



Our Lady Star of the Sea Apollo Bay  
 Our Lady of Fatima Lorne  
 St Mary's Colac  
 St Peter's Birregurra  
 St Joseph's Cressy



Parish Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole  
 Assist Priest: Apollo Bay Fr John Pothiyittel  
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 Secretary Hrs: Mon to Fri 8.30am-12.30pm

*Colac and Apollo Bay Parishes are a community of believers, who strive to bring Christ's good news to all people in the district. Through service, caring and love we aim to create an environment of respect and understanding in which everyone can grow. We acknowledge the First nations Peoples of these lands, seas and waterway on which we gather. The First Nations peoples of these places were the first to dance stories and remember times of healing and hurt. We acknowledge the elders past and present, and future.*

**Fourth Sunday of Lent – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023 –Year A**



**Responsorial Psalm**

Lord, let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in you.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Glory and Praise Lord Jesus Christ; Glory and Praise to you.  
 I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
 whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
 Glory and Praise Lord Jesus Christ; Glory and Praise to you.

**This Week's Readings**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Samuel 16:1.6-7.10-13. Ephesians 5:8-14. John 9:1-41.

**Next Week's Readings**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Ezekiel 37:12-14. Romans 8:8-11. John 11:1-45.

**Deaths:** Catherine Frances Barker; Bernie Klein, Fr Bernard Cleary, S.S.C., Keith Chan.

**Anniversaries:** Lindsay Hulm, Melissa Mae Murray, Deanna Stocker, Margaret Monica Klein, Burt Limpens, Ramon Murrhyh.

MASS TIMES - COLAC, CRESSY, BIRREGURRA.		
Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's- Colac <i>Feast of St Joseph</i>
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's- Colac
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's- Colac <i>Sacred Heart PS Attending</i>
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's- Colac
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary' Church
Sunday	9am & 11am	St Mary' Church
<b>RECONCILIATION:</b> Each Friday after 10am Mass. Anytime by Appointment.		
St Mary's: <b>Holy Hour-</b> Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month: 4-5pm		
<b>Rosary - each Friday: 9.30am St Mary's Church</b>		
MASS TIMES OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA – APOLLO BAY		
Tuesday		5.30pm
Wednesday, Thursday.		10.00am
Sunday		11.00am
OUR LADY OF FATIMA - LORNE		
Sunday		9.00am
<b>TRINITY COLLEGE OPEN DAY</b> Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March Contact College: PH: 52339252		

**NEXT SUNDAY: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent St Mary's Colac**

**@Penitential Rite** at each of our Masses: (including St Brendan's 5pm).

**@ Vanuatu - Our Leaving Collection:** To support our newest Parishioners from Vanuatu whose homes and crops destroyed: by Cyclones "Judy & Kevin".

**SYMPATHY** – \* To Mary Doran on the death of her sister: Von Carmody (nee Monaghan).

\*To Maureen Finn on the death of her brother Bernie.

**THANK YOU:** *Benadette, Mary, Robert & Christopher for your kindness and help after my fall.*

*'God Bless you .' Bernadette Tait.*

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS: LENTEN PROGRAM - Year A**

"God Is on the Journey Too"- Booklets available today @\$ 10.00 each (For personal use and /or Group Reflection).

\* **Project Compassion** – Envelopes & Boxes available

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** In preparation for Lent and Easter. Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March commencing at 5.30pm.

**Vinnies Colac - need** Volunteers just a few hours any day especially Monday and Saturdays. Call in and see Kerry or phone 52312738.

**BLESSING OF PLAQUE – MEMORIAL DYSON & DARRYL SCOTT**

Parishioners are invited to attend the Blessing Ceremony of "Memorial Plaque" for Dyson & Darryl Scott as a tribute to our *New Pathway* at St Mary's Church on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 11am Mass - followed by Light Luncheon. All welcome.

**REMEMBRANCE WALL APPLICATIONS**

St. Mary's Parish Colac has a Remembrance Wall near the entrance to the church. Application Forms are available in the Foyer or at Parish Office. Please return by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**BAPTISMS:** We welcome into our Parish this weekend: Thomas Hall, Ravi & Indi Mason.  
 Cody & Cara Wallace, Katie & Daisy Soulsby.

**GLEESON FAMILY GROUP** activity for March 2023 .  
 Lunch at Babil Restaurant ( ex Oddfellows) Today 19 March 12.30pm. Please Contact Pat 0413081617 for booking numbers.

