

4th SUNDAY OF LENT YrB 10th March 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
SUSPENDED

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/4136962>

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>

Stations of the Cross

The way of the Cross, a beautiful and
prayerful stations journey:

Weekly 7pm-7:45pm Tuesday's

Beginning Tue 20th Feb to 19th March

QUINNS PLACE

Until further notice

Quinns Place is CLOSED.

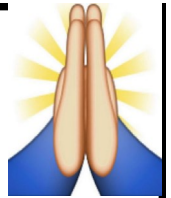
It will return in a different format.

Fr Geoff

WELCOME BACK Fr An

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, Poa-la 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, Rita Fordyce



Death Anniversary: Nancy Watkins & Daniel Ryan

Recent Deaths: Kevin Paganoni, Anthony Ryan, John Spaziani

First Reading

2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."' "

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. (R.) | 3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! (R.) |
| 2. For it was there that they asked
us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
"Sing to us," they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' (R.) | 4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! (R.) |

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation

John 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth
comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 121: 3-4

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Babylonian Exile

In the book of Leviticus (25:4), it is commanded that every seventh year, the land was to be allowed to have a 'Sabbath year' – no tilling soil, no planting, no harvesting. The people failed to observe this command and the prophet, Jeremiah, interprets the destruction of the Temple and exile into Babylon as God's opportunity to enforce the period of Sabbath rest for the land. The people were in exile in Babylon for 70 years, ending about 537 BCE when the Persian emperor, Cyrus conquered the Babylonians and agreed to return the Israelites to their land. He also returned to them all of the treasures looted from the Temple so that it may be rebuilt.

Gospel Reflection

To fully understand this week's gospel passage, it is important to take the first reading into consideration as well. The account from 2 Chronicles describes the way in which the people began to neglect their relationship with God. Despite prophets and messengers being sent to them, they turned their backs on God. At about this time the Israelites were conquered, the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed and the survivors taken into exile in Babylon. For many, this was seen as a punishment from God because of their neglectful and selfish behaviour. But the reading demonstrates God's infinite patience with humankind. God gives the people another chance and calls on them to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. God is will-

ing to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. It is in this context that we must understand the gospel passage. In yet another attempt to demonstrate love and forgiveness, God's only Son – the Word made Flesh – is sent into the world to lead the people from darkness to light. Despite the many, many attempts by God to demonstrate love and foster a relationship with humankind, the people have repeatedly rejected the relationship with God and preferred to live a life of selfishness and darkness. Yet we see through both of these readings the unquenchable nature of God who keeps giving humankind one more chance. In our day to day relationships, it is true that we often seek to test the limits of the love that is expressed. Young people in particular often test the boundaries of their parents' love and the boundaries of others who care for them. It is often a test to reassure themselves of this love – will you still love me, even if I do this? Today's readings portray the people of God as adolescents constantly testing out the limits of God's love. In a remarkable act, God's own Son is sent into the world to die as a sign of the lengths to which God will go to assure humanity of the love that is theirs for the taking.

Have you thought? God in popular culture

Think for a moment of the last time you saw or heard a reference to God on a television program, in a song, or some other popular medium. Chances are, the reference was one of a judging, vengeful, punishing God. This sort of image plays particularly well with a modern audience. It's easier to dismiss God as irrelevant if we can paint God in that sort of image. TV sitcoms do it particularly well with thunderclaps, bolts of lightning and booming, disapproving voices from above. It's much harder to dismiss a God of love who will go to extremes to demonstrate that love.

Gospel Focus – Not to condemn ...

The gospel passage tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, 'so that through him the world might be saved'. It also tells us that whoever refuses to believe 'is already condemned'. God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. We only have to open our eyes to see the alternative!

PAV on French abortion bill: There cannot be a 'right' to taking a human life
The Pontifical Academy for Life issues a statement upholding French bishops' opposition to the amendment that would make abortion a constitutional right.
By Vatican News

The Pontifical Academy for Life (PAV) has expressed its support to the French Church's firm opposition against a constitutional amendment that would make France the first country to enshrine abortion as a constitutional right.

The proposed bill presented by President Emmanuel Macron's government has been approved by both the National Assembly and the Senate, and is been discussed this afternoon in a joint session of Parliament for its expected final approval by a three-fifths majority.

