

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)

3 March 2024

Readings

Next Week

2 Chron 36:14-16, 19-23

Ps 136

Eph 2:4-10

Jn 3:14-21

in a nutshell

I am the Lord, your God. The Ten Commandments are as valid today as when they were first given by God to Moses at Mt Sinai. They teach us how to live in right relationship with God and with one another. If we seek to live by the Commandments we will avoid the trap of materialism, of being more concerned with buying, selling, and making money, than with loving God and our neighbour.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Harry & Dorothy Heering, Frankie Petinella. For those who have died recently and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time

of special note

Stations of the Cross is celebrated every Friday during lent.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday

9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday—6:30pm (EST)

5:00pm (EDST)

Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary

Tuesday—9:00am

Thursday—9:00am

Friday—9:00am

Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation

Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm

Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition

Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:

smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/mountevelyn

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult family member to the toilet.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Alan Somers
Sue Van der Linden
Karla Zmegac

Car Parking –WEEKDAY Masses

Please use available car parks for Mass rather than the front of the church leaving the front for the truly disabled.

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's
Conference 0427 874 374 or Alan Somers
0419 134 300

**Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday
please: mountevelyn@cam.org.au**

**For positions vacant within the Diocese
visit:**
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Regular Gardening/Working Bee—1st & 3rd Friday

Thank you to the volunteers who turn up to assist with the maintenance of the grounds around the church. 4pm onwards

Next—Friday March 15

Parish Meetings: Tuesday, 19 March

Finance Committee 7:00pm

Parish Safeguarding 7:30pm

Parish Council 8:00pm

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH



Parish Notices

New Tap and Go Terminals

Further to our new method of collecting contributions to the Parish and Presbytery, we have two new Tap and Go machines: one for the parish account and one for the presbytery account. These are placed beside the respective collection boxes in the narthex. These machines allow you to choose the amount you are giving.

A reminder that as collections are no longer taken up during Mass donations can be placed in the boxes in the narthex either before or after Mass.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

We are praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. Please come and pray this traditional devotion following the path of our Lord to Calvary. Jesus said to St Faustina: There is more merit to one hour of meditation on My sorrowful Passion than there is to a whole year of flagellation that draws blood; the contemplation of My painful wounds is of great profit to you, and it brings Me great joy.

Mount Evelyn: 7:30pm; Yarra Junction: 6:00pm.

Sacramental Information Night—6 March @ 6pm

Families of children wishing to receive Sacraments in 2024 are invited to attend. Registration forms will be available.

Project Compassion—Third Sunday of Lent

Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result. Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry. Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions. "We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration: May all those who take part in the adoration of Your Eucharistic Presence attest with every visit of theirs and make ring out again, the truth contained in Peter's words, "Lord You know everything; You know that I love You." (Pope St. John Paul II)

Confession: Jesus goes into Galilee and begins to preach. His first words, as Mark reports them, serve as a sort of summary statement of his life and work. "The time has come" he said "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." (Mark 1:15) In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we encounter Jesus who wants us to experience his immense and unfathomable mercy by confessing our sins and receiving his forgiveness.

Adoration: Friday morning 8:00am. Yarra Junction Thursday 6:00pm (first Thursday Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything..." - Exodus 20:4

How many "gods" do you put before God? "Idols" do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God's help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.

February Finance Report

Total income (stewardship & Cash): \$5097.07

Total Expenditure: \$11441.12

2024 Lent Challenge – Free Access

Start your journey. This Lent, join Scott Hahn and John Bergsma as they lead us out of exile and on *the journey home*. **Begins Ash Wednesday, February 14th visit:** <https://stpaulcenter.com/exodus/> to sign up. Free access to the entire site for the duration of Lent.

Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives. Learn more: Join our Mission Webinar March 5th, 2024, 6:00 - 6:30 pm.

63 years preparing Australians for enduring global relationships to build sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Learn Even More: Join our two-week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024 to see Palms program participants our local partner communities in action together.

Contact: 02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au

Morning Tea after 10.30am Sunday Mass

Stay and chat over a cuppa! Consider joining the roster to assist in serving. If you are unable to serve but would like to contribute, donations of packaged biscuits would be appreciated. Contact Rachael 0437123802

NOTE: Morning tea after Tuesday 9:00am Mass

Something to Bring a Smile!

A priest requested quotes from local painters to repaint the exterior of the parish hall. All the quotes were within a few dollars of one another, with the exception of one by a parishioner who had been in business for years and had an excellent reputation in the community. His quote was about half of his competitors, so naturally the priest gave him the job. On the day he was to begin, the painter realised that he had miscalculated badly. Not wanting to lose face and the job, he decided to thin the paint with water. That way, he decided, he would be able to complete the job for the quoted price. A week later he received a phone call from the priest, complaining that after recent rain half the paint had washed off. Being an honourable man (most of the time) and being a good Catholic, the painter went inside the church to pray about his dilemma, knowing that his business reputation was on the line. "What can I possibly do, Lord?" prayed the disheartened painter. In a loud voice God replied, "Repaint! Repaint and thin no more!"

