will have a good pair to walk about in."

St Macartan's Primary School

It is the home straight now. It has been a big year, but there is plenty more fun to be had yet!

For all the latest at St Macartan's Primary, please see the attached link.



[St Macartan's School Newsletter - Week 8 Term 4](#)

Mass Coordinators

6.00pm Alis Fisher

9.00am Clive Tucker 0421 772 563

11.00am Patricia Duryea 0418 139 599

3rd Sunday of Advent – 13/14 December 2025

6.00pm Readers: Brian Scantlebury, Adrian Mitchell

Eucharistic Mins Alis Fisher, Joyce Ward

Audio Visual: Chris Curtain

9.00am Readers Kathleen Ronchi, Don Ziino

Eucharistic Mins: John and Mary Lewis

Audio Visual: James Barrett

Live Stream: Didier LeMiere

11.00am Readers Michael Harrison, Esme Higgins

Eucharistic Mins: Evelyn Atkins, Terry Roberts

Audio Visual: Graham Michel

Children's Liturgy: Barb Ensil and Joy Andrews

4th Sunday of Advent – 20/21 December 2025

6.00pm Readers Kees Duyvestyn, Carmel McGrath

Eucharistic Mins Mairi Duyvestyn, Fay Murphy

Audio Visual – Chris Curtain

9.00am Readers Kathleen Ronchi, Spencer Meier

Eucharistic Mins Michael Kerr, Rosemarie D'Silva

Audio Visual – James Barrett

Livestream—Didier LeMiere

11.00am Readers Gabriella Failla, John Rowe

Eucharistic Mins Michael Harrison, Sue Fletcher

Audio Visual - Marino Casamento

Children's Liturgy – Grace De Battista and Helen Galli

Those wishing to volunteer contact Jody 045 0096 210, or via email:

jody54@westnet.com.au

THANK YOU

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Contact Details:

- **AV & Livestreaming Technician:** Didier Le Miere: 0400 801 891
Email: Didier.lemiere31@gmail.com
- **Baptisms:** Every Saturday at 11am Contact Office: 5975 2200
- **Baptism Preparation:** Contact Fr Geoff:
- **Catholic Mission Parish Ambassador:** Jody Kerrins
jody54@westnet.com.au
- **Child, Youth and Family Counsellor:** Joanne Devota-Rando 0403 113 199
- **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
- **Men's Night:** Contact Kerry McInerney 5976 2155
- **OH&S:** Contact Tim Lambourne Mornington@cam.org.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: Coordinator:** Peter Lynch 0402325681 or 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 Inquiries:** Office 5975 2200
- **Weddings contact the Office**
- **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

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, contact the following crisis services:

Emergency 000

Lifeline 13 11 14

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

MensLine 1300 78 99 78

Suicide Call Back Service

1300 659 467

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KIDS FIND THE WORD PAGE

The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Matthew 11:5 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV).



P F R A I S E D X P X G W O B
R K P R I S O N T T U P O X O
E S J E F N I B S U Q D O O A
A D O F K O I I S B C N E O D
C U H N G I R H E Y U L U A R
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HEAR
DEAD
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