



St Mary's Parish

160 Foster Street, Dandenong
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*"Though many we are one."
One in faith and one in the Gospel values of hospitality and welcome, compassion and justice.*

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Declan O'Brien

DEACON: Rev. George Piech Meat

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Kathy Gottlieb

PARISH SECRETARIES: Franca Van Boxtel & Maree Walker

FINANCE OFFICER: Ms Josie Ferarro

GARDENER/CARETAKER: Mr. Kevin McLaren

CENTRE MANAGER: Mr. Miguel Matamala

CATECHETICS CO-ORDINATOR: Ms Marilyn Cuddihy

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday : 9.00am-3.00pm

New Parishioners Book: If you are a new parishioner to St Mary's, could you please sign our Parishioners Book in the church foyer.

If you urgently need a priest please call 9791 4611, if Father does not answer, please leave a message and he will call you back.

WEEKEND MASS TIME

Saturday Morning: 9.00am

Saturday Evening: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIME

Monday: 9.00am (Word and Communion)

Tuesday: 9.00am (Except during School Terms mass will be 9.15am)

Wednesday, Thursday: 9.00am

Thursday: 11.00am (Cardinal Knox)

Friday: 11.00am (Followed by Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 3.00pm(Benediction))

(Last Friday of every month **Anointing Mass**)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after 9am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

MARRIAGE

Please book the Church at the same time as you book your venue.

As marriage preparation is an essential condition of marriage, you must book your **preparation course** at least **4 months** prior to the wedding. Further details can be obtained from Fr. O'Brien.

St. Mary's Primary School Phone: 9791 7650
New St, Dandenong.

Principal: Mr. Greg White

St. John's Regional College Phone 9791 3366
Caroline St, Dandenong.

Principal: Timothy Hogan

St. Mary's Community Centre 9792 4884



From the desk of the Parish Priest Fr Declan

Before I came to Australia, I worked in a parish in rural Ireland that drew its members in part from a rural farming area. Folks who work on a farm usually used to attend the earliest Sunday Mass. They were a fascinating congregation to work with. I'm only guessing, but I wonder if their openness to the word of God has anything to do with their connection to the earth. The cycle of growing, the passage of seasons, the risks of planting crops—all these activities teach a lot about life.

Perhaps that's why the Scriptures use farming images so frequently. Today's first reading describes the fertility of the word of God. It bears fruit, watered by rain and snow. In the Gospel Jesus tells the famous parable of sower and seed to describe how the word comes to people and how they receive it. I wonder how people who labor with seed and soil will hear these Scriptures this Sunday? Would they caution us to let go of our fears about ministry, and trust in the fruitful working of God's word? Will they remind us to be tolerant of ourselves when our receptiveness of the seed of the word is less than perfect? Would they encourage us to rejoice when God's word bears fruit? Maybe it's time to get our own hands dirty in the soil of the word! Fr. D

Welcome to Father Emmanuel from Nigeria who is staying in the parish whilst studying for a Masters degree in Moral Theology. He is from the diocese of Aba. Please make him feel welcome!

Bookings for The Dandenong Deanery Dinner on Thurs 10th August are now being taken. Guest speaker is Francis Sullivan, Chief Executive of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council. See notice in Church foyer for more information.

Confirmation will be Friday 21st July at 7pm. All parishioners are welcome to come and pray for our newly confirmed young men and women.



Parish Calendar 2017

Friday, 21st July	Confirmation
Tuesday, 25th July	Outreach Meeting 6.30pm
Wednesday, 2nd August	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Thursday, 10th August	Deanery Dinner
Tuesday, 15th August	Baptism Meeting
Thursday, 17th August	Cyrene Centre AGM
Tuesday, 22nd August	Outreach Meeting

The Eucharist as Sacrament

It is common to hear people ask 'What does a Sacrament do?' this mentality seeks to know the effects of the action. (e.g. how is a person different afterwards?) It seeks to clarify what matter or material is needed in order to create this nominated effect. (e.g. what type of oil is necessary for Baptism?) It also wants to know what is the minimum required for the effect to take place.

A better question to ask is 'What does a Sacrament mean?' this question focuses on the people and why they are doing what they are doing. If we ask 'what are we doing at the Eucharist?' we can say we are eating food and drinking wine. If we ask 'what does it mean?' we discover that we are remembering Jesus as he asked us to do, and praising and thanking God.

