

# ST MARY OF THE ANGELS - GEELONG

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**Pastoral Worker:** Ms Anna Demetriou

Email: [AnnaMarieD@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:AnnaMarieD@stmarysgeelong.com.au)

**RCIA Coordinator:** Mr Kevin Mark

Email: [Kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:Kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au)

**Bulletin Notices:** Due by: Thursday 1.00pm Email: [rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au) or call Parish Office: 5222 1977



## MASS TIMES

### WEEKDAY MASSES

10.00am Tuesday - Saturday  
ROSARY recited prior to Mass

STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
9.30am FRIDAYS IN LENT

RECONCILIATION  
After 10.00am Mass Saturday

SATURDAY  
6.00pm (Vigil)

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

NOVENA to OUR LADY of  
PERPETUAL HELP

Wednesdays after 10.00am Mass

NOVENA to ST. ANTHONY

Tuesdays after 10.00am Mass

ADORATION OF BLESSED  
SACRAMENT & DIVINE  
MERCY CHAPLET

Thursday at 9.00am

### PIETY GIFT STALL

**OPEN Tuesdays to Fridays:**  
10.30am - 1.00pm,

**Sundays:** 10.15am - 12.15pm.  
Closed on Saturdays.

Second Sunday of Lent - Year B - February 25, 2024

### Readings for this week:

Genesis 22: 1-2. 9-13. 15-18; Romans 8: 31-34; Mark 9: 2-10

### REFLECTION ON THE SCRIPTURES

© Richard Leonard SJ

At the end of The Laws of Our Fathers, Scott Turow has one of his characters, Seth Weissman, preach at a memorial service. The text for that service is today's first reading and his words capture the challenge before us.

'I always return to the story of Abraham and Isaac ... the founder of the Western faiths ... He was a visionary, a prophet ... But despite this, Abraham's God decided to test him. He asked Abraham to make a sacrifice of his and Sarah's only child, Isaac, their miracle, who was born to them when Sarah was ninety years old and Abraham was one hundred. And ... Abraham complied.'

'He did not ask what was wrong with a God who would demand such a thing, or question whether He was worth worshipping.

He did not, so far as the Bible tells us, even beg for Isaac's life, as he had done for the people of Sodom. Abraham simply walked his child up Mount Moriah. I imagine he even made the boy carry the wood for the fire ... '

' ... I have regarded for some years now the story of Abraham and Isaac a strange story, a grim tale of how a father would sacrifice his son to his own faith ... What kind of a starting point is this for ... all the Western faiths? ... Why do we re-tell this story? Is it to remind us that every parent since has been better?'

... One of the thousand morals of the story of Abraham and Isaac is that ... it is also a tale of survival and of mercy. In the end Abraham heard his God instruct him not to set his hand against his son ... Isaac survived ...

He became a parent, blind to Jacob's defects, but one who, pointedly, attempted no sacrifices of his own ... '

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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.

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'So let us think of Isaac ... the first son of the Western faiths – and think about the story that is told again and again. We hear it first as children, and repeat it throughout our lives. We tell it by way of apology. And warning. We tell it with some measure of hope. We tell it because we have all been the child, we have all been Isaac, and we know the part of the story that is never mentioned. For the Bible does not record Isaac's responses. We do not know if he, like Jesus, asked, "Father, why have you forsaken me?" We do not know if he begged the way most of us would, for his life. We know only this: that he obeyed ... That because he knew nothing else, he did as his father required. We know he allowed himself to be bound in rope. We know that he let his father lay him on the altar of pyramided firewood which together they had raised to God. We know he watched his father on the mountaintop raise the gleaming knife above his breastbone. We know ... he was a child, the son of a man with a Big Idea, who in his longing and confusion, even in his final instant, could only look to his father with that eternal if foundering hope for love.'

May this story and our Eucharist give us hope that no matter what altar of sacrifice we feel sometimes laid upon, God does not abandon us in our need, and never wants us to sacrifice ourselves, or anyone else.

Lent is about mercy and survival because true obedience to God, even in its demands for a hard love, ALWAYS leads to life.

