



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



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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 Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

**Third Sunday of Advent – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Year B**



**Responsorial Psalm**

My soul rejoices in my God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

How Beautiful....

**This Week's Readings**

**Third Sunday of Advent – Year B.**

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11. Thessalonians 5:16-24. John 1:6-8.19-28.

**Next Week's Readings**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year B.**

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11. Thessalonians 5:16-24. John 1:6-8.19-28.

**Deaths:** David Schroeter (Tas.), Michael Kelly (Pakenham), Len Williamson, Alan McGrath.  
**Anniversaries:** Bernie Kelly, Brian Galligan, Mary Elizabeth Robarts, Daniel Gerard Robarts, Norman Rowe, Ronald Brown, Anne Paatsch, Molly Mahoney, Veronica Mahoney, Chris Roache, Mary Green, John Bolitho.

MASS TIMES - COLAC, CRESSY, BIRREGURRA.		
Tuesday	5.00pm	St Mary's
Wednesday	10.00am	St Mary's
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's- Colac
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary's- Colac
Sunday	9.00am 11.00am	St Mary's- Colac St Mary's- Colac
RECONCILIATION: Each Friday after 10am Mass. Or Anytime by Appointment.		
St Mary's: Holy Hour- 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month: 4-5pm		
Rosary - each Friday: 9.30am St Mary's Church		

Masses - Apollo Bay	
Tuesday	5.30pm
Wed, Thurs, Friday	10.00am
OUR LADY OF FATIMA - LORNE	
Sunday	9.00am



**A JOYOUS NIGHT LAST** ~ Tuesday as Charlie Gaylard, Claire Osborn, & Chloe Dunstan ~ were Baptized Confirmed & Celebrated their 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist / when Allison Wedding & Janice Van Engelel (Lutheran) was Confirmed / 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist: All were fully initiated into our Catholic Faith Community.

**Anointing Masses: Colac** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Mass this week.

**Reconciliation Rites: Lorne & Apollo Bay:** This weekend.

**Anointing Sacrament:** Lorne & Apollo Bay: This weekend.

**BAPTISM** We welcome into our Parish Community this weekend.  
**'Millie McNamara.'**



**SYMPATHY TO:** Moira Ryan & Josie Kelly on the recent death of their nephew: Damien Schroeter (Tasmania).

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE WED. 20<sup>th</sup> DEC. 5.45PM.~ ST MARY'S CHURCH ~ TEA TO FOLLOW!**

**BISHOPS CHRISTMAS APPEAL**  
**DONATIONS CAN NOW PLACE IN ENVELOPE IN THE WEEKLY COLLECTION BASKET.**



**LETTER FROM BISHOP PAUL BIRD**

The College of Consultors is a group of priests who serve as an advisory body for the bishop in the pastoral care of the diocese. The members of the present College of Consultors will conclude their five-year term at the end of this month and a new College will take up this role from the beginning of January 2024. I am happy to announce that the following will be members of the new College of Consultors: Fr Marcello Colasante (V.G.), Fr Andrew Hayes, Fr Kevin Lenehan, Fr Ed Moloney, Fr John Monaghan, Fr John Corrigan, Fr Justin Driscoll, Fr George Kuruvila and Fr Neville Stanislaus. Five of these are members of the current College (Fathers Colasante, Hayes, Lenehan, Moloney and Monaghan). Four will be new members (Fathers Corrigan, Driscoll, Kuruvila and Stanislaus). Three members of the current College will be retiring from this role at the end of this month. They are Fr Kevin Maloney, Fr John Fitzgerald and Fr Jorge de Chavez. To all the members of the current College of Consultors I offer my hearty thanks for the counsel they have provided over the past five years. To all the members of the new College I express my gratitude for their generosity in being ready to serve in this way. God Blessings for Christmas to you and to your Parishioners!!

**Bishop Paul**

**Congratulations: Blessing To:** "Xuan Cay Trinh" who was ordained a Deacon Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec St Patrick's, Cathedral Ballarat. (Ordained Priest ~2024).

