



ST MARY OF THE ANGELS - GEELONG

150 Yarra St, Geelong 3220 Ph: 03 5222 1977



Website: www.stmarysgeelong.com.au

E-mail: admin@stmarysgeelong.com.au

Parish Priest:	Fr James Clarke	Email:	frj@stmarysgeelong.com.au
Assistant Priest:	Fr Jude Johnson	Email:	j.johnson@stmarysgeelong.com.au
Business Manager:	Diane Read	Email:	dianer@stmarysgeelong.com.au
Parish Secretaries:	Joanne McMahon	Email:	joannem@stmarysgeelong.com.au
	Viv Adamko	Email:	viva@stmarysgeelong.com.au
Pastoral Worker:	Anna Demetriou	Email:	AnnaMarieD@stmarysgeelong.com.au
RCIA Coordinator:	Kevin Mark	Email:	kevinm@stmarysgeelong.com.au
BULLETIN NOTICES:	DUE BY: Thursdays @ 1.00pm	Email:	rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au Phone: 5222 1977

MASS TIMES

WEEKDAY MASS

10.00am Saturday Dec 28th
ROSARY recited prior to Mass

RECONCILIATION

After 10am Mass on Saturday

SATURDAY

6.00pm (Vigil)

SUNDAY

7.30am; 9.30am; 11.00am;
12.30pm (Polish)

NOVENA to OUR LADY of PERPETUAL HELP

Not this week

NOVENA to ST ANTHONY

Not this week

ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT & DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Not this week

PIETY GIFT STALL


 OPEN Tuesdays to Fridays
 10.30am – 1.00pm
 CLOSED ON SATURDAYS
 OPEN Sundays
 10.15am – 12.15pm


CLOSED from Dec. 23rd 2024 –
Feb. 3rd 2025. Opens on Tuesday
Feb. 4th 2025 @ 10.30am

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C – December 22, 2024

Readings for this week:

Micah 5: 1 - 4; Hebrews 10: 5 - 10; Luke 1: 39 - 45

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE – from Fr Jim



Here we are on the cusp of another Christmas.



Where has the year gone? What have I accomplished this year?

What am I looking forward to for next year?

These are some of the questions which we ask ourselves. In doing so, we subject ourselves to self-doubt and run the gamut of “if only”.

The Christmas season presents us with the opportunity to take a step back and to reflect on what we have achieved this year. We can be so obsessed with the negative in our lives that we fail to look at the positive. Christmas is an opportunity to meet with family and friends. It presents with a chance to heal old wounds and to reconcile with estranged loved ones.

The presence of the infant Christ child in our midst gives us hope.

Hope for a better year in 2025 and hope for a better future for those we love and those who rely on us.

Tragedy and sorrow are a part of life, and the world has experienced a great deal of tragedy in 2024. However, hope and happiness and love are also a part of life. Let us endeavour to focus on the hope which Jesus gives us in this Christmas time.

May the peace of the infant Lord Jesus fill your hearts minds, and may His love fill you and your families with great joy and hope.

On behalf of Fr. Jude and myself and the St. Marys Parish Team, we wish all of you a very happy and blessed Christmas and a safe and hope filled New Year.

(Fr.) Jim Clarke

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In the spirit of reconciliation, the Parish of St Mary of the Angels, Geelong acknowledges the Waddawarrung people, the Traditional Owners and Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS DIARY DATES

THERE IS NO 10am WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY DECEMBER 24th.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS TIMES: December 24th

6pm Family Mass; 8pm Mass; 9.30pm Polish Mass; 11.30pm Carols & 12am Midnight Mass.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS TIMES: December 25th

7.30am; 9.30am; 11am; 12.30pm Polish Mass

BOXING DAY: December 26th – 12.30pm Polish Mass

NEW YEARS EVE: (Tuesday December 31st, 2024)

10am Weekday Mass. No evening Mass scheduled.

NEW YEAR'S DAY: (January 1st, 2025) The Solemnity of Mary - 10am Mass & 12.30pm Polish Mass

IMPORTANT EXTRA INFORMATION:

The Basilica will be closed to the public after the Midnight Mass & Christmas Day Masses, for Boxing Day and through until January 1st, 2025.

It will open only for the weekday 10am Mass on Saturday December 28th (followed by Reconciliation), Tuesday December 31st and Wednesday January 1st, 2025 – Solemnity of Mary.

