



St Mary's Parish

160 Foster Street, Dandenong
P.O Box 22, Dandenong

(03) 9791 4611 (03) 9791 7119

dandenong@cam.org.au www.stmarysdandenong.com.au

"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.*

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Declan O'Brien

DEACON: Rev. George Piech Meat

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Kathy Gottliebson

PARISH SECRETARIES: Franca Van Bostel & Maree Walker

FINANCE OFFICER: Ms Josie Ferarro

GARDENER/CARETAKER: Mr. Kevin McLaren

CENTRE MANAGER: Mr. Miguel Matamala

CATECHETICS CO-ORDINATOR: Ms Marilyn Cuddihy

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday : 9.00am-3.00pm

New Parishioners Book: If you are a new parishioner to St Mary's, could you please sign our Parishioners Book in the church foyer.

If you urgently need a priest please call 9791 4611, if Father does not answer, please leave a message and he will call you back.

WEEKEND MASS TIME

Saturday Morning: 9.00am

Saturday Evening: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIME

Monday: 9.00am (Word and Communion)

Tuesday: 9.00am (Except during School Terms mass will be 9.15am)

Wednesday, Thursday: 9.00am

Thursday: 11.00am (Cardinal Knox)

Friday: 11.00am (Followed by Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 3.00pm(Benediction))

(Last Friday of every month **Anointing Mass**)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after 9am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

MARRIAGE

Please book the Church at the same time as you book your venue.

As marriage preparation is an essential condition of marriage, you must book your **preparation course** at least **4 months** prior to the wedding. Further details can be obtained from Fr. O'Brien.

St. Mary's Primary School Phone: 9791 7650
New St, Dandenong.

Principal: Mr. Greg White

St. John's Regional College Phone 9791 3366
Caroline St, Dandenong.

Principal: Timothy Hogan

St. Mary's Community Centre 9792 4884



From the desk of the Parish Priest

Fr Declan



22 August 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
We Catholics in Australia love our nation.

Indeed, so much of what is cherished as good in our society is, in fact, the fruit of Christian culture.

So, we want our 'story' to continue to be heard in all the great debates about the foundations of our society. Our voice is not the only voice but it is an important one.

One such debate currently concerning us all is the issue of same-sex marriage.

We have always sought to contribute to our society as good citizens. We strive to act and speak out for the common good especially for the poorest and suffering among us.

We seek to cherish the dignity of the human person and support all in need: especially families, our indigenous brothers and sisters, migrants, refugees and all who need the compassion and mercy of Christ.

We pledge ourselves to continue to do everything we can to contribute to the common good of all Australians.

As Catholics, we want to build up and strengthen our great diverse multicultural community here in Australia.

Our point in relation to the current debate about same-sex marriage is simple. We make it in good faith according to the demands of our consciences.

The Catholic Church, along with other faith traditions, teaches that marriage is a natural institution established by God to be a permanent union between one man and one woman, intended towards the formation of a family in which children are born and nurtured.

Any legislation that changes this definition of marriage recognised by all the major cultures of the world demands careful consideration by all Australians.

It is vital that we Catholics vote, so that our viewpoint can be heard on this vital public issue.

Its outcome will affect our society and families profoundly in the future.

We understand that ours is not the only viewpoint in our diverse society. Many do not agree with it. Many people see this as an issue about ensuring equality for every and all relationships.

Yes, human rights are important. But so are human responsibilities. We are responsible for the impact of our decisions on future generations.

Therefore, we ask all to consider the profound implications of possible legislation that will embed this desire for equality of relationships in our laws.

This debate on same-sex marriage raises profound questions about who we are. Fundamental issues are at stake.

Why do humans exist as male and female? Is that distinction simply marginal? Is it simply a social construct? Do our children also have rights? We are all children of a male and a female. Should not this be a central consideration in our decisions about the way children should be ideally nurtured and educated in our society.

We understand that these are complex issues. But certainly, no legislation should be enacted without a deep public conversation in which we all engage about such issues that goes beyond slogans and soundbites.

In a pluralist community, we maintain that respect for *difference* should be as important as a demand for *equality*. Things can be equal in all respects without having to be uniformly the same.

We sincerely believe that there is a core and fundamental wisdom and truth in the traditional definition and understanding of marriage that should not be ignored and is worth keeping for the health and future of our society.

