



ST MARY OF THE ANGELS - GEELONG

150 Yarra St, Geelong 3220 Ph: 03 5222 1977



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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 Tuesday – Saturday
ROSARY recited prior to Mass

RECONCILIATION

After 10am 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 10am Mass

NOVENA to ST ANTHONY

Tuesdays after 10am Mass

ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT & DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Thursday at 9.00am

Third Sunday of Advent - Year A – December 14, 2025

Readings for this week:

Isaiah 35: 1 - 6, 10; James 5: 7 - 10; Matthew 11: 2 - 11

Reflection Leo's Lens

© Nick Brodie

'A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today', says Pope Leo. The Pope is very concerned to bring us back to the essentials of our Faith. He speaks of 'caring for the poor', for instance, as 'a beacon as it were of evangelical light.' Similarly, he speaks of how 'love for the poor – whatever the form their poverty may take – is the evangelical hallmark of a Church faithful to the heart of God.' In short, the Pope is reminding us that we proclaim Christ most effectively when we are Christ-like in our attitudes and actions towards others. This is most especially true when we are dealing with those in need or otherwise on the margins of society.

'The dominant culture', the Pope suggests, 'would have us abandon the poor to their fate and consider them unworthy of attention, much less our respect.' But, through our faith we see them differently. In the poor, we see the suffering of Our Lord himself. This is a message worth proclaiming to the world.

'For Christians,' the Pope affirms, 'the poor are not a sociological category, but the very "flesh" of Christ.' In that sense, we are always challenged to prepare for our Lord by being open to encountering him anywhere there is need.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL CLASSES 2026 – ENROL NOW !!

These classes are intended for Catholic families with children who attend non-Catholic Primary schools. **Enrolments are open for 2026.** If you would like to enrol for 2026, please contact the St Mary's Parish Office on 5222 1977 or email admin@stmarysgeelong.com.au **It is advised that you enrol as soon as possible, especially for Confirmation (held in March 2026), by the end of the school term, prior to Christmas, if you have not already done so. The Parish Office closes for the Christmas/New Year break from Dec. 24th – Jan. 5th.**



PIETY GIFT STALL

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



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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.

BASILICA OPEN TIMES ARE: Monday 10.00am – 5.00pm; Tuesday – Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm.
Open on the weekend for 10.00am Mass, followed by Reconciliation, Baptisms & Weddings, occasional weekend MAB concerts
and for our regular Saturday Vigil & Sunday morning Masses. **See the front page for Mass time details.**

CHRISTMAS AT THE BASILICA - 2025

Sat. December 13th: *Seniors' Anointing Mass and cuppa in the Narthex - 10am.

*Please note that there will be **no Reconciliation held after this Mass**, as attending the Mass and receiving the Anointing during the Mass is the Reconciliation.

Tues. December 16th: 2nd Rite Reconciliation Service - 7.30pm.

Wed. December 17th: Christmas Memorial Mass - 7.30pm. *You are invited to submit names of those deceased to be prayed for at this Mass. Those passed away in the past 12 months will be on screen and those passed away more than 12 months ago will be placed in our Prayer Basket*

*and brought up as offering **at the Mass.***

Please clearly indicate '12' or '12++' beside the names submitted, and also let us know if you will be attending the Mass.

Email: admin@stmarysgeelong.com.au or call the

Office: 5222 1977 by Monday December 15th.

Christmas Eve Masses: Wednesday December 24th: 6pm; 8pm; Polish Mass – 9.30pm; and Carols at 11.30pm, followed by Midnight Mass (12am).

Christmas Day Masses: Thursday December 25th: 7.30am; 9.30am; 11am and Polish Mass @ 12.30pm.

The Parish Office will close at 3pm on Dec. 24th, reopening on Monday January 5th 2026 at 9am.

The Basilica will open during the Christmas/ New Year break, for Weekday and Sunday Masses only.
It will remain closed at all other times.

