

St Mary's Parish

We proudly acknowledge the Boonwurrung People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land.

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents

12th April, 2026



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016

Telephone: 9397 6066

Email: williamstown@cam.org.au

www.melbcatholic.org/s/williamstown

Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall

0400 524 363

Email:

greg.trythall@cam.org.au

Parish Office Staff

Pastoral Associate & Parish Secretary

Monique Julian

9397 6066

Tuesday 9:00am – 3.00pm

Thursday 9:00am – 3.00pm

Friday 9:00am – 2.00pm
0450 789 951

Wednesday Parish Secretary

Kylie Skinner

9:30am–1:30pm

Safeguarding Officer

Frank Schobben

0427 416 184

St. Mary's School

Principal Anthony Hockey

Normal Mass Times

Consult bulletin inside for any changes.

Saturday at 6:00pm

Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am

Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Reconciliation

Saturday 10:00am

Silent Adoration in Church

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Wednesday

Baptism Preparation Night

Third Thursday monthly

7.00pm at Parish Centre.

Baptism must be booked

prior to attending

Preparation Night.

Baptisms 12:30pm Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles: 2.42-47

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Give thanks, for the Lord is good, God's love is everlasting.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of Peter: 1.3-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

GOSPEL: JOHN 20.19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.



Tuesday 14th April	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 15th April	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church. 7.00pm Parish Finance Team Meeting at the Presbytery.
Thursday 16th April	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 17th April	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

It does disturb me that American President did not consult other nations widely enough in order to start an attack on Iran. The Israel leadership should have known better from also not having a wider consultation on such a serious matter. I just hope the consequences of this will not be somewhat disastrous for our world in the long run. Often rash decisions lead to vengeance some years later! Anyway, I thought it at least best for parishioners to know that the Catholic Church has had a “just war” policy for many years.

“A JUST WAR”

I am sure the Catholic Church has made some slight changes to its just war policies in the last few years but here are the normal main ones of its policies under paragraph 2309 from the Catechism of the Catholic Church bearing in mind that part of the policy presumes an unjust aggressor (first) like Germany or Japan in the Second World War but try to read the general tone of the policy and you can work out especially that some things are missing from the conditions needed for a so called “just war” in respect to Donald Trump’s recent moves.

‘The strict conditions for legitimate defence by military force requires rigorous consideration. The gravity of such a decision makes it subject to rigorous conditions of moral legitimacy. At one and the same time:

The damage inflicted by the aggressor on the nation or community of nations must be lasting, grave, and certain;

All other means of putting an end to it must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective;

There must be serious prospects of success;

The use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil to be eliminated.

The power of modern means of destruction weights very heavily in evaluating this condition.

Even a few weeks ago Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, said that the US-Israel war on Iran does not meet the Catholic Church’s criteria for a just war. “No, it does not meet the conditions”, he told reporters. In another interview with an archdiocesan newspaper, The Catholic Standard, another Cardinal McElroy said the intervention in Iran failed to meet several conditions required by the Church’s teaching on a just war, including that the benefits of this war will not “outweigh the harm which will be done.” Cardinal Parolin’s comments follow those of Pope Leo XIV in a statement given to journalists when he renewed his call for an unconditional ceasefire, saying that “death and pain caused by these wars is a scandal for the entire human family”. On Palm Sunday Pope Leo XIV reflected on Jesus as the King of Peace who rejects war and refuses to listen to the prayer of those who wage war. Pope Leo went on to recall the prophet Isaiah’s words: “Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen: your hands are full of blood”. (Is 1:15)

PREPARING FOR ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD in December 2026:

A Synod is a gathering of God’s people – bishops, priests and representatives – who come and discern together about matters regarding faith, governance, and pastoral care. This process involves prayer, dialogue, and consultation, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of the Church’s mission in a contemporary world. A synodal gathering is focussed on pastoral renewal and can result in decrees or pastoral plans that guide the guidance in its planning.