The regular Weekday Mass times and dedications (Tuesday – Saturday at 10am) will begin on Thursday January 2nd, 2025, and the Basilica open hours will be Monday 10am – 5pm; Tuesday – Friday 9am – 5pm; and will open for the weekend Masses, Reconciliation, Baptisms and Weddings.

REGULAR SUNDAY MASSES will be celebrated on the weekend of Dec 28th/29th- see the front of Bulletin for full list of our regular Sunday Mass times.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday December 24th at midday - 12 noon, 2024 for the Christmas/New Year break, and will re-open in the New Year at 9am on Thursday January 2nd, 2025.

During this time if you are in need of a priest for emergency hospital visit or last rites, please call the Parish Office on 5222 1977 and select option 1 for the after-hours emergency number.

All parish information is up on our website at:

www.stmarysgeelong.com.au

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. - Norman Vincent Peale



GOD'S WORD – DAILY REFLECTIONS 2025:

\$20 per copy

A life-changing companion to nourish you, help make God's Word the foundation of your life, and empower you to pray, to live, to be inspired and to share your inspiration & faith with others.

**LAST CHANCE TO SHOP at the Piety Gift Stall
Sunday December 22, 2024 10.15am – 12.30pm.**

CLOSED from Dec. 23rd 2024 – Feb. 3rd 2025.

Opens on Tuesday Feb. 4th 2025 @ 10.30am

'FRANCIS' FOCUS' (Reflection)

© Nick Brodie

Pope Francis draws our attention to the way that Elizabeth greets Mary with joyful astonishment! He sees this an exemplar of how we should live our faith in this coming festive season.

We need to be astonished again!

'To celebrate Christmas in a fruitful manner,' the Pope says, 'we are called to pause in "places" of astonishment.'

He offers three examples of what this means.

Firstly, he draws attention to astonished recognition of other people. At a time of year when many of us will reunite with friends and family, we are called to see how 'every face is marked with a semblance to the Son of God.'

The **second** place of astonishment to which the Pope suggests we turn is 'history'. We need to look beyond markets and finances and see with faith the work of the Lord who exalts the lowly and uplifts the poor.

'The God of Christmas', the Pope quips, 'shuffles the cards' of history. Economics does not rule human destiny, God does.

Thirdly, we should find astonishment in 'the Church'.

The Pope longs for us to embrace an understanding of the Church 'that is able to recognise the many signs of faithful love that God continuously sends her.' He hopes that 'Mother Church ... always has her doors open wide, and her arms open to welcome everyone.'

All students who attend non-Catholic private Schools or Government state schools!

PLEASE ENROL FOR PARISH SACRAMENTAL CLASSES BY MONDAY DECEMBER 23rd, 2024.

Please contact the Parish Office 5222 1977 or email AnnaMarieD@stmarysgeelong.com.au

To enrol for Confirmation your child must have already received Baptism, Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

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Music Ministry - Parish Choirs

ST MARY'S PARISH JUNIOR CHOIR

Practices have ended for the year and will resume in Term 1, on Friday February 8, 2025.

Next Mass: Christmas Eve: 6pm Family Mass

MIXTURES ADULT CHOIR

The Mixtures will break for January, and will resume ministry on February 9th, 2025.

Next Mass: Christmas Eve @ 8pm

BASILICA CHOIR New members welcome

After Carols & the Midnight Mass, the Basilica Choir will break until February 9th, 2024.

Next Sunday Mass: December 22nd @ 9.30am

Please visit the parish website:

www.stmarysgeelong.com.au/parish_choirs

for information/details on all of our Parish Choirs.

FAREWELL & THANK YOU

After 30 years, one of our most esteemed and treasured volunteers, Joan West, has announced her retirement. Most recently Joan has volunteered tirelessly with the Piety Stall, and has conducted many tours of the Basilica. She has a wealth of knowledge of the history of the Parish and the Basilica, and her skills in this role and within the Parish will be sorely missed. Joan, we deeply appreciate your dedication, devotion, passion, loyalty, wisdom and love. All of us within St Mary's Parish community wish you the very best life can offer you in your retirement.

We pray and ask God to keep you safe and well.