EXTRA MASSES

Boxing Day: Friday Dec. 26th - 12.30pm in Polish

Saturday Dec. 27th - 10am Mass

Tuesday Dec. 30th - 10am Mass

Wednesday Dec. 31st - 10am Mass

New Year's Day: January 1st - 10am Mass in English, 12.30pm in Polish

ST MARY'S PARISH RCIA UPDATE

At 11.00 am Mass last Sunday, our parish officially welcomed those engaged in the current RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program, as they began the next phase of their journey to becoming full members of the Catholic Church next Easter.

Please keep Dan, Daniel, David, Elly, Gayathri, Holly, Lawrence, Liezel, Mel, Neve, Sarah, Sean, Tamika and Tomas in your prayers.

ADVENT DAWN NOVENA MASS (SIMBANG GABI) starts on Tuesday, December 16th - 24th with 5:30 am Mass every morning, held at St Francis Xavier Church Corio – 143 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio

All are warmly invited & welcome! Please pass it on!

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

NIGHT Thursday December 18th @ 6.30pm at Holy Family Church Bell Park, 147 Separation Street, Bell Park.

Celebrating the diversity of this parish with songs performed in English, Vietnamese, Sri Lankan, Croatian, Filipino, Syro Malabar.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND ECUMENICAL FELLOWSHIP – CAROL OF THE BELLS 2025.

Sunday December 21st - 5:30pm, Geelong West Town Hall, 153 Pakington Street. This event seeks to celebrate Christmas in unity with the diverse communities of faith alongside the Syro Malabar parish community. If you require more information or details, please reach out to the event coordinator:

Babu Varghese 0449 079 134

Now available: GOD'S WORD 2026

Perfect for Christmas giving!

Especially produced for Australia, God's Word 2026 is an attractive colour publication presenting the Bible readings for each day of the 2026 liturgical year along with reflections by eminent spiritual writers. Designed to help you keep the word of God close to your heart in daily life, to be a source for prayer and to prepare for Mass. Available from the Piety Gift Stall & Parish Office.

Only \$22.00 each.

If you would like to gift a book to a friend or family member, we invite you to purchase your copy from the Parish Office where you can have it beautifully gift wrapped, with love.

★ **CAROLS AT ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH** located on Latrobe Terrace. Sunday 21st December at 3pm and 7pm. Everyone is welcome to this beautiful traditional service of Readings and Carols, led by the voices of St Paul's Choirs.



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PIETY GIFT STALL Closes after business (@12.15pm) on Sunday Dec. 21st, 2025. It will re-open at 10.30am on Tuesday February 3rd, 2026.
Wishing you all a blessed and holy Christmas.

HELP US REJUVENATE AND BEAUTIFY THE ST MARY OF THE ANGELS' BASILICA GARDEN

Our community is truly blessed to have the St Mary of the Angels' Basilica as a central part of our spiritual life. The Basilica grounds are in need of beautification. The project, initiated and developed by a lifelong member of our parish, is to rejuvenate and beautify the Myers Street and Yarra Street gardens. It is a cost one person alone cannot manage, so we invite you to contribute to this parish community-led effort to refresh this special space. Your financial support, no matter the size, will help ensure the garden is a welcoming and peaceful environment for parishioners and visitors alike.

If you are able to assist, cash donations can be made at the St Mary's Parish Office. Please ensure contributions are clearly labelled for the "Basilica Garden Project". Thank you for helping us care for a place that means so much to our faith community. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT - Bookkeeper

Small local Agricultural business in Moolap.
2-3 days a week. Flexible hours. It is preferred if those interested have some proficiency in MYOB & Excel.
To apply or for more details please contact:
Deborah Ludwig 0419 309 999

STUDENT ACCOMODATION REQUIRED FOR 2026 Young female student requires accommodation for the 2026 school year in Geelong and Greater Geelong area. Can pay board. Can arrange own transport. If you, or anyone you know, can assist please contact Sr Anne Lourey on 0452 161 937

RADIO MASS This broadcast on PULSE FM 94.7 @ 10.00am on a Sunday, is brought to you from
St Mary's Parish, Geelong.