One of the commitments of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference emerging from around, two years ago, the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia was that each diocese conduct a Diocesan Synod within five years of the closing session of the Plenary Council. In addition, the universal Church has been called to implement new practices and structures to strengthen the life of the Church and to ensure our practices are more synodal. This work builds upon the more recent global Synod (2021 – 2024). The first meeting of our Diocesan Synod Commission was held last Thursday April 9th.

PARTNERING FOR MISSION:

Within two weeks we hope to put out a more detailed background to our intended partnership with St Joseph Parish: Sacred Heart Newport and St Margaret Mary Spotswood. They used to be two different parishes a few years back, but in the end decided to form one parish under the new parish name of St Joseph's as there had been a strong connection with the Josephite Sisters. Our Steering Committee **is not intending to amalgamate our two parishes of St Mary's and St Joseph's** but hopefully to form a strong partnership between the two.

LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKS:

As I have had very little feedback regarding the 100 Lenten Reflection booklets we purchased for the Parish, I was wondering if you have found either of them helpful during the Lenten period. Did you find the Wollongong booklet up to standard or did you enjoy the reflections from the Brisbane archdiocese and written by recently retired Archbishop of Brisbane, Mark Coleridge!

PROJECT COMPASSION:

Thanks for all those who have donated to the Project Compassion appeal this year. We have had much success so far – including nearly **\$1,000 from our Parish school parents and children**. Please bring your Project Compassion back next week at the very latest. The organisers of Project Compassion on behalf of Caritas Australia have sent us a message: "Thank your for walking alongside us this Lent!"

AMERICAN RUNNING CHAMPION:

I know several of our parishioners have had relations compete at the Stawell Gift which is always Easter Monday. They would have been very impressed with the 2023 American former world champion, Sha'Carri Richardson. What a magnificent race she ran as she pipped another woman competitor on the line to win the prestigious final of the Stawell Gift off scratch. This reminds me also of an aspect of my family history. In 1910 the American champion lady sprinter over 100 yards came to Melbourne. As my grandfather was the best sprinter of any of the VFL footballers at the time, he was chosen to run against her in a match race! She could probably run like the wind like Sha'Carri Richardson but my grandfather Frank Harris (Mum's dad) somehow beat her and he was given a dozen beautiful pearl fish knives and forks as the prize. As the custodian of those I am happy to show anyone those beautiful items plus the photo of my grandfather and the American champion on the starting line at any time. I would have liked the genetics of my grandfather but maybe long life might be his gift to me – who knows. However, there is still a possibility a long and healthy life awaits! My mother died at 79 but she would have lived probably a lot longer had she not contracted a bad case of TB in 1948 which nearly killed her when she was 37 years of age. Her younger sister Patricia lived 96 years, and Patricia's other twin sister Helen will be 108 (yes not out) on April 21st 2026. The latter being in good physical health, still able to walk with a stroller but her short term memory is starting to fail her. Her son David still has great conversations with her as he visits her 3 times a week and has coffee with her outside the home where she lives. She is in a Canberra Nursing Home. I never contracted my grandfather's running ability, but I got at least 5% of that same gene- thankfully . Although I had never done any competitive running as all I was interested in was playing Australian Rules football and cricket in my normal teenage years, I did surprise myself by coming 2nd out of my platoon of 64 in the Australian army in their long-distance race. In 1972 I then came 2nd out of 70 guys at Werribee Seminary in their long distance race four years later. I did somehow win the Seminary walking race in 1971 or 1972 as the first two competitors were disqualified for running at some stage!! In running maybe my only claim to fame is that I still hold the 100 yards record in the Old Boys race held at the St Patricks College, East Melbourne Athletics Carnival in 1967 – school closed in 1968 – so my name is still in the record book – thanks to my grandfather helping in some sort of way with being quick off the mark!

Yours 'in Christ' Fr Greg greg.trythall@cam.org.au 0400 524 363

JOIN US FOR A CUPPA

Please join us in the Parish Centre for Morning Tea following the
8.30am Sunday Mass. All welcome

Rosters for this Week 11th & 12th April 2026

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am John O'Keefe, