



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. **ON HOLIDAYS**

ENCOUNTER: Youth Group: Primary
school age 3pm-4:45pm before Youth
Mass 2nd & 4th Sundays of each Month.
Community House. **ON HOLIDAYS**

Video Sunday Mass:

Watch Mass Live: Every Sun. 9AM

<https://vimeo.com/event/3984734>

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

Upcoming Holy days:

- Sun 31st: The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph
- Mon 1st: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy
Mother of God
- Tue 2nd: Ss Basil the Great & Gregory
of Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors
- 3rd: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

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

2023 & 2024

Fr Geoff Away 7th - 22nd Jan

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.

Anniversaries: *[please send in any anniversary notices, by Wednesday afternoon]*

Recent deaths: William (Bill) Lang



The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6. 21:1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis

Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him.

Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! **(R.)**

2. Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.

Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. **(R.)**

3. Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.

O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **(R.)**

4. He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord.

Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

the Creed is said.

Communion Antiphon

Baruch 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

LIVING GOSPEL

Faithful

A strong image that emerges from this passage is the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Their whole purpose in visiting the Temple is to fulfil the requirements of their faith. They are faithful to the Jewish tradition and it is into this tradition that they initiate Jesus. The faithfulness of Mary and Joseph is a hallmark of their life as a family. Their faithfulness is a significant element of what we celebrate in the feast of the Holy Family and their faithfulness to God and to one another is a model for all families and for all people.

Gospel Reflection

Look at any newspaper, magazine, television current affairs program or social commentary and you will be bombarded with the notion that the institution of family is under attack. Rather, what appears to be under attack is a particular view of what it means to be 'family'. Society in general and governments in particular are recognising the reality that 'family' is a much more fluid term than it used to be. Rather than an attack on family, it might be argued that there is in fact an embracing of the concept of family by making its definition much broader.

In this feast we celebrate the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The model of family that we have in this Holy Family is a model that would not be entirely out of

place in the 21st Century. Mary was a very young woman; possibly no more than 13 or 14 years old. Joseph was an older man; possibly on his second marriage. There was a degree of scandal about the conception of their child and Joseph seriously contemplated whether or not he would go ahead with the marriage. They were forced to flee their homeland and seek protection as refugees in Egypt. We see from today's passage that the parents are doing their best to be faithful to their religious and cultural traditions whilst worrying about what the future holds for their son. It is a picture that is not too different from the situation in which many families today find themselves. So while we celebrate today the feast of the Holy Family, it is very much a celebration of every family.

Historical Context – Ritual

The ritual of purification referred to in today's passage would take place 40 days after childbirth. It was a ritual for the mother, not the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The tradition associated with this purification of women after childbirth dictated that a lamb and a turtledove or pigeon be sacrificed. However, for the poor, an extra turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the lamb. This fact gives us an indication of the status of Mary and Joseph.

Scriptural context – Fulfilling prophecy

The writer of the gospel of Luke uses this presentation event to announce or forecast the ministry of Jesus. The explicit identification of the poverty of Mary and Joseph is an indicator of the emphasis that Jesus will give to the poor throughout his ministry. The gospel writer also makes plain the link between the Temple (the Jewish tradition) and the ministry of Jesus. Tying these events into the prophecies of both Simeon and Anna reinforce the prophetic nature of this whole episode. Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as the fulfilment of the prophecies of scripture.

Pope at Angelus: Christian witness leads to changed hearts, miracles of faith

Pope Francis leads the midday Angelus prayer on the Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr, the day after Christmas, recalling his heroic witness to Jesus that planted the seed of faith in others, transforming hearts and working miracles of faith.

By Thaddeus Jones

The day after Christmas, on the Feast of Saint Stephen, the first martyr, Pope Francis led the recitation of the Angelus prayer in Saint Peter's Square.

In his address, the Pope spoke about the heroic witness of Saint Stephen, whom he recalled for his integrity, dedicated service to the poor, and great courage in bearing witness to Jesus even as he was mercilessly stoned to death by his persecutors led by Saul.

Grace that transforms hearts

Saul and Stephen, the persecutor and the persecuted, seem to be totally divided, the Pope observed, the hardline pharisee versus the heroic Christian believer condemned to death.

Yet, behind appearances, there is a strong bond between the two, said the Pope, since through Stephen's witness, the Lord was preparing Saul's heart for conversion when he would become the great Apostle Paul.



While Stephen offers the ultimate sacrifice as a martyr, his prayers, faith, and especially the forgiveness he offers as he is dying plant a hidden seed in Saul that will eventually transform his heart of stone into a heart of flesh, the Pope explained.

Sacrifices that bear fruit

The Pope paid tribute to the many modern-day martyrs, Christians who are persecuted for their faith and offer the ultimate sacrifice through their suffering and death in bearing witness to Jesus.

And he remembered those who are penalized in various ways for choosing to act in ways that are consistent with the Gospel by being faithful to the Lord and their calling while the world ridicules or preaches otherwise.

The call to bear witness

The Pope suggested we then ask ourselves about how much we care about believers around the world who "still suffer and die for the faith today" and the importance of praying for them, as so many are murdered for their faith.

At the same time, we should examine our own commitment to witnessing to the Gospel with consistency, humility, and confidence.

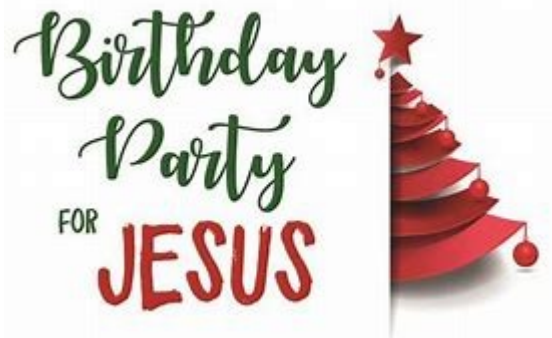
And while "the seed of goodness will bear fruit," he wondered, do we still have faith even if the results are not immediate?

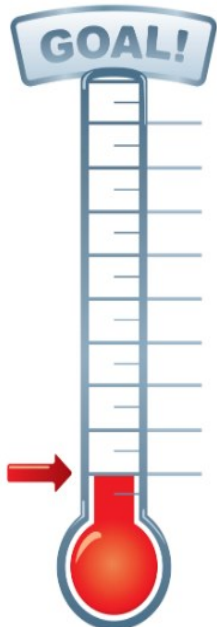


Jokes of the Week



- 1. A family celebrated Christmas every year with a birthday party for Jesus.**
An extra chair of honor at the table became the family's reminder of Jesus' presence. A cake with candles, along with the singing of "Happy Birthday" expressed the family's joy in Jesus' presence. One year on Christmas afternoon a visitor to the home asked the five-year-old girl, "Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?" After a moment's hesitation, she answered, "No, but it's not my birthday, It's Jesus' birthday!"
- 2. A 4-year-old boy was asked to give the blessing before Christmas dinner.**
The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes— even the Cool Whip. Then he paused, and everyone waited—and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't He know that I'm lying?"
- 3. Daddy, could you please sell me one hour of your time?"** A little boy greets his father as he returns from work with a question: "Daddy, how much do you make an hour?" The father is surprised and says, "Look, son, not even your mother knows. Don't bother me now, I'm tired." "But Daddy, just tell me please! How much do you make an hour?" the boy insists. The father finally gives up and replies, "Twenty dollars." "Okay, Daddy," the boy continues, "Could you loan me ten dollars?" The father yells at him, "So that was the reason you asked how much I earn, right? Now, go to sleep and don't bother me anymore!" At night the father thinks over what he said and starts feeling guilty. Maybe his son needed to buy something. Finally, he goes to his son's room. "Are you asleep, son?" asks the father. "No, Daddy. Why?" replies the boy. "Here's the money you asked for earlier," the father said. "Thanks, Daddy!" replies the boy and receives the money. The he reaches under his pillow and brings out some more money. "Now I have enough! Now I have twenty dollars!" says the boy to his father, "Daddy, could you sell me one hour of your time?"— Today's readings have a message for this man and for all of us, and the message is that we need to invest more of our time in our family life.





ROOF RESTORATION FUND RAISING

**Currently you have donated
\$11,319 - Increase of \$670 from last week.**

Thank you

Dear parishioners,

This week we had several rain events which meant more buckets and towels to collect and soak up water coming through the roof and ceilings.

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

WOW!

WHAT A TERRIFIC CHRISTMAS AT ST MACARTAN'S

I personally want to thank our worship community - our Family of St Macartan's who by their volunteering and participation, created some wonderful, beautiful and joy-filled liturgies, over the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses.

Over the five Masses we had an estimated 1600 people attend. That means an extra 900-1000 Christmas guests visited us.

I was a little apprehensive before the 5pm Children's Mass, as last year there were less than a dozen children - so I asked the Lord, that my Christmas present be more in attendance this year. Well - *Thank You Lord*, you gave us an abundance!

I think there were over 50 children sitting on the sanctuary, plus others still in the pews and there were many in the overflow area of the community house, but unfortunately there were some who couldn't get in at all - My apologies for that, we will rectify it for next year.

Every Mass was a great success and is a great reflection on the St Macartan's community - that is you! Well done to you all.

THANK YOU

Fr Geoff and Fr An

Return dates 2024

• Parish Office	Wednesday 27th Dec
• St Macs Café:	Wednesday 24th Jan
• Encounter Junior Youth Group:	Sunday 28th Jan
• 3:30pm Holy Hour & 5pm Youth Mass	Sunday 28th Jan
• Quinn's Place senior youth group:	Friday 2nd Feb
• Baptism Information sessions	Wednesday 24th Jan
• Minister Unto God:	Tuesday 6th Feb
• Men's Night:	Thursday 20th Feb
• High Spirits	Tuesday 6th Feb
• The Prayer Cenical:	Tuesday 16th Jan

Special Guest: Archbishop Denis Hart will preside over the 11am mass on Sunday 7th January 2024 with Bishop Les Tomlinson.



FOUND

Found a significant item attached to this dreamcatcher. If yours, please identify and describe the item and collect from Parish office.

Please call 59752200

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

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

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

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.



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Fr Geoff rates it as: Yum, Yum, & Yummy!
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