

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 centred 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. Confidence Masvosva
Confidence.masvosva@cdsale.org.au

Priests' 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
Diana Cannizzo
Bookkeeper
Janette Sampson
Bulletin Notices: By Thursday
yarram@cdsale.org.au

Office Hours:
Thursday 9.30am - 3.00pm
Friday 9.30am - 3.00pm

Safeguarding Officers
Yarram- Jennifer Heeraman-
Nieuwenhuizen
Foster-

Maintenance Personnel
Yarram - Eugene Benc
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.

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



12TH JANUARY 2025 - YEAR C
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Yarram

Sunday 9am
Thursday 11am
Friday 10am

Fish Creek

Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass
(Sat before 5th Sunday - Liturgy)
1st & 3rd Wed of the month, 9.30am

MASS TIMES

Foster

Sunday 11am
Wednesday 11am
(2nd Wednesday of the month at Prom Care)

Toora

Saturday 4.30pm Vigil Mass
(Sat before 5th Sunday - Liturgy)

No Mass on Mondays or Tuesdays

Greetings dear Parishioners,

It has been a great pleasure journeying with you for the past year. I wish you all a fruitful year. This year must be reflected in the community animation of mass, appreciation of our uniqueness and cultural diversity. We worship God as who we are, and our identity as Catholics is universal. I encourage you all to visualize the dream of being better than we were last year.

The Jubilee year has its theme: Pilgrims of Hope, we are called to focus on renewing hope in the risen Lord, despite the challenges of wars, pandemics and poverty. It encourages us to look to the future with an open spirit and trusting heart. We desire to model the parish after the first Christian gathering in the Acts of the Apostles where they shared meals, prayer, mission expectant waiting.

We are all gifted and unique, let us share our gifts and responsibilities and accept and accommodate others. Parishioners are encouraged to do something to improve our worship, relationship and witness.

To all who continue to sacrifice, their time, talents, and resources to make us one family and to worship in Spirit and in Truth, God bless you. The foundation is laid by the Holy Family, and I encourage you to join in building our families and our parish communities.

As we grow in faith and in relationship with God, I wish you all God's blessings and good health of mind and body. Remember "if you know the beginning well, the end won't trouble you."

Fr. Confidence Masvosva

JANUARY, MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - YARRAM

Fr. Confidence Masvosva, Anne-Marie Robb (Chairperson) Maria Moore (Principal, Deputy Chairperson) Leonore Gilberto (Secretary), Sue Benc, Jennifer Heeraman-Nieuwenhuizen, Prisca Gabiana

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - FOSTER

Fr. Confidence Masvosva, Ben Worsteling (Chairperson), Sandra Stefani (Deputy Chairperson), Leanne Denbrok, John Denbrok (Youth Representative), Mary Gobel (Youth Representative) Duilio Stefani, Wilemena Low

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SICK YARRAM

Sick: Mary Willis, Therese Morris, Pauline Kimber, Loretta Clark, Zena Purtic, Chanel Bassett, and all those we keep in our hearts. That they will be sustained by the care of our community.

Recently Deceased: Barrie O’Loughlin

Anniversaries: Stephen Shiels, Rita Fanning, Elsie Johnstone, Robert Kemp, Christopher O’Neill, Dennis Ryan, Olive Herrod, Kevin Beaumont, Rosalia Sandish, John Harkin, Tom Connellan, Gerald Moore, Elizabeth Roberts, Norma Mitchell, Medard Gabiana, Fr John Kelly, Patricia Cleary, Ray Hartwig, Gertrude Webber, Alma Gunn, Mary Moore

May they rest in peace.

PRAYER LIST FOR THE SICK FOSTER

Sick: Baby Dominic Monahan, Greg Gibson, Kath Hurst, Margaret Bertram, Monica Midwinter, Mary Mason, Mary Slater, John Box, Dawn and Ashton Farrell, Colin Smith, Tracy van Kuyk and all those we keep in our hearts. That they will be sustained by the care of our community.

Recently Deceased: Gregory Gibson

Anniversaries: Bill Moysey, Bill Keecherer, Frances Moore, Roy Comrie Snr., Desmond O’Hehir, Wally Scott, John O’Shea, June Scott, Margaret Coleman

May they rest in peace.

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

ST JOSEPH’S FOSTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone interested in being included on a Roster for the following, please contact the appropriate person.

Flowers for Sunday Masses: Teresa Richards

Cleaning Roster: Mandy Emanuel, phone: 0409 267 625

Counting Roster: Trish McGannon

Thank you

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2025

For the right to an education: *Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.*

January is a time for renewal and new beginnings. We make commitments to live better, healthier, more faith-filled. Here are 5 recommendations for a more peace-filled year:

- 1. Choose Quiet** - Noise can distract us, drowning out the voice of the Holy Spirit. Find a quiet place to reflect each day.
- 2. Choose Prayer** - Whether you read daily from the Lives of the Saints, pick up a rosary, or meditate on the Gospel, find a way to strengthen your relationship with Christ. How are you working towards a Christ-centered life?
- 3. Choose Joy** - In times of difficulty, choose to share joy. Serve others, do random acts of kindness, bring hope to those around you. Go to confession more often, so you are unburdened by sin.
- 4. Choose Sainthood** - Becoming a saint is not easy. Much like love and the cross, sainthood must be chosen, every day, multiple times a day. When you choose sainthood in the little things, you begin to form healthy habits that guide you through choosing Him in the BIG decisions.
- 5. Choose Peace** - It may seem selfish, but putting your peace first, on occasion, is necessary. Setting healthy boundaries for the people that bring drama into your life can be difficult to do, but will provide peace, and help you protect yourself from unnecessary pain and disruption.

