

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



4TH OCTOBER 2026

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

Paul offers the Philippians encouragement in the face of anxiety (vv. 6-7); and an exhortation to ethical living after Paul's own example (vv. 8-9). Though he admonishes them to turn to God in prayer, he does not suggest that prayer is a magical exercise that will right every wrong. It is an openness to God, which itself can help people bear trying circumstances. Paul then assures them that if they surrender their anxiety, they will know God's peace. Paul then provides directives for judging the worthiness of things. Here he interprets the moral philosophy of the day from the perspective of his own Christian worldview. Finally, he offers his own life as the example after which they are to model their lives.

Jesus challenges the leaders with another vineyard parable. Here the owner planted the vineyard, built the protection around it, and constructed the winepress to be used at the time of vintage. After all of the hard work was done, he leased it to tenants who had only to care for the vines until the grapes were ready for the press. Leaving the country, he acted as an absentee landlord. The scene is set for the drama to unfold. Jesus probably intended an allegorical interpretation of this parable, one that would be understood clearly by his audience. They must have known that the parable highlighted their own resistance to God. They must have realised that whatever judgment they might suggest would fall on their heads as well.

MASS TIMES 5th - 11th October

Yarram

Foster

Tuesday 11:00 am

Wednesday 11:00 am

Thursday 11:00 am

Friday - 10:00 am

SUNDAY — 9:00 am October 11th

SUNDAY- 11:00 am October 11th

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 a Memorabilia will be displayed along with a short talk by John O'Callaghan, a lifelong member of our Parish.

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: Pat Daly, Greg Foat, June Beavis, Reinhart Weber, Doreen Toner, Desmond Murphy, Betty O'Neil, Colleen Beigin, Kath Syme, Brenda McCrae, Phillippa Moore & Frank Purgar . **May they rest in peace.**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - FOSTER

Fr. Darren Howie, Sandra Stefani (Deputy Chairperson), Leanne Denbroski, John Denbroski (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: Bill Petersen. **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.



Pat Doran Farewell

October 11th after 11:00 am Mass

Pat Doran has been a great contributor to our parish over many years. Come to celebrate and say farewell to our beloved Pat who shortly will be moving to Western Australia to be with her daughter.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Throughout October, our parish joins with **Shine a Light** to raise awareness and stand in solidarity against Domestic and Family Violence. **Shine A Light** is a Sale Diocese program, developed with Catholic Social Services Victoria, enabling Parish communities to equip themselves with knowledge, tools and a deeper understanding of how to recognise and appropriately respond to family and domestic violence. You can learn more at: www.cdsale.org.au/sal

In this first week, our reflection focuses on "**Nurturing Good Fruit**," inspired by this Sunday's Gospel. Just as a well-tended vineyard yields a rich harvest, we are each invited to cultivate kindness, mutual support, and dignity within our homes and parish family. When we nurture one another with patience and care, we build a community where everyone can truly thrive.



Thank you to those making donations
God bless your generosity

20/09/26 Planned Giving - \$636.70 Presbytery Collection - \$286.20

Foster Church Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—527413354

Foster Presbytery Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—296638619

Thank you to those making donations
God bless your generosity

27/09/26 Planned Giving \$246.50 Presbytery Collection \$195.75

Yarram Church Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—527668496

Yarram Presbytery Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—157911099

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SALE HOLY HOURS FOR VOCATIONS

2026

OCTOBER 11TH
HOLY HOUR - 10.00 - 11.00 AM
Followed by
MASS 11.00 AM
ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, FOSTER

OCTOBER 31ST
9:30 AM MASS
& HOLY HOUR
ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, PAKENHAM

MORE DATES TO FOLLOW...

*A prayer today...
A shepherd
tomorrow...*



The LAMP Youth Festival—Faith in Action: All youth and young adults aged 13 to 30 are warmly invited to the upcoming LAMP Youth Festival, themed "*Faith in Action: Change Starts with You.*" Join us for a full day of games, dance, food, Adoration, Reconciliation, and Mass. Date: Sat, 21st Nov, Time: 11am – 5 pm, at St Michael's School Stadium, Berwick. Age: 13-30 years. Please bring two or more non-perishable food items. All collections directly support the John Mc Foundation Inc.



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 OCTOBER 2026: For mental health ministry.

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

RCIA Program (Rite of Christian 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

Commissioning of Lay Leaders of the Liturgy of the Word in the absence of a priest.

Foster: October 11th at the 11: 00 am Mass

Yarram: October 18th at the 11: 00 am Mass

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

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

Date: Monday 19 October 2026

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm AEDT

02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au

PARISH ROSTER—YARRAM

4th October

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

11th October

Commentator M Telling
Reader J Allgood
Special Minister M Harkin
Counting M Giliberto, Volunteer

PARISH ROSTER—FOSTER

4th October

Commentator Maree
Reader Mandy
Special Minister Fieke

11th October

Commentator Des
Reader Barry
Special Minister Richard

FISH CREEK

4th October 6.00 pm MASS

Reader Bianca Stefani

11th October 6.00pm MASS

Reader Nadia Stefani

TOORA

4th October 4.30pm MASS

(on rotation) J Moysey & W Lowe

11th October 4:30 pm MASS

(on rotation) J Moysey & W Lowe

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,
and planted choice vines in it.
In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.
He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.
What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done?
I expected it to yield grapes.
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.
I will command the clouds
to rain no rain on it.
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the House of Israel,
and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. (R.)
2. Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field. (R.)
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
4. And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your

thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders
that became the keystone.
This was the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