Sourced from www.majellan.media

Readings Reflection

Spiritual Sacrifice

Jesus does not come to destroy the temple, but to fulfill it (see Matthew 5:17)—to reveal its true purpose in God's saving plan.

He is the Lord the prophets said would come—to purify the temple, banish the merchants, and make it a house of prayer for all peoples (see Zechariah 14:21; Malachi 3:1–5; Isaiah 56:7).

The God who made the heavens and the earth, who brought Israel out of slavery, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands (see Acts 7:48; 2 Samuel 7:5).

Nor does He need offerings of oxen, sheep, or doves (see Psalm 50:7–13).

Notice in today's First Reading that God did not originally command animal sacrifices—only that Israel heed His commandments (see Jeremiah 7:21–23; Amos 5:25).

His law was a gift of divine wisdom, as we sing in today's Psalm. It was a law of love (see Matthew 22:36–40), perfectly expressed in Christ's self-offering on the Cross (see John 15:13).

This is the "sign" Jesus offers in the Gospel today—the sign that caused Jewish leaders to stumble, as Paul tells us in the Epistle.

Jesus' body—destroyed on the Cross and raised up three days later—is the new and true sanctuary. From the temple of His body, rivers of living water flow, the Spirit of grace that makes each of us a temple (see 1 Corinthians 3:16) and together builds us into a dwelling place of God (see Ephesians 2:22).

In the Eucharist we participate in His offering of His body and blood. This is the worship in Spirit and in truth that the Father desires (see John 4:23–24).

We are to offer praise as our sacrifice (see Psalm 50:14, 23). This means imitating Christ—offering our bodies—all our intentions and actions in every circumstance, for the love of God and the love of others (see Hebrews 10:5–7; Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5).

[Dr. Scott Hahn](mailto:Dr.ScottHahn@stpaulcenter.com)
stpaulcenter.com

The Formation of Our Conscience

How can we form a good conscience?

I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward God and toward men. (Acts 24:16)

We have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Cor 4:2)

To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their very minds and consciences are corrupted. (1 Ti 1:15)

Every person is morally obligated to form his or her own conscience and then to follow it. Forming a reliable and accurate conscience is a lifelong effort that includes education in the teaching and moral principles of the Church. It requires the sound use of reason and the fostering of interior virtue through faith and prayer.

While a person is obliged to follow the dictates of his or her conscience, a badly formed conscience can lead to error. An individual, therefore, must ensure that his or her conscience is well formed so its dictates will be good and true. It must be informed and enlightened in order to lead a person on the correct path rather than to guide him or her into making poor choices.

The conscience is properly formed by attuning it to the truth. In faith we seek the will of God; by reason we apply our faith to every given situation. We must learn not only the moral law taught by the Church but also its guiding principles. We are enlightened by the Word of God in Sacred Scripture, particularly in the Gospels, the Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Beatitudes. We also align our consciences to the will of God through humble prayer, contemplation of the Passion of Christ, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and through frequent and thorough examinations of conscience. We must always look to the authoritative teachings of the Church for guidance in making moral decisions.

With a well-formed and certain conscience, we experience freedom as we rise above the ambiguities surrounding many of today's moral questions, allowing us to see them as God perceives them rather than as the world perceives them. We also experience peace within our hearts, knowing that what our faith teaches us is the right path so that we can eschew all other options, which only lead to confusion and sin.

From the Didache Bible

1777 Moral conscience, present at the heart of the person, enjoins him at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil. It also judges particular choices, approving those that are good and denouncing those that are evil. It bears witness to the authority of truth in reference to the supreme Good to which the human person is drawn, and it welcomes the commandments. When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking.

1778 Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed. In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right. It is by the judgment of his conscience that man perceives and recognizes the prescriptions of the divine law...

1781 Conscience enables one to assume responsibility for the acts performed. If man commits evil, the just judgment of conscience can remain within him as the witness to the universal truth of the good, at the same time as the evil of his particular choice. The verdict of the judgment of conscience remains a pledge of hope and mercy. In attesting to the fault committed, it calls to mind the forgiveness that must be asked, the good that must still be practiced, and the virtue that must be constantly cultivated with the grace of God:

We shall ... reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. (1 Jn 3:19-20)

1783 Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened. A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator. The education of conscience is indispensable for human beings who are subjected to negative influences and tempted by sin to prefer their own judgment and to reject authoritative teachings.

1784 The education of the conscience is a lifelong task. From the earliest years, it awakens the child to the knowledge and practice of the interior law recognized by conscience. Prudent education teaches virtue; it prevents or cures fear, selfishness and pride, resentment arising from guilt, and feelings of complacency, born of human weakness and faults. The education of the conscience guarantees freedom and engenders peace of heart.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church