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

Including St. Gerard Woodside • St. Agnes Toora • Immaculate Conception Fish Creek

PARISH NEWSLETTER • 1st NOVEMBER 2026

All Saints

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. 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.

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.

MASS TIMES

YARRAM
Monday 8:30 am Holy Souls
Blessing of Graves at Yarram Cemetery
Tuesday 11:00 am
Thursday 11:00 am
Friday 10:00 am
Saturday TOORA 4:30 pm
Sunday – 9:00 am November 8th

FOSTER
Wednesday 11:00 am

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 am November 8th
Cuppa after Mass

Scripture Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we celebrate the memory of all the baptised who have gone before us and whose lives were virtuous. The saints of God are all those who have been baptised into Christ, who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. We all know people whose lives were steeped in genuine holiness. The life of every one of us has been blessed by their goodness. This is a day for us to remember and to celebrate their holiness. We celebrate the lives of all those who have been marked with the sign of faith, those who have been canonised by the church, those whom we have known personally as well as those whose names we do not know.

In the beatitudes listed in today's gospel we are given examples of what it means to live lives of holiness. This gospel really does not present a blueprint for holiness. Rather, it offers a series of snapshots that demonstrate the holiness that is ours by virtue of our baptism. Those who have gone before us lived such lives. Today, as we remember them, we hold up their lives as examples of holiness and models for our imitation. The sentiments that are expressed and the commitment that it illustrated in the beatitudes clearly stand in opposition to the standards of the world. Their radicality may be more than some can understand, but they are traits that are recognisable by those who belong to the family of God, for they are genuine godly traits.

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



PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Priest
Fr. Darren Howie
Presbytery: 5 Buckley St, Yarram
Email: frdhowie@outlook.com

Parish Office
Parish Bookkeeper: Janette Sampson
Phone: (03) 5182 5028
PO Box 59, Yarram VIC 3971
Email: yarram@cdsale.org.au
Bulletin Deadline: Thursday

Pastoral Care & Sacraments
Sick Calls / Communion: (03) 5182 5028 (leave clear message)
Baptisms: Min. 4 weeks notice
Weddings: Min. 6 months notice
RCIA: Contact Fr. Darren

Safeguarding & Maintenance
Safeguarding: Foster - Richard Denbrok
Maintenance Yarram: Eugen Benc (5189 1203)

St. Mary's Primary School
Principal: Mrs Maria Moore
Phone: (03) 5182 5659

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - YARRAM

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

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 – YARRAM

Sick Parishioners: John O'Callaghan, Loretta Clark, Kimberley McKenzie and all those we keep in our hearts.
Recently Deceased: Kenneth Joseph Carr
Anniversaries: Carmen Cappelluto, Clem Collin, Tony Wirken, Bill Smith, Ted Nippard, Katherine Cockerell & Fr Francis Maloney SDB. **May they rest in peace.**

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: Michael Kelly & Kevin Dempsey. **May they rest in peace**

DIOCESE OF SALE WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST!

Expressions of Interest for the upcoming Diocese of Sale pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea will officially open on Monday 26th October!

We are now calling for all interested young people aged 16 to 35 years old to submit their Expression of Interest to be either a pilgrim OR small group leader.

Head to the Diocese of Sale World Youth Day website for all up-to-date information and the link to the form: cdsale.org.au/world-youth-day-seoul

For questions, please email WYD Project Officer, Tishan Lokuge (tlokuge@doscel.catholic.edu.au)

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: Saturday, 21st November **Time:** 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Lunch provided) **Location:** St Michael's School Stadium, 125 High St, Berwick VIC 3806 **Age Group:** 13 – 30 years old **Donation Drive:** Please bring two or more non-perishable food items. All collections directly support the John Mc Foundation Inc.

Come and Be Filled: CCR Day of Renewal with Bishop Greg

Are you spiritually exhausted, seeking deeper/inner peace, or longing for a fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit? Come and join us for a powerful day of prayer, praise, and transformation at this year's Renewal Day with Bishop Greg.
Our theme is: "Come and Be Filled," inspired by Jesus' Beatitude: *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."* (Matthew 5:6).
Come empty and leave overflowing with God's grace, love, and spiritual gifts.
Date: Saturday, 14th November 2026

- **Time:** 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM
- **Venue:** St Michael's Church Traralgon

Featuring:

- Uplifting praise and worship, inspiring teachings and testimonies, Holy Mass and Adoration, Individual prayer ministry for in-filling, healing, and empowerment

Bring a friend, an open heart, and a hunger for more of God!
For more information, please contact Cathy (Traralgon Prayer Group Leader: 0432588195); Lindsay (Diocesan CCR Chair: 0432375391); or Anushka (Diocesan CCR Sec: 0436961111).

175 Years of Faith & Heritage in Yarram – You're Invited!

Join the Catholic Parish of Yarram in celebrating 175 years of Catholic life across Gippsland.

Bishop Greg Bennet will join Fr Darren Howie and diocesan clergy to celebrate a special Anniversary Mass at **11:00 am on Sunday, 15 November 2026** at St Mary's Catholic Church, Commercial Road, Yarram.

Following Mass, all are welcome in the St Mary MacKillop Hall for light refreshments, a brief local history talk, an exhibition of historical memorabilia, and school tours.

RSVP: Please email Sue Benc at suebenc57@gmail.com with any dietary requirements.

More Details: https://tinyurl.com/5n77pu6y

RCIA Program (Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults): The RCIA program will begin on the 8th of November. Contact Fr Darren via email at darren.howie@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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We invite everyone to come together to celebrate Christmas as Parish on Wednesday 9th December. Mass at 11.00 at Foster followed by lunch at the Exchange Hotel, Foster starting at 12.00. R.S.V.P John 0490340362 or Richard 0407505007

YARRAM PARISH DIARY

MORNING TEA AFTER MASS: 15th November. Anniversary light lunch in Mary MacKillop Hall

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

CHURCH WORKING BEE: 4th Sunday of every month at 1.30pm.

FOSTER PARISH DIARY

Every Monday, 8.30am Rosary followed by Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion @ 9.00AM
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**.**4th Sunday of every month at 1.30pm.

PARISH ROSTER—YARRAM

1ST November
Commentator S Telling
Reader L Giliberto
Special Minister P McAninly
Counting M & S Telling

8th November
Commentator P Gabiana
Reader M Harkin
Special Minister J Allgood
Counting M Giliberto, Volunteer

PARISH ROSTER—FOSTER

1st November
Commentator Terry
Reader Lillian
Special Minister Fieke

8th November
Commentator Lillian
Reader Richard
Special Minister Maree

FISH CREEK

31st October 6.00pm MASS
Reader Nadia Stefani
7th November 6.00 pm MASS
Reader Bianca Stefani

TOORA
31st October 4.30pm MASS
(on rotation) J Moysey & W Lowe

7th November 4:30 pm MASS
(on rotation) J Moysey & W Lowe

nab

FOSTER

Thank you to those making donations
God bless your generosity
18/10/26 Planned Giving - $508.90
Presbytery Collection - $385.90

Foster Church Account
NAB—BSB 083-879
Account No—527413354

Foster Presbytery Account
NAB—BSB 083-879
Account No—296638619

nab

YARRAM

Thank you to those making donations
God bless your generosity
25/10/26 Planned Giving $389.50
Presbytery Collection $220.20

Yarram Church Account
NAB—BSB 083-879
Account No—527668496

Yarram Presbytery Account
NAB—BSB 083-879
Account No—157911099

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Revelation

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.
1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

SECOND READING *1 John*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.
Surely everyone who entertains this hope
must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened,
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