What are we doing at a wedding reception? What are we doing at a Christmas meal? In both cases we are eating food, but we are saying something different on each occasion. The meaning is different although the external action is the same. So with our understanding of the Eucharist. What does it mean? Who is the focus? In the new rite of infant Baptism it is not the baby, but the parents who are the focal point. They are being asked if they are willing to accept the responsibility of bringing up this baby within a Christian environment. The God-parents represent the community which supports the parents in this charge. In adult Baptism it is the adult candidate who is the focus because this person is accepting the 'new direction' of following Jesus Christ and belonging to the Church.

In the Eucharist we share food and say 'Yes' to Jesus, which draws us into deeper communion with Him and with one another. The real mystery is that we, though many, are one body, (the body of Christ). We are responsible for communicating the life of Jesus to each other in the world. The sacrament highlights this reality and celebrates it. In sharing the meal we 'remember' that what Jesus has done for us he is doing for us now. The Eucharistic signs are not just bread and wine but eating and drinking, what we say about the objects we say also about the people—we are the body of Christ. We are called to be bread for others as Jesus is bread for us. We have to build up the body.

In this sacrament the Christians assemble in a festive action to celebrate their lived experience and to call to mind their common story of God's love and blessing. This action is a sign of God's care and the action enriches our fellowship to one another in the community and with Jesus who is present with us.

St Mary's Youth Group

St Mary's Youth Group is meeting this weekend after the 5.30 pm mass, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm! Come along and share a meal, games and a reflection with Parish youth.



Talks on... Spirituality at The Open Door

The next guest speaker at 'Talks on... Spirituality at The Open Door is Michelle Wood, the C.E.O. of WHISE 'Women's Health in the South East'. We invite you to join us to hear firsthand how WHISE help women with physical, emotional and social issues within the local Community. It promises to be an insightful and inspirational talk, please don't forget to book early as places are limited.

When: Wednesday 19 July 2017, 5.30-6.30pm

Where: The Open Door, 110 Ann Street, Dandenong

Suggested Donation: \$5



The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." - MATTHEW 13:32

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in worldly activities that you have not time for God? Stewardship is a lifestyle to be lived everyday. It effects all the decisions we make. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week.

The Regulars

Daily Rosary: After morning Mass (except Sunday)

Tuesdays: Centering prayer meditation at The Open Door, 7pm

3rd Wednesday: Friendship Club
lunch at Dandenong RSL

1st Sunday: Hospitality Sunday ~Cuppa's
(Commencing February)

3rd Sunday: Presentation of Baptism candidates at
10.30am Mass

Youth Group after 5.30 Mass

4th Sunday: Baptism at 10.30 Mass

*The Open Door is part of the St John of God Ministries, 110 Ann Street Dandenong 9791 8664

This weekend we pray for

Recently Deceased: Ranjith Perera, Simone Marshall, Anthony Lucas, Emmanuel Candappa, Maria Mastroianni

Anniversaries: John Pereira, Michele & Filomena Petrecca, Fr Ivor Netto, Jason Smith, David Woolgar, Benito Alvarez, Locksley & Elaine Collins, Benson Roberts, Arthur & Norma Collins, Guido & Hazel Collins.

Sick: Sharon Rozario, Ryan Robinson, Col Cormick, Tyrone De Silva, Margaret Deegan, Jenny Stivic, Ruth Caia, Michael Kelly, Daren Vukmirovic, Bernadine Anthony, Melissa Warren, Hayley Pearson, Faye Cronin, Angie Calabarkis, Lemisio Nepa, Rosa Maria Santos, Mohammed Zohan, Kosmas Stefanidis, Janet Murray, Max Warner, Gordon Fonceca, Brian, Lorraine Wishart, Agapi Nicolaou, Joyce Pieris, Bella Allan, Ushan

The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed in the Marian.

Collections for last weekend...

Thanksgiving: \$ 2707.00

Presbytery: \$ 523.05

Loose money: \$ 1205.10



If any Parishioner would like their house to be blessed, please contact Franca or Maree at the Parish office on 9791-4611 to make a booking with either Father Declan or Deacon George.

Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing.