**CROFT FAMILY GROUP** Pizza lunch at the Drews' Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm. Usual contribution of salad or dessert are welcome. RSVP Anne 0428327535.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Lord let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in you.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;

with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

**Lord let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in you.**

## THE POPE WHO RETURNED THE CHURCH TO ITS FORSAKEN.

Age Newspaper 13.03.2023 by Michael McGirr.

*Thirty-three years ago, Lulu Mitshabu left the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a refugee. She was at the market when she sensed danger. She grabbed her children and, without going home, made the arduous journey across the border and eventually to Australia. In February this year, doing humanitarian work for Caritas Australia, Lulu was back in DR Congo during the visit of Pope Francis. The pope, at 86, made all his public appearances in a wheelchair. Yet his energy was contagious. Lulu describes the challenges faced by DR Congo as incredibly complex and often related to a culture of violence. She was amazed by the impact of the pope's personality. "He shone a spotlight on DR Congo when everyone else seems to have forgotten or given up. He lit up the room where we gathered with him. He offered blessings in Lingala, one of the local languages. His words and actions touched my heart. He got people to commit to talking and listening." As Pope Francis celebrates 10 years as head of the Catholic Church, talking and listening have been the hallmarks of his outstanding leadership. His style has frightened Catholics who depend on an authoritarian church. Francis is building a Christian community in which status and rank count for less and in which the poor count for more. The church has a fancy word for it: synodality. It just means journeying together. On March 13, 2013, Jorge Bergoglio became the first pope from south of the equator when he was chosen by his fellow cardinals to replace the retiring Pope Benedict. He'd already booked his return ticket to Buenos Aires. His early days set a tone from which he has never departed. On election, he went back to his hotel to pay his own bill. He moved out of the salubrious papal apartment and into more modest accommodation at the Vatican. During his first Easter, he washed the feet of prisoners. A few months into the job, he went to the Italian island of Lampedusa to take up the cause of refugees. He has never let up. For 10 years, he has fed the human race a solid diet of hope. He believes, in the summary of his biographer Austen Ivereigh, that the truth is a person, not an ideology or an arid moralism. Rather than thinking that people have left the church, Ivereigh claims that Francis believes the church has left people. Francis' record is far from perfect. His response on the central issue of child abuse, for example, has been inconsistent. But one of the key resources Bergoglio brought to the job was the experience of being wrong. As a young and dogmatic leader of the Jesuits in Argentina, he made significant mistakes during the country's "dirty war". His thinking constantly turns to ideas of mercy and forgiveness. He knows what it is to need such things and he has the grace to say as much. If a conclave were held tomorrow to replace Pope Francis, no Australians would be entitled to vote. The unofficial quota from Oceania is made up of a cardinal from each of New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. It is curious that Australia is on the sidelines, but this is emblematic of the way the pope thinks. He appointed Tonga's Cardinal Mafi, the youngest cardinal, in 2015, the same year he published his ground-breaking letter about the environment, *Laudato Si'*. This letter is possibly the most significant papal document of my lifetime. It takes a fresh look at a tradition that for centuries has assumed all other creatures exist for the benefit of humanity and lack dignity in themselves. Tonga, a small country ravaged by the effects of climate change, is at the kind of place that sits at the heart of Pope Francis' view of the world. The centre of his world is not in Washington, or even in Rome. It is much more in small villages and communities where the basics of life are far from guaranteed. He understands that Jesus came from a backwater called Nazareth. Some people accustomed to positions of influence have found this hard to stomach, especially in the United States, where many bishops openly oppose Pope Francis. They hide behind issues such as abortion and gender, implying that the pope has strayed from traditional teaching. He hasn't really. Pope Francis has restricted the celebration of Mass according to the old Tridentine formula, believing that prayer is a place we should come together rather than break off into factions. Liturgy is the field on which some Catholics fight a proxy ideological war rather than share an authentic encounter with God. Pope Francis is playing a long game. The major change he has made in the church is not about any specific doctrine. It is about who gets to make decisions and the process by which the church's beliefs grow and develop. Pope Francis has called us to look at the whole world with loving eyes. It is sad that some people can't see it this way.*

## Pope Francis

### March Intention

#### For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



## APOLLO BAY & LORNE

### FIRST COLLECTION:

BSB: 083585

ACCOUNT: 810967715

### SECOND COLLECTION

BSB: 033600 ACCOUNT: 230038