Encounter

VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA CATHOLIC PARISH

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD - YEAR A

A living, vibrant faith community

Vol 11 : No 06

VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Our vision is to build a faith community, centred on the loving relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, expressed in personal lives and in communal Parish activities.

IT IS OUR MISSION TO:

- Endeavour to develop relevant and prayerful Eucharistic celebrations.
- Foster the experience of a personal relationship with God.
- Provide faith formation opportunities for parishioners.
- Care for each other and the environment, particularly the sick, lonely, aged and disabled within our Parish.
- Care for our environment towards a sustainable future.

WE WILL:

- Reach out to those in need in the local community.
- Be committed to Catholic Social Justice principles.
- Pray and work together with Christian Churches and all people of goodwill.
- Protect and engage with young people in our local area.
- Strengthen bonds with indigenous people in our region.

MASS TIMES

- **VICTOR HARBOR**
  Weekend - Saturday 6.00pm;
  Sunday 11.00am.
  Weekdays - Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.00am

- **GOOLWA**
  Weekend - Sunday 9.00am.
  Weekday - Wednesday 9.30am



FIRST READING

Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8

May God bless us in his mercy.

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!
In the past, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

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COMPLIANCE WITH COVID-19 REGULATIONS

(Current from 28/12/22)

- If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please follow the SA Health instructions in regard to isolating and other government health protocols. Stay home and do not attend church services until you have fully recovered.
- The density requirement has been updated to full capacity in all churches and also includes funerals and weddings.
- Wearing of face-masks in Church is recommended. (Show you care and wear a mask.)
- Sick and high risk/vulnerable people are requested to stay home and not attend services.
- Hand sanitiser is available at church entrances.
- Communion is given only in hands. Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- Holy Water is not available at the doors of churches.

VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA CATHOLIC PARISH HOUSE

32 Seaview Road (PO Box 464)
VICTOR HARBOR SA 5211
Telephone: 8552 1084 *(Please leave a message if the Office is unattended - we will get back to you asap)*
Email: catholicvhg@bigpond.com
Web: www.victorgoolwacatholic.org.au

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

• PARISH PRIEST

Fr Vinh-Quang Tran (8552 1084;
in an emergency - 0429 098 802)
Email: Vinh2511@bigpond.com

• PARISH MANAGERS

Mr Ray Klecko (0438 364 870)
Mrs Pat Clingan (0410 593 617)
Email: Parish_manager@bigpond.com

• PARISH NEWSLETTER

Please forward items for the newsletter to the Parish Office - ph 8552 1084 or catholicvhg@bigpond.com) (*All items for the newsletter by Wednesday evening)*

• PARISH TREASURER

Mr Merv Mallett (0412 103 443)
Email: parish_treasure@bigpond.com

• CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Unit (8210 8159
Goolwa (Cathy May 0401 584 237)
Victor Harbor (Parish Office 8552 1084)

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EVERY LIFE

Every life is a wonderful story
worthy of being told.

Every life is a work of art, and if it
does not seem so, perhaps it is
only necessary to illuminate the room
that contains it.

The secret is never to lose faith, to
have confidence in God's plan for us,
revealed in the signs with which [we
are shown] the way.

If you learn to listen you will find that
each life speaks to us of love,
Because love is the key to everything,
the engine of the world.
Love is the secret energy behind
every note I sing.

Never forget that there's no such thing
as happenstance.

That is an illusion lawless and
arrogant [people] invented so that they
can sacrifice the truth of our world to
the laws of reason.

Andrea Bocelli (2017)
"The music of silence"
A film by Michael Radford

WHY DID JESUS GIVE US HIS MOTHER?

Jesus gave us his Mother so that she would be the Mother of all humanity. After having considered the role of the Virgin Mary in the mystery of Christ and the Spirit, we should think about her role in the mystery of the Church. We know that the Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus Christ and, consequently, the Mother of God. But she is also the Mother of the Church, which is the Body of Christ. Because of this, the mission of Mary is totally inseparable from the mission of the Church. And it should be clearly stated that the role of Mary, as Mother of all humanity, in no way eclipses or diminishes Christ. On the contrary, her role can only help to clarify Christ's role. This is one of the reasons God decided to share his Mother with us.

Many non-Catholic Christians really don't pay much attention at all to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We Catholics, on the other hand, recognise her as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. We know that Jesus took her up to Heaven, body and soul, as soon as her earthly mission was over. This is the Dogma of the Assumption, defined by the Church with an infallible papal definition. It makes sense that the woman who bore God in her womb should be borne by God into Heaven and not left in a grave to turn back into dust. In fact, in the Old Testament, the Queen of the Kingdom of Israel was always the Queen Mother. One of King Solomon's first acts when his father David gave him the throne was to raise his mother Bathsheba to his side, to be the royal Queen - a mini-Assumption. There was a practical reason for this tradition: Old Testament Kings used to marry more than one wife, but the King had only one Mother, so she became Queen. But there was also a deeper, prophetic meaning at work. God was already planning to send the Messiah through a Virgin, to involve a Mother intimately in the Redemption, just as a mother (Eve) had been involved intimately in the Fall (original sin). God did it that way on purpose. God gives his Mother a special place in the ongoing history of salvation because He wants to tell us something about His love for us. His love is faithful, strong and indestructible, because He is our Father. But it is also gentle, patient, and ever-present, always watching over us - like a Mother. Mary, our heavenly Queen and spiritual Mother, reminds us of this. *(E-Priest)*

WEEKDAY READINGS

(02 - 08 January)

- ***Monday, 02:*** Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen (1 Jn 2:22-28 ; Jn 1:19-28)
- ***Tuesday, 03:*** Tuesday before Epiphany (1 Jn 2:29 - 3:6; Jn 1:29-34)
- ***Wednesday, 04:*** Wednesday before Epiphany (1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42)
- ***Thursday, 05:*** Thursday before Epiphany (1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51)
- ***Friday, 06:*** Friday before Epiphany (1 Jn 5:5-13 ; Mk 1:6-11)
- ***Saturday, 07:*** Saturday before Epiphany (1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11)
- ***Sunday 08:*** The EPIPHANY of the LORD (Is 60:1-6 ; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12)

PASTORAL CARE

If you need a priest for anointing prior to medical treatment or if you are ill (not necessarily life-threatening) or for last rites please contact: (08) 8552 1084 or in an emergency 0429 098 802.