



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



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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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 22nd December 2024 –Year C



Responsorial Psalm

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face
 and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

How Beautiful on the mountain top are the
 feet of those who bring Your word. X 2

This Week's Readings

4th Sunday of Advent—Year C

Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-44

Next Week's Readings

Holy Family —Year C

Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28, St John 3:1-2. 21-24 Luke 2:41-52

Deaths: Peter Moloney(Terang), John Rye(Boort);Brian Snarey (St Brendan's), Johannes (John) Sanders(C'down), Herbert Throckmorton, Florence Humphrey (Cressy), Beverley Gorwell, Keith McCosh (Koroit), Wayne Pritchard.

Anniversaries: Lorraine Mahoney, Veronica Mahoney, Jerry and Molly Mahoney, Agnes and Cliff Olney, Col & Elizabeth McKay, Noel Murnane, Leonard & Catherine McKay, Lee Monaghan, Bernie Kelly & Noelle Kelly, Robbie Missen, Russell Turner, Rosemary Morrissy, Shirley Crawford, Angelina Favorito, Chris Burrow, William Carew (snr), Joan Glenane, Terry McMeel, Mary Hammett, Bernard Longano, Sr Gertrude Keily S.G.S., Ben Johnston, Nell Vivian, Therese Rushsard, William Draper, Joseph Lim (Jnr), Michael Harrington, Chris Roache, Rosalia LoRicco.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - COLAC, BIRREGURRA.		
Tuesday	6pm & 8pm	St Mary's
Tuesday	6pm	St Peter's Birregurra
Wednesday	8am & 10am	St Mary's
Thursday	10.00am	St Mary's
Friday	10.00am	St Mary's
Saturday	6.00pm	St Mary's
Sunday	9.00am 11.00am	St Mary's
Rosary - each Thursday: 9.30am St Mary's Church		
St Mary's: Holy Hour- 1st Tuesday of the month: 4-5pm		
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - STAR OF THE SEA - APOLLO BAY		
Tuesday	6pm	
Wednesday	10.00am	
Thursday & Friday	10.00am	
Sunday	11am	
CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - OUR LADY OF FATIMA – LORNE		
24 th Dec - TUESDAY	6pm	
25 th Dec - WEDNESDAY	9am	
Sunday	9.00am	

NEW YEAR MASS TIMES COLAC PARISHES.		
31 st Dec	6pm	St Mary' Church
1 st Jan 2025	9am	St Peter's Birregurra
1 st Jan 2025	10.30am	St Mary' Church
NEW YEAR MASS TIMES – Apollo Bay		
31 st Dec - OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA – A' BAY	6pm	
NEW YEAR MASS TIMES - LORNE		
1 st Jan 2025 - OUR LADY OF FATIMA - LORNE	9am	

EFTPOS: We at St Mary's have EFTPOS facilities in our 'gathering space' for those that do not carry cash and would like to contribute to our Parish Account (this is not the Presbytery Account). Every donation is very much appreciated – **St Mary's Finance Team. YOU ARE ABLE TO SELECT DONATION AMOUNT:**

Christ Church Birregurra with Fr Jeremy have invited us to join them for **Vesper (Prayer of the Church "New Year")** Friday 3rd Jan. 6pm. Always a delightful supper follows!

Apollo Bay Congratulation to Louise Huggins this weekend celebration her 80th Birthday!

****Laurie Ryan** – Would like to borrow a Latin Missal – if anyone has one.

Christmas Lunch: December 25th – 12 Noon. Meals available on Tuesday 24th Dec from 10am. **Please spread the Invitation:** Phone 52312177.

Sacrament of Baptism: We welcome this weekend into our

Parish: **Jagger Carlin, Finn Phillips, Riley McNamara, Maljwok Adeng, Chester Williamson.**

THANK YOU, Fr Michael: ~ To celebrate and thank Fr Michael for his dedicated service as our Parish Priest, the Leadership Team invites you to stay for a cup of tea after Mass, 6pm on 11th January and 9 am and 11 am on January 12th 2025.

Vanuatu: We continue to hold these 'neighbors' our prayers after the deadly & destructive, Earthquake Linda Morgan Davis – has sent a message to Gilbert as I have. (also, to other Vanuatu friends). Having just returned home after 4 years at A.L.C. We await word of their well-being!

Good News: Fr. Cay Trinh – the recently ordained Priest (originally from Vietnam – will celebrate Mass for /with us on Saturday 4th January: 6pm. He is soon to visit his family in Vietnam – 5 Priests from Ballarat will accompany him. His first Mass back in Vietnam will be attended by 1000 people!!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help
God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. May
your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.