In the era of universal human rights, there cannot be a 'right' to taking a human life

In a statement issued on Monday PAV echoed the stance put forward by the French Bishops' Conference (CEF) that abortion, "which remains an attack on life" cannot be seen "exclusively from the perspective of women's rights", and joined the bishops in expressing regret that the proposal "does not mention support measures for those who would like to keep their child." The Pontifical Academy insisted that "in the era of universal human rights, there cannot be a 'right' to taking a human life."

"All governments and religious traditions, they said, must "do their best so that at this stage in history, the protection of life becomes an absolute priority, with concrete steps in favor of peace and social justice and with effective measures for a universal access to resources, education and healthcare."



Protecting the most vulnerable

"The particular life situations and difficult and dramatic contexts of our time must be addressed with the tools of a legal civilization that looks first of all to the protection of the weakest and most vulnerable," PAV said.

"Protection of life, ought to be humanity's "first objective," and is something that can only develop in a world voice of conflict and with the fields of science, technology, and industry serving both "the human person and brotherhood."

The defence of life is not an ideology

Citing Pope Francis, PAV said that for the Catholic Church, "the defence of life is not an ideology, it is a reality, a human reality that involves all Christians, precisely because they are Christian and because they are human."

"It is about acting on the cultural and educative level to pass on to future generations the attitude of solidarity, of care, of welcome, knowing well that, the culture of life is not the exclusive heritage of Christians, but it belongs to all those who, working to build fraternal relations, recognize the value of every single person, even the fragile and suffering," the statement said.



Jokes of the Week



#1: “For God so loved the world that” He sent His Son to Israel: A Jewish father in the U.S. was concerned about his son. He had not truly raised him in the faith of Judaism... So, hoping to strengthen his son’s Faith, the father sent him to Israel so that the boy could experience his heritage. A year later the young man returned home. He said, “Father, thank you for sending me to the land of our Fathers. It was wonderful and enlightening. However, I must confess that while in Israel I converted to Christianity.”

“Oh, (groan) what have I done?” the father thought. So, in the tradition of the patriarchs, he went to his best friend and sought his advice and solace. “It is amazing that you should come to me,” stated his friend. “I, too, sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian.” So, in the tradition of the Patriarchs, they went to the Rabbi. “It is amazing that you should come to me,” stated the Rabbi. “I, too, sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian. What is happening to our sons? Brothers, we must take this to the Lord,” said the Rabbi. They fell to their knees and began to wail and pour out their hearts to the Almighty. As they prayed, the clouds above opened, and a mighty voice stated, “Amazing that you should come to Me. I, too, sent My Son to Israel...”



OFFERS OF INTEREST

As the roof comes to a completion, we are now able to look at fixing the ceilings in the foyer, above the annex and above the altar, so we thought we would offer the jobs to amongst our local community first.

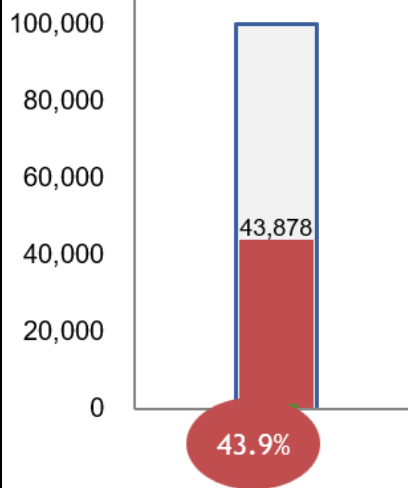
We are looking for:

⇒ Ceiling painter

⇒ Ceiling plasterer

Anyone with these skills interested, please contact:

John Wright: johnwrightmornington@outlook.com or call Fr Geoff 59752200



ROOF RESTORATION - FUND RAISING

**Currently you have donated
\$ 43,878**

**The roof is nearly finished
And we still need to get to \$100,000
Please help.**

Parish Footy Tipping Competition

Our St. Macartan's footy tipping competition 2024 has started with the opening Round this week. It's not too late to join the fun and the challenge of selecting winners each week. New members are very welcome. All you need to do is go to ESPN Footy Tips www.footytips.com.au and create an account then search for St. Macartan's Parish Footy Tipping. The password to join is "drake".

Previous tippers only need to log back into your ESPN Footy Tips account and make sure your details are up to date. Cost to join the fun and participate this season, including finals, is again \$30 .