As Pope Francis has pointed out: 'The family is threatened by growing efforts on the part of some to redefine the very institution of marriage, by relativism, by the culture of the ephemeral, by a lack of openness to life.'¹

Some will naturally be disappointed in our stance. Some even question our right to speak and follow our consciences.

It is entirely possible future legislation about same-sex marriage could infringe fundamental human rights of freedom of religion and conscience. It could result in restrictions on the right of ministers of religion and religious bodies and organisations having the freedom to teach, preach and speak about marriage between persons of the same sex being contrary to their religious or conscientious beliefs.

We as a church affirm the dignity of all those who identify as having a same-sex orientation. Like all human beings they are created in the image and likeness of God. They have a right to expect to be loved and welcomed and not subject to unjust discrimination.

So where do we go from here?
In all our conversations and encounters, let us imitate Pope Francis, who asks us to be humble and never judgemental.

In that spirit, the Catholic Church will continue to teach and preach the truth that marriage is a union of one man and one woman and encourage all people of good will to embrace the fullness of that truth.

We will also work to promote and strengthen marriage and families.
We will strive to uphold the dignity of every human person, including persons who experience same-sex attraction, welcoming them as our brothers and sisters.

As Catholics concerned for the common good may we join all our fellow citizens of Australia in an active and respectful engagement in this critical public conversation.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

1 Address of Pope Francis to Meeting of Families, Pasay City, Manila, Philippines, Jan. 16. 2015

Parish Council Profile



Name: Colin Maslen

Family: Married with adult children and 2 grandsons

Lives: Rowville

Parish: I have been a part of the wonderful St Mary's Parish for 4 years. I have been on the Parish Council for 1 year. I run the Too Low in English Programme in the Parish Centre. I am involved in the R.C.I.A. Programme and am a Eucharistic Minister and Reader at the 10.30 Mass.

Hobbies: I love reading. I am an avid Richmond supporter. I love and visit my grandchildren who live in Sydney as often as I can.



2018 Prep Enrolments at St Mary's Primary School

Enrolments for Prep 2018 school year are open. If you or a friend has a child who turns 5 years old by April 30th, 2018, they are eligible to enrol their child at St Mary's School. Please come and see Sandra and Jane to collect an enrolment form as soon as possible.

Next weekend there will be a special collection for the annual Father's Day appeal for the Priests Retirement Foundation. This foundation cares for sick or retired priests in the Archdiocese.

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 on 9791-4611 before the start of the first session which will be Sunday 5th November.

'Talks on... Spirituality' at The Open Door

"A Courageous Leader in the Modern World: Pope Francis and His Vision"

Stancea Vichie MMS will be returning to The Open Door as the guest speaker at our next 'Talks on... Spirituality' evening: 30 August.

Stancea is a member of the Missionary Sisters of Service, a community of Religious Women and her previous talks have been on Human Trafficking. The topic of this talk is 'A Courageous Leader in the Modern World: Pope Francis and His Vision'. Stancea always shares in a relaxed and friendly manner and we are looking forward to hearing her. Don't forget to book early as places are limited.

Where: The Open Door, 110 Ann Street, Dandenong

When: Wednesday 30 August 2017 5.30-6.30pm

Suggested donation: \$5

Bookings essential: Call Trish or Jo 9791 8664



Parish Calendar 2017

Tuesday, 29th August	Outreach Meeting
Tuesday, 12th Sept	Baptism Meeting
Wednesday, 13th Sept	Parish Council Meeting
16th & 17th Sept	Father Declan's Farewell
Sunday, 24th Sept	Commitment Mass for First Communion

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: Pat Matthews

Anniversaries: Maria Tomaino, Angela Nero, George William Albert Potter, Reg Robinsons, Mary & Leo O'Dea, Dorothy McCallum

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, Lucrezia Cerminara

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: \$ 1858.00

Presbytery: \$ 361.00

Loose money: \$ 1172.20

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.

May Our Children Flourish

You will notice around our church and meeting rooms there are new posters with the heading, "May Our Children Flourish".

These are in keeping with new Victoria State Legislation and also to create a Child safe and child friendly environment in the parish of St Mary's.

It is important that we all take a part in keeping our children safe to ensure their growth to their full potential as followers of the Lord.