

ST. MARY'S YARRAM & ST. JOSEPH'S FOSTER

(Including St. Gerard Woodside, St. Agnes Toora and Immaculate Conception Fish Creek)

St. Joseph's Mission Statement: We strive to:

Be an active, open, Christ centred community, building bridges towards the kingdom.

St Mary's Vision Statement:

Our parish is a faith community that aims to make Jesus known and loved by living the Gospel message of acceptance, welcome and service to all members of the community.



St Mary's Mission Statement: We strive to:

Continue to be an active, prayerful, and sacramental faith community.

Grow in faithfulness to our Catholic tradition by full participation in Eucharistic celebrations sacraments and prayer. Respect and value all creation. Use our time, talents, and treasures to provide quality human, financial and facility resources to sustain and serve our parish's faith community and the wider community.

Statement of Commitment to the safety of children and vulnerable adults:

Central to the mission of St Mary's and St. Joseph's Parishes is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children, young people and vulnerable adults and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Parish Information

Parish Priest:

Fr. Darren Howie

Priests' Residence:

5 Buckley Street, Yarram.

Parish Office: 5182 5028

PO Box 59 Yarram, 3971

Email: yarram@cdsale.org.au

St Mary's Facebook Link: -

<https://fb.me/StMarysYarram>

St Joseph's Facebook Link: -

<https://fb.me/StJosephsFoster>

Parish Secretary

Bookkeeper

Janette Sampson

Bulletin Notices: By Thursday

yarram@cdsale.org.au

Office Hours:

To Be Advised

Safeguarding Officers

Yarram-

Foster- Richard Denbrok

Maintenance Personnel

Yarram - Eugen Benc:

51891203

Foster -

Sick Calls or Communion to the Sick:

5182 5028 or
Leave a message, with your name and contact number as well as details of the person who is ill. (for clarity please repeat message).

Baptisms:

At least 4 weeks notice please.

Weddings:

At least 6 months notice please.

St. Mary's Primary School:

Principal:

Mrs Maria Moore 5182 5659



27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's second reading contains one of Christianity's most exalted hymns of praise of Christ. Paul offered this magnificent vision of Christ's self-emptying as a stirring incentive for the Philippians' own attitudes of mind and heart. The message that Paul is preaching here is unity within the church. The basis for Paul's appeal for unity is fourfold: the Christians' common experience of Christ; the love that Christ has shown them; their communion in the Spirit; and the compassion and mercy of Christ. After exhorting the Philippians to live in such unity, Paul offers Christ as their model. He describes Jesus' humiliation (vv. 6-8) and his exaltation by God (vv.9-11). The exaltation of Christ is as glorious as his humiliation was debasing. Jesus tells a story about two sons. The first one refuses to obey his father, a serious breach in patriarchal kinship behaviour. However, he repents and eventually obeys his father. The second son does not disrespect his father with refusal, but neither does he obey him. Jesus asks his adversaries to interpret the law: Which son did the father's will? Without knowing it, they condemned themselves with their own answer. In a paradoxical fashion, Jesus tells them that sinners will enter the kingdom of God before these who appear to be righteous. The story demonstrates how fidelity to God's will is more than a question of words; it is a matter of deeds. Jesus has tricked his opponents, thereby enhancing his own reputation in the minds of the people.

MASS TIMES September 28th - 4th October

Yarram

Tuesday 11: 00 am

Thursday 11:00 am

Friday - 10:00 am

SUNDAY — 11:00 am October 4th

Foster

Wednesday 11.00 am

SUNDAY- 9:00 am October 27th

Blessing of Homes.

If any parishioner would like their home blessed

Fr Darren can be contacted via the presbytery number or by email:

frdhowie@outlook.com

Date Claimer—Sunday November 15th 2026

On this day we will be celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in Gippsland at Tarraville in 1851 and the beginning of the Diocese of Sale. 11.00am Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Greg and Fr. Darren and will be followed by light refreshments in the St. Mary MacKillop Hall where Memorabilia will be displayed along with a short talk by John O'Callaghan, a lifelong member of our Parish.

Parishioners are asked to "Bring A Plate".

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - YARRAM

Fr. Darren Howie, Anne-Marie Robb (Chairperson) Maria Moore (Principal, Deputy Chairperson) Sue Benc, Jennifer Heeraman-Nieuwenhuizen, Prisca Gabiana

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SICK YARRAM

Sick Parishioners: John O'Callaghan, Loretta Clark, Kimberley McKenzie and all those we keep in our hearts.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Mosey Murphy, Peter Francis Vanderhinden, Ted Telling, Allan Griffith, Jack Shaw, Alice Ethel Pattinson, Hans Duivenvoorden, Barry Platt & Fr John Dunlea. **May they rest in peace.**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - FOSTER

Fr. Darren Howie, Sandra Stefani (Deputy Chairperson), Leanne Denbrok, John Denbrok (Youth Representative), Wilemina Low, Mandy Emanuel, Duilio Stefani, Terry Harrington

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SICK FOSTER

Sick Parishioners: Agnes Berden, Roz Bryan, Ken Vagg, Maria Pangrazzi, Frank Stefani, Kath Hurst, and all those we keep in our hearts.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: John Garvey, Michael Comrie, John Mastwyle, Don Cunningham, Nance McNeil, Tina Blancato, Henry James Prosser & Joe Hogan. **May they rest in peace**

Prayer to St Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy,
and courage,
and defend us from every evil.