December 21st will be the final Radio Mass recording for 2025. The 'live' current Mass Broadcast will resume on Sunday January 18th, 2026. Thank you for your support and for listening over the past year.

St Mary's Parish - 1% CLUB QUESTION

The answer to last week's question is: D. 4033

New 1% CLUB QUESTION

Which of these is the largest?

A. Circle B. Triangle C. Rectangle D. Octagon

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ST MARY'S PARISH PANTRY

Address: 150 Yarra St. Geelong

Pantry operating days and times are:
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 1pm – 3pm.

The final day of operation for the Pantry is Friday December 19th, after which it will close for Christmas and the New Year. The Pantry will reopen on Wednesday January 14th, 2026 at 1pm.

MUSIC AT THE BASILICA

136 Yarra Street, Geelong

FREE ADVENT ORGAN RECITALS

held each Monday of Advent from

12.30pm - 1.15pm

at the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels.

Monday December 15th - Tom Healey

Monday December 22nd - Frank De Rosso

Music Ministry - Parish Choirs

ST MARY'S PARISH JUNIOR CHOIR

Next Mass: Dec. 24th @ 6pm (Christmas Eve)

MIXTURES ADULT CHOIR

Next Mass: December 14th @ 11am. Practice is held at 9.30am on the Sunday of the scheduled Mass, prior to the Mass. If you are interested to join the choir, please call 5222 1977 or email Rebecca:

rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au

BASILICA CHOIR:

Next Mass: December 14th @ 9.30am

For more information or details please email:

jbashiruddin@bigpond.com

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." - Desmond Tutu

JOKE FOR THE DAY

A few days before Christmas, two young brothers were spending the night at their grandparents house. When it was time to go to bed, and anxious to do the right thing, they both knelt down to say their prayers. Suddenly, the younger one began to recite in a very loud voice.

"Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a PlayStation, a mountain bike and a telescope!"

His older brother leaned over, nudged his brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." "I know" was the reply, "But Grandma is!"

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AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Gloria Jean Braddy, Maria Tatasciore

CURRENT ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH: Chaiel Balcombe, Caterina Costa, Natale Aparo, Margaret Stewart, Val Creece, Lorna Read, Ellen Day, Katica Ocasic, Maria Polimeni, Joseph Vinar, Colin Hood, Mary Sexton, Giulio Cesare Zocco, Cecylia Lyzwa, Elizabeth Biviano, Jack Rogan, Nesifred Solis, Conrado Solis, Lorna Marshall, Harold Solis, Sid Hart, Daniel Arcayna Sr, Cresilyn Arcayna, Luigi Giovanni Panetta

Month Mind: Mary Ford

THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE UNWELL: Jim McTernan, Anne-Maree Villanti

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 10am on The Pulse FM 94.7



CHILDREN'S LITURGY [CLOW] – LAST SESSION FOR 2025 !!

Scan this QR code to access the **CHILDREN'S LITURGY REGISTRATION FORM**.

[For children Grade 2 – Grade 6] All children are required to be fully registered, and forms submitted prior to sessions. A form must be submitted at least once per year, and updated per school term, if any of your circumstances/details change.



Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A – December 21, 2025

Readings for next week:

Sirach 3:17 - 20, 28 - 29; Hebrews 12:18 - 19, 22 - 24; Luke 14:1. 7 - 14



Children's Liturgy	December 14	December 21	December 28	January 4
11.00am MASS	Slavica Nina	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	Januk	Brendan	Gael Vicki	Yvette	Vince
7.30am	Corinne	Antonia	Barry Margi	Monica	Carlo
9.30am	Rhonda	Jennifer	Maree R Geoff M Clare		Mick
11.00am	Shirley	Alec	Maria Linda Nina	Domenica Neve	Michael
AV	OPERATOR	6.00pm VIGIL	7.30am	9.30am	11.00am
		Natalia	Antonia	Dominic	Rebecca

'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.

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<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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