As Pope John Paul II said, "Prayer can truly change your life, for it turns your attention away from yourself and directs your mind and your heart towards the Lord...If we keep our eyes fixed on the Lord, then our hearts are filled with hope, our minds are washed in the light of truth, and we come to know the fullness of the Gospel with all its promise and life."
-Address to the Young People of New Orleans, (1987).



Thank you to those making donations
God bless your generosity

29.12.25 Planned Giving - \$621.85 Presbytery Collection - \$215.15

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

5.1.25 Planned Giving - \$328.05 Presbytery Collection - \$125.35

Yarram Church Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—527668496

Yarram Presbytery Account

NAB—BSB 083-879

Account No—157911099



Information about the Parish 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 Confidence are asked to contact the Parish office on 5182 5028.
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 - JANUARY
CHRSMTC. PRAYER GROUP MEETING: Thursday 30th January
 9am Rosary. 9.30am Meeting in St Joseph's Room
MORNING TEA AFTER MASS: 9th February, Parish Pastoral Cnl.

FOSTER PARISH DIARY - JANUARY
FOSTER ROSARY: Every Monday, 8.30am followed by Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
FOSTER ROSARY: Every Wednesday before 11am Mass
PRAYER GROUP, FISH CREEK: Every Wednesday, 10.30am, in Church. Prayers for the sick and dying, followed by Mass or Liturgy at 11.00am.

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie
 Pope Francis draws our attention to a couple of interesting aspects of Jesus' baptism, which offer useful lessons for Christians today.
 One of these is his humility. The Pope wants us to reflect on how remarkable it was that sinless Jesus was there among the crowds, 'joining the queue of the penitents, mingling among them.' The Son of God did not separate himself or seek special treatment!
 The crowd which Jesus joined therefore shows us something profound about the Incarnation. Being baptised among the common people, Jesus shows us what the Pope termed his 'willingness to immerse himself in the river of humanity.' Even the Lord of All does not lord it over ordinary folk! Nor then should we.

On another occasion, the Pope focuses our attention on Jesus' prayer life. In telling us how the Holy Spirit descended from heaven like a dove, Luke makes it clear that this happened while Jesus was praying. This, the Pope indicates, is an important point worthy of our contemplation: 'Jesus prays.'

'Prayer opens the heaven,' the Pope says, borrowing the image from today's Gospel. He then adds that prayer also 'enables us to have the same experience of Jesus by the Jordan: it makes us feel like beloved children of the Father.'




2025 Enrolments are open
Study scripture, theology, pastoral ministry and spirituality
 Introductory or further studies
 Face-to-face or online modes
 Audit, undergraduate or postgraduate level
 For more information: view our [2025 Prospectus](#)
ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/

MAGI PILGRIMAGES AUSTRALIA
 is organising the following Jubilee Pilgrimage 2025
 1. Streams of Mercy (May), 2. **Italy & Poland (May)**, 3. Marian Shrines (June), 4. **Shrines of our Lady (August)**, 5. Pilgrimage of Hope (October).
 The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides.
 For itineraries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561
 or email us pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

PARISH ROSTER—YARRAM

12th January	
Commentator	L Giliberto
Reader	J Papworth
Offertory	P Gabiana & R Ramsay
Special Minister	M Harkin
Counting	M Giliberto, Volunteer
19th January	
Commentator	A M Robb
Reader	L Giliberto
Offertory	Telling family
Special Minister	J Purgar
Counting	M & P Harkin

PARISH ROSTER—FOSTER

12th January	
Counting	
Commentator	M Gobel
Reader	J Aldons
Special Minister	L Denbrok
Cleaners	
19th January	
Counting	
Commentator	T Richards
Reader	D Pollard
Special Minister	F Vuillermin
Cleaners	Sally B & Mandy

FISH CREEK

11th January -	6.00pm MASS
Reader	Nadia Stefani
18th January -	6.00pm MASS
Reader	Mary Scott
TOORA	
11th January -	4.30pm MASS
(on rotation)	J Moysey & W Lowe
18th January -	4.30pm MASS
(on rotation)	J Moysey & W Lowe

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her
that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the
Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the
desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid
low,

let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all
mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to
Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is
your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm
subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go
before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in
his arms,

holding them against his breast and leading to their rest
the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 103:1-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-30. R. v.1

(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent. (R.)
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servants. (R.)
3. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small. (R.)
4. All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill. (R.)
5. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made
salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us
that what we have to do is to give up everything that does
not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be
self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in
this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the
blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of
our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed
himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness
and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and
would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for
mankind were revealed, it was not because he was
concerned with any righteous actions we might have
done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own
compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing
water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit
which he has so generously poured over us through
Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be
justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to
inheriting eternal life.

The Word of the Lord**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,
who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ,
so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with
water, but someone is coming, someone who is more
powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of
his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and
fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while
Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven
opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily
shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You
are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord