



St Mary's Parish

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"The Parish of Saint Mary's is committed to the safety, well being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults".

"Though many we are one."

One in faith and one in the Gospel values of hospitality and welcome, compassion and justice.



From the desk of the Parish Priest Fr Declan

It is especially painful to hear the Gospel speak of families being broken up because of Jesus. But this is less a prophecy or an expression of God's will than a description of the Church's very real experience from the time the Gospels were being written down to our own day.

In many countries, both Christian individuals and Christian communities are seen as a threat to governments, various power groups and other religious groups. We saw this in practically every Communist regime during the 20th century: the Soviet Union, the East European satellites, China and Vietnam. And these governments had reason to fear even though Stalin mockingly asked once how many divisions the Pope had. Yet it was the faith of Christians, who, without firing a shot (Stalin was right), was significantly instrumental in the collapse of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe.

Yet, in the long history of the Church, how many families have suffered because members became Christians? Most of us – especially those who have lived in non-Christian or anti-Christian societies – probably have met someone who was rejected by their family for becoming an active Christian. And, not infrequently, persecution comes even from other Christians, from within the Church itself.

It is significant in the First Reading that Jeremiah is dumped into a cistern not by outsiders but by his own people who did not like the message from God that he was bringing. And how many people realise that there have been more martyrs for the faith in the supposedly advanced and civilised 20th century than in all the preceding centuries!

The Christian message is non-violent. It brings love, compassion, harmony, peace. It brings people together so that there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave or free, male or female... But it also of its nature challenges injustice, corruption, discrimination, abuse, dishonesty and all attacks on human dignity. The role of the evangeliser is "to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable."

Vested interests – the rich, the powerful inside and outside the Church – will do anything to keep what they have. When the Church preaches and lives the Gospel, conflict is inevitable – even though in no way wished or intended.

So, in one way, religion should never divide (as in Northern Ireland). It is only a false Christianity and religion that deliberately creates division ("them and us"). It is not Christianity or any other religion as such which has brought so much suffering but certain people who call themselves "Christians" (or Muslims, Hindus or Jews).

At the same time, true Christianity in defending truth, justice, human dignity and freedom will inevitably meet opposition and be attacked. The passage which says that the peace-makers are blessed also says that those who are persecuted in the name of the Gospel are equally blessed. Strangely enough, both go together.

Please Note : Next Wednesday 23rd August there will be no Mass only

Word and Communion Service

Parish Council Profile



Name: Tina Congues

Family: Married with two children

Lives: Dandenong

Parish: Part of the Parish Community for 24 years. Active in the Parish for 11 years. Parish Council for 1 year. Eucharistic Minister for 2 years. School Community for 6 years.

Hobbies: I enjoy Gardening and Reading. Going for walks either around cityscapes or in the bush. Spending time with my family and friends.

Since becoming a Eucharistic Minister and part of the Council I have met new members of the Parish community and are broadening my friendship group in the Church.

Heavenly Father,

*We pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.
We ask that you may grant them the grace to endure their trials and receive*

the reward of their faithfulness.

Show us how to care for those at the end of life with loving patience.

We pray for all doctors, nurses and care givers who answer the call to serve You in the sick and dying.

May they be strengthened to continue to use their gifts in the service of life.

We pray for our law and policy makers, may they always seek to serve the common good and respect the dignity of all, especially the most vulnerable.

We pray for the freedom of all to act in accordance with their conscience.

*We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.
Mary, Mother of all, pray for us!*

Inquiry for R.C.I.A.

For those wishing to become a catholic or if you know of someone interested in becoming a catholic please contact Deacon George at the Parish Office 9791-4611 before the start of the first session which will be on Sunday 5th November.

Join in the Chorus...

Join us at The Open Door for a fun and entertaining SING-A-LONG. We invite you to learn a new song or two, or join in with some favourite oldies. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to join in the chorus and make new friends. We welcome all skill levels and none.

When: Friday 25 August

Time: 1.30pm – 2.30pm (followed by a cuppa til 3pm)

Where: The Open Door

110 Ann Street, Dandenong

Suggested Donation: Gold coin

For more details call Trish or Jo 9791 8664



Parish Calendar 2017

Tuesday, 22nd August	Outreach Meeting
Wednesday, 6th Sept	Catechetical classes start
Tuesday, 12th Sept	Baptism meeting
16th & 17th Sept	Father Declan's Farewell

The Regulars

Daily Rosary: After morning Mass (except Sunday)
Tuesdays: Centering prayer meditation at The Open Door, 7pm

3rd Wednesday: **Friendship Club**
lunch at Dandenong RSL
1st Sunday: **Hospitality Sunday ~Cuppa's**
(Commencing February)

3rd Sunday: **Presentation of Baptism candidates** at 10.30am Mass
Youth Group after 5.30 Mass
4th Sunday: **Baptism at 10.30 Mass**

***The Open Door** is part of the St John of God Ministries,
110 Ann Street Dandenong 9791 8664

This weekend we pray for

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Jack Chandra, Faye Whetton,
Stanley Jayasinghe

Sick: Bernadine Anthony, Melissa Warren, Hayley Pearson,
Faye Cronin, Michael Kelly, Lemisio Nepa, Rosa Maria Santos,
Mohammed Zohan, Kosmas Stefanidis, Janet Murray, Max
Warner, Gordon Fonceca, Brian, Lorraine Wishart, Agapi Nicolaou,
Joyce Pieris, Michael Pieris, Bella Allan, Ushan, Henry Bangkal, Lilly Tsim

The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed in the Marian.

Collections for last weekend...

Thanksgiving: \$ 2197.40

Presbytery: \$ 628.65

Loose money: \$ 1372.85

If any Parishioner would like their house to be blessed, please contact Franca or Maree at the Parish office on 9791-4611 to make a booking with either Father Declan or Deacon George.

Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing.

40 YEAR REUNION

Calling all former students who were at St. John's from (Form 1/Yr7) to 1977 (Form 6/Yr12).

In 1997 we had some 130 students attend a 20 year reunion at The Dandenong Club.

On Saturday 11th November 2017 we hope to have the same again for our 40 year reunion. The Dandenong Club has again been booked (cost details to follow)

If you are interested in attending and/or being involved in event organisation please advise your email address/mobile phone number to one of the following.

- Anthony Hamilton (anthony.hamilton@siemens.com or 0438 058 328)
- Tim Evans (tiffy9@gmail.com or 0466 207 551)
- Hilary Jayamaha (h.jamma@gmail.com or 0423 475 935)

If you are in contact with other students from our year, please ensure they are also aware.