#### **Please donate to PROJECT COMPASSION.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in the Narthex, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

#### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross will be recited each Friday in Lent. Starting at 9.30am and finishing in time for the 10.00am weekday Mass. The Rosary will be recited after the Basilica opens at 9.00am.

#### **STONEMASON WORK AT THE BASILICA**

The workers will be in the Basilica on Monday **Feb. 26** (all day) and Wednesday **Feb. 28** (all day) The building will remain open on Monday (10am - 5pm) and Wednesday (9am - 5pm). The work will cease for 10.00am Mass on Wednesday.

#### **RCIA UPDATE**

Last weekend, on the First Sunday of Lent, our parish Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) group travelled to the annual "Rite of Election" held at St Patrick's Cathedral and presided over by Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli. Almost 1000 people gathered for the ceremony, with catechumens and candidates from more than 60 parishes from across the Archdiocese in attendance. The event is a milestone for those preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation at Easter. Together with their godparents, sponsors and fellow parishioners and families, the catechumens and candidates publicly declared their intention to join the Catholic Church. Please continue to pray for our catechumens and candidates and for our RCIA team. For a report on the Rite of Election, please see [melbournecatholic.org/news/you-are-not-alone-in-faith-archbishop-comensoli-tells-crowd-at-rite-of-election](http://melbournecatholic.org/news/you-are-not-alone-in-faith-archbishop-comensoli-tells-crowd-at-rite-of-election)

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

It is with much regret that we inform you that The Shirley Mills Plaza Theatre will no longer be in operation. The closure applies to all external groups and also to the movies sessions traditionally shown at 1.00pm after Café Light on a Sunday. It is closing down for the following reasons:

- ◇ Non compliance with current fire safety standards.
- ◇ Huge increase in the cost of public liability insurance.
- ◇ Breach of copyright laws & expenses.
- ◇ Onsite security issues.

The **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** is holding its next general meeting on Tuesday 12 March. If you would like to raise an issue for the consideration of the council you can email them at: [pastoralcouncil@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:pastoralcouncil@stmarysgeelong.com.au) or contact the Parish Office 5222 1977.

The council inbox is managed by volunteers and is checked just prior to meetings, please note that it may not be possible to discuss all matters at the immediate meeting and some matters may be referred to a more appropriate forum.

**RADIO MASS** Broadcast brought to you by **St Mary's Parish, Geelong**. 10.00am Sunday morning on PULSE FM 94.7

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### **ST MARYS PARISH PANTRY**

Address: 150 Yarra St. Geelong.

Pantry operating days and times are: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday between 1.00pm - 3.00pm.

**LENT BOOK "PIETA"** We have sourced (4) more copies. Call or pop in to the Parish Office to purchase a one However, you can order a downloadable and printable PDF version directly from the publisher by using the link supplied here: [dow.org.au/product/pieta-lenten-program-2024-book-pdf-digital-download/](http://dow.org.au/product/pieta-lenten-program-2024-book-pdf-digital-download/)

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** will be held on Friday **March 1 at 11am.** WESLEY UNITING CHURCH, 100 Yarra St, Geelong. The theme "I beg you... bear with one another in love" has been prepared by the Christian people of Palestine. The guest speaker will be Daryl Crowden, a retired representative of World Vision. For more information please contact: Heather Watson 0412 139 295 or Sue O'Donoghue 0429 784 331

**FAITH AND LIGHT GEELONG** A Christian community for people with disabilities, their families and friends who meet together to share faith and friendship and celebrate. You are invited to the next Gathering on Saturday March 9th, 2pm - 4.30pm. **Venue:** St Mary's Parish Offices, 1st floor, 150 Yarra Street. Entry via lift. Share your Lenten journey with the Gospel, Prayer & Activities and shared afternoon tea. Direct all enquiries to Tricia O'Keeffe, Mobile: 0414 672 267 or Kevin Mark Email: [Kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:Kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au) International website: [www.faithandlight.org](http://www.faithandlight.org)

**POOL TABLE & ACCESSORIES - FREE TO A GOOD HOME** The Parish has to re-home these items which resides in the Pioneer Room. You are most welcome to come into the Office Centre to assess the items for yourself. Removal costs are expected to be met by the interested party. If interested please call 5222 1977 during the week.

**JOIN OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR SUNDAY MASSES** For more information or to indicate availability please contact us via email: [rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au) or you can call the Parish Office during the week on 5222 1977.

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Music at the Basilica 136 Yarra St, Geelong  
presents

### **Encounters 2024 "A VOICE, LENT TO MUSIC"**

Join **Frank De Rosso (organ)** and associate artists in a journey of music and poetry, leading up to Easter. Sundays 5.00 to 5.30pm at the Basilica.

**Admission is free.**

Sunday 3 March **Patrycja Radzi-Stewart (violin)**

Sunday 10 March **John Seal (marimba)**

Sunday 17 March **Helen Seymour (poetry)**

**\*\* THIS WEEKEND \*\***

### **THE AUSTRALIAN MALE WELSH CHOIR**

in concert on **Sunday 25 February**, 5.00pm  
Celebrate St David's Day with the Australian Male Welsh Choir in a program of most-loved songs from Wales. Tickets \$35 Full and Seniors; \$30 Concession available from [www.trybooking.com/CODSW](http://www.trybooking.com/CODSW) or at the door. Children and school students – free.

### **ST MARY'S PARISH JUNIOR CHOIR**

**Next Mass:** Feb. 25, 2024 - 11am.

New members are most welcome.

Email: [rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au) for enquiries.

**MIXTURES ADULT CHOIR** The Mixtures will resume again after Easter. For more information or if interested to join please email: [rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au)

**BASILICA CHOIR** **Next Mass:** Feb. 24, 2024 - 9.30am. New members are most welcome. Contact Jane at [jbashiruddin@bigpond.com](mailto:jbashiruddin@bigpond.com)

### **QUOTE FOR THE WEEK**

"When you're at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hold on." - *Theodore Roosevelt*

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**



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**AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:**



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Juro Cubic, Maria Cafarella

**CURRENT ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Hamish Parke, Rita Spiteri, John Mifsud, Emiliano Bacareza, Jerko Cubic, Matija Cubic, Rose Brennan, Patricia & Charles Perry, Roma Virgona, Vilma Cioch, Eusemia Alo, Vincenzo Alo, Josephine Maca, Salvacion Palma, Frank Jones **Month Mind:** Michael Richens, Daniel Suvarna

**THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE UNWELL:** Pam Firth

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.

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**



Third Sunday of Lent - Year B - March 3, 2024

Readings for next week:

Exodus 20: 1 - 17; 1 Corinthians 1: 22 - 25; John 2: 13 - 25

<b><i>TIMES</i></b>	<b><i>Commentator</i></b>	<b><i>Reader</i></b>	<b><i>Special Ministers</i></b>	<b><i>Welcomers</i></b>	<b><i>Main Collector</i></b>
<b>6.00pm VIGIL</b>	Trish Nicholson	Margot Jarman	Vicki Zavaglia Margot Jarman	Diane Read	Vince Zavaglia
<b>7.30am</b>	Nola Schwidlewski	Terry O'Brien	Barry Leith Nola Schwidlewski	Monica Pearce	Lachlan Buchanan
<b>9.30am</b>	Jennifer Guinane	Blake Drever	Geoff Miles Jennifer Guinane Blake Drever	Anna Demetriou	Geoff Johnston
<b>11.00am</b>	Angela Fiala	Pamela Cowdery	Barbara Antony Pamela Cowdery Linda Stacchino	Domenica Croce	Maria Monea

<b><i>TIMES</i></b>	<b><i>6.00pm</i></b>	<b><i>7.30am</i></b>	<b><i>9.30am</i></b>	<b><i>11.00am</i></b>
<b>AV-SOUND OPERATOR</b>	Clevon Peris	Mareta Eagles	Andrew De Angelis	Joan Belleville



'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 stay in touch.

You can also visit our regularly updated and very informative webpage: [www.stmarysgeelong.com.au](http://www.stmarysgeelong.com.au)

On the webpage we include updates & current Parish information, Daily Reflections, Prayers, images, links and even something for the kids. **Everything you need to know about our faith community.**

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