ST MARY'S PARISH & SACRED HEART COMMUNITY: Thank & Celebrate Mr. Jack Lenaghan who retires this week after 23 years as Principal. Jack, you have left a wonderful legacy and all this in recent years after the death of your (and our) much loved Frances: R.I.P. With your able Deputy Principal: Jane Daffy who also retires this week we have much to thank God For. At each of our Schools we know many Teachers/Staff are leaving Trinity St Mary's, S.H.S. & St Brendan. Thank you for your Ministry in our Parish.

Dear Parishioners: Well, as the song says: "Time has come to say 'Good-Bye!!'" 16 years seem to have gone very quickly! The diocese did receive a letter from Bishop Paul some months ago stating that I would soon be 75 years – "The usual age for priests to retire." Sometime after that Bishop Paul announced that Fr. Andrew Hayes was appointed Parish Priest of Colac & Apollo Bay – also Supervising Priest of St Brendan's Coragulac. I sent a message of Congratulations to Fr. Andrew – assuring him that Colac Parishioners will give him a warm welcome on January 15th. It has been my privilege to have "pitched my tent" in St Mary's Parish for these past 16 years. During this time to share special moments with families: the funerals, the marriages & the baptisms – as well as the celebrations of Confirmations & 1st Communions. Such celebrations of joys and sorrows take one into deep waters with families and that is a privileged place to be.

I express my appreciation to Fr. Kevin Arundell and Fr. John Pothiyittel for their generosity in enabling Masses to be celebrated in Birregurra, Coragulac, Pirron Yallock, Lorne & Apollo Bay – without any disruption to the Colac program. I am most grateful to the Principals of our Schools – Mr. Paul Clohesy, Mr. Jack Lenaghan & Mr Michael Mahoney, Ms. Leanne Eastman. Their contribution to each of our schools has been outstanding - they are quality people who with their Staff provide our children with a wonderful environment to learn and mature. I am thinking too of Angela Kelly, Mr. Tim O'Farrell & Mr. Damien McKew. I have also been enriched by the presence & friendship of the Sisters of Mercy, The Christian Brothers & The Good Samaritan Sisters. To have had them (& to have them still) with their Ministry of Presence (Spirituality, Prayerfulness & Friendship) has been (and is) a particular blessing to our parish.

The Parish has been well served by the Parish Leadership Committee & the Parish Finance Committee. I am indebted to their dedication, commitment, wisdom and support. The Parish Liturgy Committee for many years provided excellent arrangements for our Easter Ceremonies, Christmas Celebrations and other significant parish celebrations. Our Parish has been blessed in my era by the extraordinary Liturgical and musical giftedness of Betty Daly. Her presence has inspired the continuing work of our present-day Musician & Choir. Colleen O'Shannassy and the Sacristy Ladies plus Shirley Smith and the 'Flower Ladies' to serve the Parish and adequately and not forgetting the work of our St Mary's 'Tea Ladies' that have done remarkable work catering the needs of our busy Parish.

We have moved into another era – 30 years ago the Diocesan Weekly Mass Attendance was 33,000. Now the total attendance is 5,900. 16 years ago our Colac Parish Mass Attendance was 600: It is now 290. But the Financial generosity of Colac Parishioners – continues to be outstanding. This Parish makes a significant contribution to the support of the Bishop & Priests of this Diocese. For this I am proud, humbled and grateful.

I particularly wish to thank Mandy Parker for her amazing work in the Parish Office. Her dedication, generosity, pleasant manner and disposition is a great asset to the parish. Along with Dorothy Missen in 'keeping house' at the Presbytery – Mandy & Dorothy's loyalty to me, their friendship, kindness & support has been a treasured gift. I also express appreciation to our Maintenance Men & Gardeners: Firstly, Michael Chapman; in recent years Steve Harris. My personal front steps gardener: Clare Couch. You all have made our Church Grounds and Presbytery so hospitable. When Bishop Paul concluded his telephone conversation with me – saying I could be 'priest in residence' for Apollo Bay & Lorne – he said 'your appointment will be subject to a review in 12 months' time': I sense he and the Personnel Board think I may make life difficult for Fr Andrew. I have said to Fr Andrew that I will decline any invitations of parishioners to come back to St Mary's to officiate at funerals of family members. That privilege is now his. This message I will share with the Colac Funeral Directors.

However, I will continue to share both joys and sorrows of parishioners when I hear of them. May St. Mary's Colac continue to be a Parish that is noted for its' *Spirituality, Compassion & Hospitality*. **"For All that has been Thanks! For All that will be Yes! Until We Meet Again. – May God Continue to Hold Us in the Palm of His Hand."**

Sincerely ~ Fr. Michael O'Toole.