

# Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



## Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

1 January 2023

### readings

#### Next Week

Is 60:1-6  
Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13  
Eph 3:2-3, 5-6  
Mt 2:1-12

#### in a nutshell

*May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.* Pope Paul VI declared New Year's Day the World Day of Peace. It is appropriate because on this day we honour Mary who brought the Prince of Peace into the world. Better than anyone else, she knew the peace that is at once her Son's gift and the fruit of a life lived in obedience to God.

#### we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Dorothy Heering,  
For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

#### of special note

Happy  
New Year

### Raise Your Voices

#### Entrance Antiphon

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

#### Responsorial Psalm

R.) May God bless us in his mercy.

God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples. you guide the nations on earth. (R.)

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

#### Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!

#### Communion Antiphon

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

### The Parish of St Mary's

#### Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

#### Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

#### Parish Office Hours

Thursday  
9:00am-4:00pm

#### Weekly Schedule

##### Sunday Mass

Saturday—6:30pm (EST)  
5:00pm (EDST)  
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

##### Weekday Mass & Rosary

Tuesday—9:00am  
Thursday—9:00am  
Friday—9:00am  
*Rosary prayed before morning Mass*

##### Reconciliation

Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm  
Friday—8:10am-8:40am

##### Exposition

Friday at 8:00am

#### Weddings

*Please contact the office*

#### Baptisms

*Please see Father after Mass*

#### Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:

[smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au](http://smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au)

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796  
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: <http://pol.org.au/mountevelyn>

Email: [mountevelyn@cam.org.au](mailto:mountevelyn@cam.org.au)

## Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult family member to the toilet.

### Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel  
Janine Meades  
Alan Somers  
Karen Somers  
Sue Van der Linden  
Karla Zmegac

### Car Parking –Weekend Masses

In the interests of safety please park in the official carparks rather than on the grassy areas around the picnic tables. Keep this area for people to gather and chat after mass.

### Car Parking –WEEKDAY Masses

*Please use available car parks for Mass rather than the front of the church. Please Leave the front for the truly disabled.*

### Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330  
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's  
Conference 0427 874 374 or Alan Somers  
0419 134 300

**Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday**  
**please: [muntevelyn@cam.org.au](mailto:muntevelyn@cam.org.au)**

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:  
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

### Parish Meetings: Tuesday, February

Finance Committee	7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding	7:30pm
Parish Council	8:00pm

## Parish Notices

### Holiday Office Hours

Janine will be away the next two weeks. Back in the office Thursday 12 January.

Fr Michel will be taking holidays the weeks beginning Monday 9 & 16 January. No weekday masses or activities but Mass as usual on the weekends.

### Parish Raffle

Congratulations to all those who won a prize at the parish raffle. Thank you to all the people who organized the raffle and to those who contributed the prizes. The raffle brought in \$332 to the parish. Thank you to all who participated!

### Morning Cuppa—Sunday and Tuesday

Stay after 10:30 Mass, have a cuppa and a chat to fellow parishioners. Also there is a morning tea every first Tuesday of the month after the 9am Mass.

**NOTE:** No morning tea this Tuesday. Morning tea will resume in February.

### Stewardship Corner

“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” LUKE 2:19

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. She heard God's message, and immediately said “yes.” Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity.

### New Thanksgiving/stewardship Envelopes

Envelopes for the next 6 months are now available. Please note that you may have a different number. Due to the reduced number of givers we have ordered fewer envelopes and so have had to issue some people with a new number. It would be best to throw out any old envelopes. Contact the office if your envelopes are missing.

**Consider contributing to assist in the upkeep of the Parish through a stewardship pledge. Contact the office to become part of this either by direct debit or envelopes. Only money in envelopes goes towards the support of the parish, loose cash supports the Parish Priest.**

The Tap and Go machine is treated as loose cash.

