



LAVERTON ALTONA MEADOWS POINT COOK

OCTOBER NEWS LETTER

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and that the season of Spring is seen as sign of hope and new life. As we heard on September 19th the Premier gave us a look at the road map out of lockdown and restriction. I look forward to when we can gather together for Sunday Mass, when we can see, pray and laugh with each other once again.

Like you I have found this current lockdown difficult and I long to be able to gather in prayer with you, as we journey towards the roadmap date of 5th November for public worship. I am very thankful for all those who over the last two years have asked how I am going, your concern and care for me has been greatly appreciated. With November comes the celebration of daily Mass, a return to celebrating the many Baptism that have been postponed as well the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Eucharist that have also been postponed during the year. These are moments of joy.

Deacon Joseph Nguyen

Joseph was due to be ordained to the Priesthood on September 11th, but like many other ceremonies and family celebrations it had to be postponed. It is hoped that Joseph will be ordained in November sometime. It has been good to have Joseph living in the Presbytery, his company and he is a good cook.

School Communities

I have been impressed by the way our schools have managed both the sharing of faith and learning over these weeks of remote learning, they are to be commended. I know our children are looking forward to going back to school.

Queen of Peace Garden along Everingham Road

During this time we have been able to continue with some ongoing maintenance and refurbishment. Recently the garden along Everingham Rd was renewed, incorporating the school crest that celebrated the 25th anniversary of the school. That crest along with family names was in the garden bed near the church. The bricks with the names on them have been kept and will soon be put in a suitable place in the refurbished front garden bed. Photos below.





Next step in the Refurbishment of St Martin de Porres Church

Over that last few years some much needed refurbishment works have been undertaken at St Martin's. Being a fifty year old building there following has needed to be done.

- replacement of heating and cooling as what was there was inadequate or broken,
- new toilets,
- updated sound system,
- the replacement of the windows up along the wall to safety standards,
- the replacement of the roof and guttering which was beginning to rust and cause flooding near the doors into the small carpark,
- second hand pews were given to us from the Parish of Glenroy.
- Refurbishment of the Tabernacle that was given to us from the Parish of Meredith
- Altar that the Tabernacle stands on came from the closing of the Church at Mount Moriac.
- All of these works were necessary if we wanted the building safe and to meet current safety standards required. There is still a bit of work to be done on the exterior, small carpark and interior of the Church.

A number of years ago a parishioner donated some money to be used for the Church. After a meeting with our builder and finance committee it has been decided to proceed with the refurbishment of the interior of the Church. Work will begin in the next few weeks. The sanctuary at St Martin's currently looks like this.



What will this work involve?

- The pouring of new concrete slab for the sanctuary area, replacing the rickety wood platform we currently have.
- Tiling of the sanctuary floor
- Replacing the doors either side of the back wall with windows to allow more light into the Church
- Cleaning and painting of the sanctuary wall
- Plastering of the front walls
- Sanding and restraining our current altar furniture
- The purchase of a new sanctuary lamp
- The creation of suitable devotional area on either side of the altar for Our Lady and St Martin
- A designated space for the baptismal font
- Re carpeting the remainder of the church
- Painting of the interior walls

I am excited about the new look that will enhance our worship and prayer.

I am looking for someone who would be interested in sanding down the altar and lectern and re staining them for us. I am also looking for someone who is or may know a professional tiler who may be able to help lay the tiles on the new sanctuary. Please contact the parish office if you or you know of someone who can help us.

Columban Calendars

If you would like a Columban Calendar for 2022 please either email or phone (laverton@cam.org.au or 9369 6877) the parish office with your name and we will set one aside for you. The cost of the calendar is \$10, payment can be made when you collect your calendar.



Stewardship Program

Our faith and our family lives have been continually challenged, but here is hope that as we journey towards Christmas our families will be able to gather and we will be able to gather in faith.

Like our faith and family lives our steps in maintaining the financial support of our Parish have also been challenged.

Please know that I am very thankful for your ongoing financial support, especially during these days of lockdown and restrictions. Your generosity has enabled us to minister and meet our financial commitments.

The impact of lockdown has meant that both in 2020 and 2021 we have had to cancel three times our planned Stewardship (Envelopes) Program. This accounts for the disruption in ordering new envelopes.

Our fourth attempt at a Stewardship Program has been booked for March 2022. With the completion of that program new envelopes will begin in mid-April 2022.

To put it in another away.