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
**My soul rejoices in my God.**

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

His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.  
He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy.  
**My soul rejoices in my God..**

*To Our Principals: Paul, Michael & Jack – To your Staff & Parents Advisory Committees: Well, Done! Now for a Well-deserved Holiday! Congratulations & Thank You: To Our 3 Schools Committees: Trinity, S.H. & St Mary’s. You are ‘The Jewel in the Crown’ of our Parish Mission to our Young Parents & Their families.*

**One Family Suggestion:**  
**If Santa brings a ‘New bike’ ‘Old Bike’ can be dropped off Christmas morning to Presbytery Garage for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Bite’!**

**APOLLO BAY & LORNE**  
**FIRST COLLECTION**  
BSB: 083585 Acc: 810967715  
**SECOND COLLECTION**  
BSB: 033600 ACCOUNT: 230038

**Parish Account Colac**  
\* For Direct Giving Details:  
BSB: 083 585  
Account: 811051426  
Planned Giving: REF:

**Advent 2023 Prepare for Christmas with The Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes**

Join me and people all around the world for a free Daily Devotional that will guide you on a life-changing journey through Advent.

“You don’t become what you hope to become. You only become what you do.”

<https://BruceDownes.org/Advent/> For more info: [info@brucedownes.org](mailto:info@brucedownes.org)

**\*Columbian Calendar 2024** St Mary’s Piety Store \$10 each. **\*Christmas Cards** also...

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DAILY REFLECTION: booklets:**  
\$7.00 ea.

**POPE INTENTION**

**DECEMBER 2023**

**For persons with disabilities**

*We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.*

**“Colac Chorale”** Christmas singing program which will be held on Sunday night 17th Dec at St John’s Church 7pm. All Welcome.  
**Anglican Parish of Colac**

Thank you for your continued support and partnership with **Catholic Development Fund (CDF)** following the recent announcement of the CDF merger. (Ballarat, Sale & Bunbury Diocese to merge with Melbourne.  
As part of our ongoing commitment to provide you with the best possible experience, we want to inform you of upcoming changes to interest rates that may impact your CDF accounts. From 1 January 2024, there will be an increase in CDF interest rates. This adjustment will see a net-benefit for all Ballarat customers, while aligning rates currently offered to CDF customers in other Dioceses. All current CDF Term Investment and Savings accounts will see an increase across current rates, with the new interest rates effective from 1 January 2024. The increase will be applied to every Term Investment account from this date, including those yet to reach maturity, for the remaining term. Please note that interest on Term Investments will be paid upon maturity and Savings accounts will be credited with interest annually on 31 December 2023.

Term Investments: Cheque/Premium Savings:

CDF has also reviewed the Standard Variable Loan and Overdraft rate, and will be increasing both to 6.20% p.a. These new rates are also effective from 1 January 2024. To view all current rates from 1 January 2024 please visit [catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au](http://catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au). Should you have any queries about these changes or would like to speak to a member of our team, please contact the CDF Ballarat office on 1800 134 100.

Matthew Cassin  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
Catholic Development Fund

**Vinnies: ‘Thank You for Gifts ‘donated’ To Church Christmas Tree!!**

**REFLECTION:**

*Ever-inviting God,  
your voice speaks to us across all ages engaging us in your promise of freedom and joy.  
Grace these Advent days that we may hear your Word with new insight,  
and follow the Way which opens before us.  
For we long for Christ’s coming with hope and await your enlightening Spirit... Amen*

**P.S. Diocesan Business Manager** ~ On the recommendation of the panel and after consulting the College of Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Council, so Bishop Paul has now appointed Ross Wheatland as our Diocesan Business Manager for a five-year term.

**St Mary’s Parish will again host ‘An Open Christmas Dinner’**

in St Mary’s Gathering Space – 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 12.30pm to 2.30pm.  
**Meals prepared for collection or delivery: 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 10am to 12 noon.**  
**Call for volunteers:** helpers, supporters, givers, etc.  
**Volunteer invited for Preparation:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec – 9am in the Gathering Space! Any offers/donors etc. - contact Presbytery Office 9am – 12pm phone 5331 2177