### Adoration of the Eucharist

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Friday mornings 8:00am. Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

### Family Online Resource

CathFamily is an online database of prayers, activities, recipes and articles celebrating Catholic culture. Used extensively by parents, teachers and catechists, it equips them with ideas and resources to assist in passing on the faith to the next generation. [www.CathFamily.org](http://www.CathFamily.org)

**Made for More: Visions of the Promised Land** creatively blends **live music, media and sacred art** for an **evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love and human destiny**. Join Christopher West and team as they offer a vision of the Gospel through the lens of St John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*.

Choose from:

**Tuesday 24 January 2023, St Francis of Assisi Parish Hall, 290 Childs Rd, Mill Park**

**Wednesday 25 January 2023, St Mary's Community Centre, 26 New Street, Dandenong**

Schedule:

**6pm - food for purchase, 7pm start, 9.30pm finish**

Open to all. *All children under 18 years must be supervised by an adult*. Tickets: \$25 general, \$10 concession/student, free for children 10 and under.

Register: [www.trybooking.com/CETXQ](http://www.trybooking.com/CETXQ)

### Something to Make You Smile

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin. Three hours later and they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've definitely lost the plot!

Old Joe says to old Fred, "What are you talking into an envelope for?" Paddy replies. "I'm sending a voicemail of course!"

Local police hunting the 'knitting needle nutter', who has stabbed six people in the rear in the last 48 hours, believe the attacker could be following some kind of pattern.

## Readings Reflection

### [Children of God](#)

Today we give thanks to Mary, the Mother of God. Her response to the angel, born of a humble heart, brought us life and salvation in the Child conceived in her womb.

From before all ages, God had destined her for this decisive role in salvation history. She was to be the woman who in the fullness of time would bear God's only Son, as Paul tells us in today's Epistle.

In times past, God spoke to His chosen people, the Israelites, through prophets (see Hebrews 1:1-2), and imparted His blessings upon them through His priests, as we hear in today's First Reading.

But now, He has sent His Son to reveal His glory and His kingdom, to make His way of salvation known to all nations, as we sing in today's Psalm. In the Infant lying in the manger, God has shone His face upon us (see John 14:8-9).

Jesus is made a child of Israel, an heir of God's covenant with Abraham, by His circumcision in today's Gospel (see Genesis 17:1-14). And we have been made adopted sons and daughters by Baptism, which is the circumcision of Christ, the true circumcision (see Colossians 2:11; Philippians 3:3).

As children of God, Paul says today, we are heirs of the Father's blessings, which He promised to bestow on all peoples through the descendants of Abraham (see Genesis 12:3; 22:18; Galatians 3:14). This is the blessing that Aaron imparted to Israel, the people descended from Abraham. And this blessing comes to us through Mary and the Child.

This is the good news of great joy that the shepherds make known in Bethlehem today (see Luke 2:10).

Like the shepherds, we too should make haste today to find Jesus with Mary and Joseph, to glorify God for His blessings. And like Mary, we should keep His word and reflect upon it, letting it dwell richly in our hearts (see Colossians 3:16).

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)  
[stpaulcenter.com](http://stpaulcenter.com)

## God sent forth his Son, born of woman (Gal 4.4)

On this evening of 31 December, two different perspectives intersect: one is linked to the end of the civil year, the other to the liturgical Solemnity of Mary Most Holy, Mother of God, which concludes the Octave of Holy Christmas. The first event is common to all, the second concerns believers. Their intersection confers a special character upon this evening celebration, in a particular spiritual atmosphere that is conducive to reflection.

The first, most evocative, theme is linked to the dimension of *time*. In the last hours of every solar year we participate in some worldly “rites” which in the contemporary context are mainly marked by amusement and often lived as an evasion from reality, as it were, to exorcise the negative aspects and propitiate improbable good luck. How different the attitude of the Christian Community must be!