Holy Hours for Vocations – Catholic Diocese of Sale

"A prayer today... A shepherd tomorrow..." Come and spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life across our diocese. Upcoming Dates: Sunday 11th October 2026 10:00 to 11:00 am (Followed by Mass) at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Foster.

Beyond the Wedding Threshold:

A Survey for Catholics in the First Decade of Marriage

The Australian Catholic Bishops are funding a study into the experience of married Catholics.

The results will help inform the development of pastoral responses and resources.

If you married in the last 10 years and at least one spouse is Catholic, they'd love to hear from you.

Can you provide valuable insights to their work by completing this short survey about your marriage?

<https://thepmrc.org/survey>

Yarram Combined Churches Community Dinner

Friday 2nd October, 5.30pm at Anglican Hall,



*Thank you to those making donations
God bless your generosity*

13/09/26 Planned Giving - \$1355.70 Presbytery Collection - \$455.35

Foster Church Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—527413354

Foster Presbytery Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—296638619



Next Weekend we celebrate the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi

The 800th anniversary, also called the **Centenary of the Transitus of St. Francis**, honors the passing of St. Francis in 1226 and reflects on his life, teachings, and enduring spiritual legacy. St. Francis is celebrated for his devotion to poverty, peace, and care for creation, and this milestone emphasizes his message of fraternity and reconciliation.

Pope Leo XIV proclaimed a **special Jubilee Year of St. Francis** from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, inviting Christians to follow St. Francis' example of holiness and peace. During this year, Catholics can obtain **plenary indulgences** by participating in pilgrimages, prayer, acts of charity, and spiritual reflection in the Franciscan spirit.

The anniversary encourages reflection on personal and communal holiness, inspired by St. Francis' life of simplicity, humility, and service.

Celebrate the Eighth Centenary of St Francis of Assisi with Bishop Greg Bennet on the Diocese of Sale Pilgrimage, **October 2–3**. Journey across Bairnsdale, Benambra, and Omeo for Transitus, Morning Prayer, a solemn Jubilee Mass, pet blessings, fellowship lunch, and concluding prayers. All parishioners are welcome. Visit cdsale.org.au/year-of-saint-francis-of-assisii for full information.



*Thank you to those making donations
God bless your generosity*

20/09/26 Planned Giving \$682.25 Presbytery Collection \$233.75

Yarram Church Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—527668496

Yarram Presbytery Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—157911099



Information about the Parish of Yarram and Foster
can be obtained from the Catholic Diocese of Sale website at www.cdsale.org.au

ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH: Would you like information about the Parish and our programs or know someone else who does? Please see our Priest today or fill in a Welcome Card which is available at the Church entrances.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK: Any parishioners who cannot attend Mass due to illness or frailty and would like to receive Communion and a visit from Fr Darren are asked to contact the Parish office on 5182 5028 and leave a detailed message of person's name and contact details. (For clarity please repeat message.)

PRAYING FOR THE SICK: If you have a loved one who would like to be included in the prayers for the sick, please let the office know for inclusion in the bulletin. Please also advise the office if you want a name removed.

YARRAM PARISH DIARY

MORNING TEA AFTER MASS: 18th October –

Finance Committee

EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT: Every Thursday
before 11.00am Mass

CHURCH WORKING BEE: TODAY

4th Sunday of every month (at 1.30pm).

FOSTER PARISH DIARY

FOSTER: Every Monday, 8.30am Rosary followed by
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion @ 9.00AM

FOSTER: Every Wednesday 10.30AM Rosary

PRAYER GROUP, FISH CREEK: Every Wednesday, 10.30am, in
Church. Prayers for the sick and dying, followed by Mass or
Liturgy at 11.00am.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER
2026: FOR MUTUAL COEXISTENCE.**

“that inspired by Saint Francis, we might
experience our interdependence with all creatures
who are loved by God and worthy of love and re-
spect.”

Blessing of Animals

October 4th, 2026, 2pm

St. Mary's Catholic Church Yarram

All welcome to bring any animal along.
Please ensure all animals are restrained.

Children to be accompanied by an adult.
Refreshments will be available after the service.

+++++

RCIA Program (Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults)

If anyone is interested in joining the RCIA, or learn
more about the Catholic Faith, please contact
Fr. Darren email darren.howie@cdsale.org.au

+++++

Join Palms International Volunteering for a
special session where you'll learn about our
[diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifica-
tions and time of life. Meet past volunteers
Wendy and Mick who will share their adven-
tures of life and laughter in PNG and Timor
Leste, leaving a lasting positive impact on
communities. Scan below to register or see

PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

Heavenly Father,
we place our trust in your loving hands!
We put our Parish under the
guidance of the Holy Spirit.
Bless each one of us with the grace to be
listening and accepting people.
May we work together in joyful hope,
and faithfully give witness
to your presence with us.
St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop Pray for us.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Pray for us.
Amen

PARISH ROSTER—YARRAM

27th September

Commentator L Giliberto
Reader A M Robb
Special Minister J Allgood
Counting M & P Harkin

4th October

Commentator M Harkin
Reader Paul McAninly
Special Minister S Telling
Counting M & S Telling

PARISH ROSTER—FOSTER

27th September

Commentator Richard
Reader Teresa
Special Minister Catherina

4th October

Commentator Maree
Reader Mandy
Special Minister Fieke

FISH CREEK

26th September 6.00pm MASS

Reader Sandra Stefani

4th October 6.00 pm MASS

Reader Bianca Stefani

TOORA

26th September 4:30 pm MASS

(on rotation) J Moysey & W Lowe

4th October 4.30pm MASS

(on rotation) J Moysey & W Lowe

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philip-
pians

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