If you have any questions or queries please email or call one of our administrators:

James [Barrett---jflob@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jflob@bigpond.net.au)—0418 491 781

Spencer [Meier---sanddmeier@bigpond.com](mailto:sanddmeier@bigpond.com) --- 0448 602 288



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, we consider the safety and wellbeing of all persons to be our highest priority. We too acknowledge that children, young people, and adults at risk may require additional safeguards to promote their participation, wellbeing and safety.

Clergy, employees, and volunteers are committed to upholding the right to safety of all persons and participating in a creating a culture of safety supported by policies, practices and procedures that strive to prevent abuse in the first instance and to respond appropriately and effectively if abuse does occur. Across the Archdiocese, we respect the human dignity of each person and strive to create an inclusive and welcoming Church that enables its people to grow and develop in their faith freely and in a caring and supportive environment.

This is why St Macartan's Parish is reviewing all our safeguarding information and ensuring we comply to the mandatory standards, which include:

All volunteers have a current WWC (Working with Childrens check) – regardless of whether you work with children or not.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter when asked to update your expired one or to obtain your first. We can and will assist you in the office, just telephone first.

Regards
Fr Geoff

Mass Co-ordinators

6.00pm - Carmel Coles: 5975 3080

9.00am - Clive Tucker 0421 772 563

11.00am - Patricia Duryea: 0418 139 599

5.00pm - Danielle Field: 0410 596 637

4th Sunday of Lent – 9/10 March 2024

6.00pm Readers Brian Scantlebury, Marlene Tesmann

Eucharistic Mins Fay Murphy, Alis Fisher

9.00am Readers Marie Picton, Paul Girolami,

Eucharistic Mins Marcelle Azzopardi, Delina Frank

11.00am Readers Irene Hackett, Terry Roberts

Eucharistic Mins Evelyn Atkins, Rosina di Petta

5th Sunday of Lent – 16/17 March 2024

6.00pm Readers Fay Murphy, Iris Hallinan

Eucharistic Mins Mairi Duyvestyn, Tricia Hird

9.00am Readers Don Ziino, Michael Kerr

Eucharistic Mins Pat Girolami, Richard Jolly

11.00am Readers Patricia Duryea, Michael Harrison

Eucharistic Mins Barb Ensil, Shiela Goddard

Palm Sunday – 23/24 March 2024

6.00pm Readers Kees Duyvestyn, Carmel McGrath

Eucharistic Mins Michael Turner, Joyce Ward

9.00am Readers Kathleen Ronchi, Spencer Meier

Eucharistic Mins Patricia Thomas, Frank Crea

11.00am Readers Irene Hackett, Terry Roberts,

Eucharistic Mins Rosina di Petta, Bridie Sexton

APPEAL FOR HELP!

The Parish has a Family (Mother, Father & teenage son), who I personally vouch for, as a terrific Family, but who have fallen on difficult times and need affordable rental accommodation.

This is urgent, so if you can help, please contact me 59752200.

Thank you

Fr Geoff



Come & join Parishioner Graham Michel's

Mrs Sippy traditional jazz band

for a fun afternoon of jazz & dancing

**Saturday 23rd March
from 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.**

at the **Mornington Civic Bowls Club, Dunns Road Mornington**

Admission \$15 p.p. B.Y.O. nibbles coffee, tea & drinks available at the bar.

Hello St Macartans Community and Visitors to our Parish

Just a reminder, we have a large number of books outside the Gift Shop on a table for you to browse through. They include Bibles, large print Bibles and a beautiful Family Bible for all members of the Family. There is a selection of Prayer Books, Missals, Spiritual Books and books for Children.

On the small table you will find meaningful gifts relating to Good Friday and Easter. We have a selection of Crucifixes, an olivewood round plaque of the Last Supper, a plaque with the Stations of the Cross around a Crucifix and the other around Jesus Praying. These are new products that you wouldn't have seen before..

We have also purchased a 40cm Miraculous plaster statue which is beautiful. If anyone is looking for a particular statue in a particular size, please let me know. If I can assist I will.

We now have on display a variety of sterling silver Miraculous medals on chains. They are proving to be very popular. We have sterling silver Miraculous medals, for infants as well. These are a great gift for Baptism etc.

I have located a different supplier and in the process of checking out their goods and prices. Something different that we haven't stocked before would be great.

If you have a few spare minutes please call in, say hi and have a browse.

Regards Trish and Graham



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 - 6pm
Or via Zoom. 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
- **Men's Night:** Contact Kerry McInerney 5976 2155
- **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. More Space Available: Contact Parish Office



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