October 2021
First week of November 2021
Early April 2022

your current set of envelopes
Envelopes 7th November 2021 to 10th April 2022
A new set of envelopes after the Stewardship Program

Month of October

During the month of October parishioners would normally gather each evening at Queen of Peace Church to pray the rosary, with the current restrictions this is not possible. Restrictions do not stop us from praying the rosary. As a part of this newsletter I include 2 ways in which we can be united in prayer during the month of October, the Month of the Rosary.

Firstly, on our webpage each week over the month of October a reflective praying of the rosary will be recorded and placed on the webpage for you to listen to and pray along with. Week one Joyful Mysteries, Week Two Sorrowful Mysteries, Week Three Luminous Mysteries and Week Four Glorious. Sunday 31st October is the last day of the month long prayer of the Rosary, on that day the Rosary will be prayed before the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction will be recorded for all to watch and pray on our webpage. Check the webpage for the uploading of the rosary on each Friday during October.

Secondly, praying the rosary at home. As a part of this newsletter I have attached a litany of Mary of Nazareth and a Scriptural Reflection on the Rosary. I invite us to find some time either each day or when possible to pray the rosary. You might like to contact your family or friends inviting them to pray the rosary with you at the same time in their homes.

This praying of the Rosary over the month of October is a way in which we can be united in prayer across the parish.

Rosary resources

LITANY OF MARY OF NAZARETH



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- + Glory to you, God our creator...Breathe into us new life, new meaning.
- + Glory to you, God our saviour...Lead us in the way of peace and justice.
- + Glory to you, healing spirit...Transform us to empower others."

Mary, wellspring of peace...
Model of strength...
Model of gentleness...
Model of trust...
Model of courage...
Model of patience...
Model of risk...

Be our guide.
Be our guide.
Be our guide.
Be our guide.
Be our guide.
Be our guide.
Be our guide.

Model of openness...	Be our guide.
Model of perseverance...	Be our guide.
Model of discipleship	Be our guide.

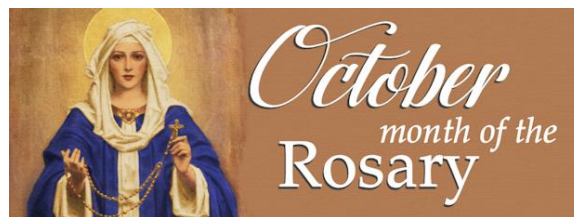
Mother of the homeless...	Pray for us.
Mother of the dying..	Pray for us.
Widowed mother...	Pray for us.
Mother of joy	Pray for us

Woman of mercy..	Empower us..
Woman of faith...	Empower us.
Woman of contemplation...	Empower us.
Woman of vision...	Empower us
Woman of wisdom and understanding...	Empower us.
Woman of grace and truth...	Empower us.
Women, pregnant with hope...	Empower us.
Woman, centred in God...	Empower us

Mary of Nazareth inspire us to model our family, our community on your way of living, that we may be truly focused on the needs of others and live the Gospel as

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SCRIPUAL REFLECTION OF THE ROSARY



As you pray each mystery you are invited to let the Scripture help you focus on the life of Mary and Jesus. Read the passage of scripture and as you pray each Hail Mary let the images of that passage speak to you heart and prompt your reflection

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation *Isaiah 7:13-14 – listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary men, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.*

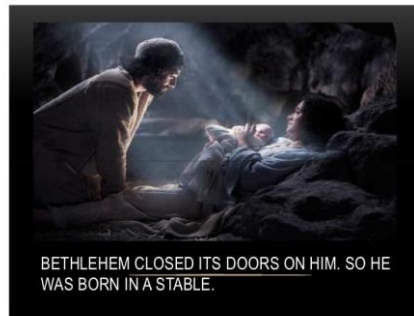
The word Emmanuel means our God is with us. As you pray this mystery call to mind how God is with you and give thanks.

The Visitation *Luke 1 39-41, 46-48 – During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child in her womb leaped for joy.....Mary said, “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he looked on his lowly servant and from now on all generations will call me blessed.”*

As you pray this mystery call to mind those moments God has blessed you and like Mary rejoice

The Birth of Jesus *Luke 2:6-7 – While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn*

As you pray this mystery call to mind how our God came amongst us as one of us, born in humble beginnings, a reminder that He walks with his people.



The Presentation of Jesus in the temple.

Luke 2:27-32 – Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God. “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples, a light for the revelation of the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

As you pray this mystery recall those moments you have seen God in your life and give thanks.

The Finding of Jesus in the temple

2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14 – The Lord spoke to Nathan and said: ‘Go tell my servant David..... I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins....It is he who shall build a house for my name. And I will make his royal thorn firm forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me.’

As you pray this mystery contemplate the fact that we are God’s sons and daughters and like Jesus we are called to do the Father’s will.

The Luminous Mysteries

The Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:16-17 – After Jesus had been baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. A voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

As you pray this mystery call to mind that at your baptism God was well pleased you. How have you lived out being his son or daughter?

The Wedding at Cana

Isaiah 55:1-3 – All you who are thirsty come to the water! You who have no money come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk!.... You shall delight in rich fare.... I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured by David.

Recall those moments especially during Covid that the Lord has nourished you through the kind word or act of another and give thanks.

The proclamation of the Kingdom of God by Jesus

Matthew 5:3 – Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs in the kingdom of heaven.

Being poor in spirit is seen as our dependence on God. Do we trust that God will lead and guide us? As you pray this mystery reflect on how your poverty of spirit enables you to trust in God.

The Transfiguration

Matthew 17:2, 5 – He was transfigured before them, his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.....Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”

How freely do we listen to the voice of God? As you pray this mystery I invite you to reflect on that question asking God to give you a listening heart.

The Institution of the Eucharist

John 15:5,9 – “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in them will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.... As the father loves me, so do I love you... Remain in my love,.....keep my commandments. The Eucharist nourishes our daily lives and through that nourishment we are called to love as Jesus did, to keep his command to love God and our neighbour. As you pray this mystery reflect on how have you loved that command to love God and your neighbour?



The Sorrowful Mysteries

The agony in the garden

Mark 14:32,33,38-40 – They came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took with Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed....”Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing. Then he returned once more and found them asleep. They could not keep their eyes open.

As you reflect on this mystery let us ask Jesus to help us to be awake to his presence that surrounds us.

The scourging at the pillar

Mark 14:64-65 – Caiphas asked, “What do you think?” They all condemned him as deserving die. Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him and struck him and said to him, “Prophesy!” And the guards greeted him with blows.

As we pray this mystery we place before Jesus and Mary those Christians who will be persecuted today because of their faith.

The crowning with thorns

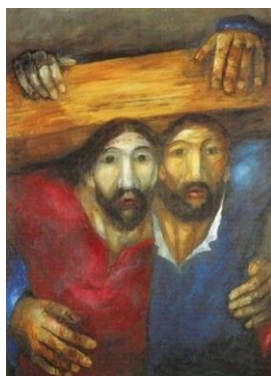
Matthew 27:29-31 – Weaving a crown of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. Kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail King of the Jews!” They spat on him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off.

Jesus is hailed a King, but a king of service and love. As you pray this mystery invite Jesus and Mary to guide us as models of service.

The carrying of the Cross

Luke 23:26 – As they led him away they took hold of a man called Simon; a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross in him, they made him carry it behind Jesus.

Let us call to mind those family and friends who have helped us carry our cross in life and give thanks.



The crucifixion *John 19:28-30 – Jesus said, “I thirst.” There was a vessel filled with vinegar. They put a sponge soaked in the wine on a hyssop stick and put it to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.”*

Let us pause for a moment of silence and then when praying this mystery give thanks for our God who loved us so much that he gave his life on the cross.

The Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection *Matthew 28:5-7 – The angel said to the woman, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said..... Go tell his disciples.....he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.*

As you pray this mystery let us affirm our faith in the Risen Lord who invites us to be people of the resurrection, people of light and hope.

The Ascension *Acts 1:8-9 – “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.*

As you pray this mystery invite Mary to inspire you to be a witnesses to the presence of God in our world, in our your life.

The descent of the Holy Spirit *Acts 2:3-4 – Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which rested on each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.*

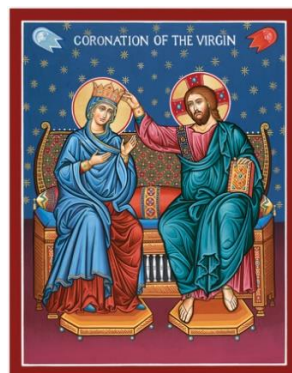
As you pray this mystery ask that the Spirit may rest upon you so that you too may proclaim his word.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary *Mary is taken up to heaven, and the angels of God shout for joy.*

Let us pray this mystery rejoicing in the gift the Blessed Virgin Mary is to us as a model of faith, prayer and openness to God in her life.

The crowing of Mary Queen of heaven and earth *Genesis 3:14-15,20 – Then the Lord God to the serpent: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers. He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.”.....She will become the mother of all the living.*

As queen and mother we bring this mystery to a close by turning to Mary and placing ourselves, or family and friends in her loving arms.



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Wishing you the best as we journey these last few weeks of lockdown. If you do need any help please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office.

Let us look with joy as we anticipate our gathering together once again as a family of faith. *Fr John*