

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 centered 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

Priest 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



18TH OCTOBER 2026

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the First letter to the Thessalonians, Paul writes in his own name and in the names of two missionary companions, Silvanus and Timothy. He tells the Thessalonians how grateful the missionaries are for their fidelity to the gospel that was preached to them. Theirs is an active faith, one that produces fruits, especially love. Having praised them, Paul reminds the Thessalonians of the circumstances of their conversion. They accepted the gospel though his preaching, but also through the power of the Holy Spirit. They had the example of the missionaries to strengthen them, but it was divine power that grounded them. Though spiritual children of Paul and his companions, they really belong to God. The issue in the gospel reading is the possibility of being faithful both to God and to a secular state. The Pharisees did not approve of Gentile rule over the Jewish people. The Herodians, on the other hand, were Roman loyalists. The Zealots vehemently opposed the occupation, while many others had made their peace with it and sometimes even benefited from it. Roman taxation was an issue that could easily cause people to take sides. It was with this very issue that the Pharisees hoped to ensnare Jesus, but Jesus outwits them. Besides exonerating himself from possible political or religious reproach, Jesus' response suggests that one can indeed be loyal to both a religious tradition and a secular power.

MASS TIMES 19th - 25th October

Yarram

Tuesday 11: 00 am

Thursday 11:00 am

Friday - 10:00 am

Saturday TOORA 4:30 pm

SUNDAY — 9:00 am October 25th

Foster

Wednesday 11.00 am

FISH CREEK 6:00 pm

SUNDAY- 11:00 am October 25th

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: Stanley Thornton, Margaret Turnbull, Fred Hughson, Richard Marshall, Maureen Were, Ron Hunter & Sr. Winifred Mahoney. **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: Tom Taylor, Patricia May Turner, Wand Piorka & Bryan Dempsey. **May they rest in peace.**

Catholic Mission – World Mission Day

This week, you are invited to partner with Catholic Mission and the Church in Malawi as we support families rebuilding after devastating floods and help children access education close to home.

Through projects like St Peter's Nyamikuta Primary School, the Church is creating a place where children can learn, be nourished, and grow with dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs.

As we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Day, we are reminded by Pope Leo XIV that we are 'One in Christ, United in Mission'. Join with us in celebration and action by supporting this work with a compassionate gift. Use the provided appeal envelope, scan the QR code, or visit

catholicmission.org.au/united to make a difference today.

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.
Amen.



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

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

175 YEARS

15th November at 11.00am Mass

Come celebrate 11.00am Mass with
Bishop Greg and Father Darren.

Light refreshments at
St. Mary MacKillop Hall to follow with
A chance to hear about the history of our faith.
Parishioners to bring a plate please.

If you are attending or can help in any way, call
Sue Benc on 0428 891 203
or return the flyer on your seat to the Church with your name
and contact number.
R.S.V.P. by Friday 6th November.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

As our October journey with the Shine a Light initiative continues, we keep our focus firmly on nurturing safety, dignity, and genuine care throughout our community. You can learn more at: www.cdsale.org.au/sal

This week, our theme invites us to
"Shine on the World Like Bright
Stars," echoing this Sunday's Gospel
acclamation. The gospel reminds us
to give to God what belongs to God,
Christ calls us to honour the divine
image stamped upon every human being. When we reflect God's love through integrity, empathy, and positive action, our lives shine like beacons of hope—showing what it truly means to uplift, protect, and respect one another.



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

04/10/26 Planned Giving - \$473.00 Presbytery Collection - \$500.60

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*



11/10/26 Planned Giving \$556.70 Presbytery Collection \$259.30

Yarram Church Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—527668496

Yarram Presbytery Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—157911099



Information about the Parishes 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.



For a century, one Sunday in October has invited Catholics to look beyond the boundaries of their own parish, diocese and country and remember something fundamental: we belong to a Church without borders. This year, that invitation carries particular significance.

More information: tinyurl.com/53ad2h2v

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

RCIA Program (Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults)

If anyone is interested in joining the RCIA , or learning 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 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

PARISH ROSTER—YARRAM

18th October

Commentator A M Robb
Reader M Harkin
Special Minister K Foat
Counting M & P Harkin

25th October

Commentator J Allgood
Reader R Irving
Special Minister L Giliberto
Counting J Papworth, P McAninly

PARISH ROSTER—FOSTER

18th October

Commentator Teresa
Reader Terry
Special Minister Maree

25th October

Commentator John
Reader Maree
Special Minister Catherina

FISH CREEK

17th SOctober 6.00pm MASS
Reader Mary Scott

24th October 6.00 pm MASS
Reader Sandra Stefani

TOORA

17th October 4.30pm MASS
(on rotation) J Moysey & W Lowe

24th October 4:30 pm MASS
(on rotation) J Moysey & W Lowe

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know
me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the
setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church
in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and
peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank
God for you all, and constantly remember before
God our Father how you have shown your faith in
action, worked for love and persevered through

hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that
you have been chosen, because when we
brought the Good News to you, it came to you
not only as words, but as power and as the Holy
Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The Pharisees went away to work out between
them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And
they sent their disciples to him, together with the
Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you
are an honest man and teach the way of God in
an honest way, and that you are not afraid of
anyone, because a man's rank means nothing
to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissi-
ble to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus
was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hyp-
ocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me
see the money you pay the tax with.' They hand-
ed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is
this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He
then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Cae-
sar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what
belongs to God.'