The Church is called to live these hours, making the Virgin Mary’s sentiments her own. With her, the Church is invited to keep her gaze fixed on the Infant Jesus, the new Sun rising on the horizon of humanity and, comforted by his light, to take care to present to him “the joy and the hope, the grief and the anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted” (*Gaudium et Spes*, n. 1).

Consequently, two different evaluations of the dimension of “time” confront each other, one quantitative and the other qualitative. On the one hand, the solar cycle with its rhythms; on the other, what St Paul called the “fullness of time” (cf. Gal 4:4), that is, the culminating moment of the history of the universe and of the human race when the Son of God was born in the world. The time of the promises was fulfilled and, when Mary’s pregnancy reached its term, “the earth”, a Psalm says, “yielded its increase”.

The coming of the Messiah, foretold by the Prophets, is qualitatively the most important event of all history, on which it confers its ultimate and full meaning. It is not historical and political coordinates that condition God’s choice, but on the contrary, the event of the Incarnation that “fills” history with value and meaning.

We, who come 2,000 years after that event, can affirm this, so to speak, also a posteriori, after having known the whole life of Jesus, until his death and Resurrection. We are witnesses at the same time of his glory and his humility, of the immense value of his coming and of God’s infinite respect for us human beings and for our history.

He did not fill time by pouring himself into it from on high, but “from within”, making himself a tiny seed to lead humanity to its full maturation. God’s style required a long period of preparation to reach from Abraham to Jesus Christ, and after the Messiah’s coming, history did not end but continued its course, apparently the same but in reality visited by God and oriented to the Lord’s second and definitive Coming at the end of time. We might say that Mary’s Motherhood is a real symbol and sacrament of all this, an event at the same time human and divine.

In the passage from the Letter to the Galatians that we have just heard, St Paul said: “God sent forth his Son, born of woman” (Gal 4:4). Origen commented: “Note well that he did not say, ‘born by means of a woman’ but ‘born of a woman’ ”.

This acute observation of the great exegete and ecclesiastical writer is important: in fact, if the Son of God had been born only “by means of” a woman, he would not truly have taken on our humanity, something which instead he did by taking flesh “of” Mary. Mary’s motherhood, therefore, is true and fully human.

The fundamental truth about Jesus as a divine Person who fully assumed our human nature is condensed in the phrase: “God sent forth his Son born of woman”. He is the Son of God, he is generated by God and at the same time he is the son of a woman, Mary. He comes from her. He is of God and of Mary.

For this reason one can and must call the Mother of Jesus the Mother of God. This title, rendered in Greek as *Theotokos*, probably appeared for the first time in the very region of Alexandria, Egypt, precisely where Origen lived in the first half of the third century. However, she was dogmatically defined as such only two centuries later, in 431 by the Council of Ephesus, a city to which I had the joy of going on pilgrimage a month ago during my Apostolic Visit to Turkey.

At the end of a year, we feel a special need to call on the motherly intercession of Mary Most Holy for the city of Rome, for Italy, for Europe and for the whole world. Let us entrust to Mary, who is the Mother of Mercy incarnate, particularly those situations to which the Lord’s grace alone can bring peace, comfort and justice.

The Virgin heard the Angel announcing her divine Motherhood say to her: “With God nothing will be impossible” (Lk 1:37). Mary believed and for this reason she is blessed. What is impossible to man becomes possible to the one who believes (cf. Mk 9:23).

Thus, let us ask the Mother of God to obtain for us the gift of a mature faith: a faith that we would like to resemble hers as far as possible, a clear, genuine, humble and at the same time courageous faith, steeped in hope and enthusiasm for the Kingdom of God, a faith devoid of all fatalism and wholly set on cooperating with the divine will in full and joyful obedience and with the absolute certainty that God wants nothing but love and life, always and for everyone.

Obtain for us, O Mary, an authentic, pure faith. May you always be thanked and blessed, Holy Mother of God! Amen!

*Pope Benedict XVI, First Vespers of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 31 December 2006*