ALERT: KEEP YOUR BELONGINGS WITH YOU

Please keep your belongings ie. bags, phones, wallets with you at all times whilst visiting the Basilica or attending Mass. It is your responsibility to always be aware, as we cannot guarantee a safe return of discarded or misplaced belongings.



Last week's answer is: A) 10 (you turn the page 10 times)

St Mary's Parish - 1% CLUB QUESTION

What is the next letter in the sequence: A,Z,B, Y, __?

A) W B) B C) C

The answer will be printed in the Bulletin next week.

ST MARY'S PARISH PANTRY

Address: 150 Yarra St. Geelong

CLOSURE: for the Christmas period and into the New Year. The Parish Pantry will be closed after the Friday December 20th operating time and will reopen on Tuesday January 8th, 2025.

Music at the Basilica 136 Yarra St. Geelong

FREE FINAL ADVENT ORGAN RECITAL

FRANK DEROSSO

Monday December 23rd

12.30pm – 1.00pm in the Basilica

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT THE BASILICA MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

We invite you to join this group of music-lovers helping to bring fine music to Geelong.

The annual Subscription is \$35.00

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- At the end of the concert series, there will be a friendly "Evening Gathering" with wine and cheese.

Simply complete the [Friends form](#) save it and email at info@musicatthebasilica.org.au

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

There may be peace without joy, and joy without peace, but the two combined make happiness.

- John Buchan



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AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Margaret Anne Senior, Nathan Patrick Lowry



CURRENT ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: Mary Walker, Martin Nolan, Isabella Inturrisi, Rose Virgona, Anthony Borg, Ronald Cox, Geza Lajos, Leanne Williams, Damian Walsh, Ivan Siketa, Carmen Galea, Casey Hardiman, John Spurdle, Luigi Laudadio, Brian Chandley, Rito Roma, Norm Tomison, Gabrielle Shanahan, Maryann Vella (nee Sammut), Domenico & Antonina Arena, Carmelo & Grazia Arena, Giuseppina Renna

THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE UNWELL: Marie Prowd, Frank Smith

Loving God, we pray that you will be comfort in their suffering, and lead them to know your healing grace, As they place their trust in you, grant them peace of mind, body and spirit. Amen.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY [CLOW] – NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

You can register in advance for 2025... records are kept private. Scan this QR code to access the **CHILDREN'S LITURGY REGISTRATION FORM**. [For children Grade 2 – Grade 6] Children are required to be fully registered, and forms submitted as part of Child Safety procedures and a form must be submitted at least once per year.



ST. JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL CHAPEL MASS: Every Thursday at 11.30am

RADIO MASS BROADCAST:

SUNDAY 7am on Light FM 89.9 & 10am on The Pulse FM 94.7



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Year C – December 29, 2024

Readings for next week:

Sirach 3: 2 - 6. 12 - 14; Colossians 3: 12 - 21; Luke 2: 41 - 52

Children's Liturgy	December 22	December 29	January 5	January 12	
11.00am MASS	xxx NO CLOW School Holidays	xxx NO CLOW School Holidays	xxx NO CLOW School Holidays	xxx NO CLOW School Holidays	
TIMES	Commentator	Reader	Special Ministers	Welcomers	Main Collector
6.00pm VIGIL	Margot Jarman	Natalia Barber	Margot Jarman Gael Perry	Diane Read	Brendan Sullivan
7.30am	Annette Wilkinson	Terry O'Brien	Barry Leith Nola Schwidlewski	Brenda MacGregor	Lachlan Buchanan
9.30am	Peter Mackinlay	Rhonda Sullivan	Jennifer Guinane Blake Drever Rhonda Sullivan	Anna Demetriou	Geoff Johnston
11.00am	Pamela Cowdery	Ane Saukawa	Pamela Cowdery Kirra Linda Stacchino	Maria Monea	Klaus Bauer
AV OPERATOR	6.00pm VIGIL	7.30am	9.30am	11.00am	
	Rebecca Hay	Mareta Eagles	Teresa Eadie	Georgia Cowdery	

'St Mary of the Angels Parish' is our official Facebook page for the people of our Parish to stay connected. Receive updates and posts, and view & read daily reflections.



<https://www.facebook.com/St-Mary-of-the-Angels-Parish-103118478011107/>



'Follow' the page and like our updates & articles. A great way to keep in touch.

You can also visit our regularly updated and very informative webpage: www.stmarysgeelong.com.au

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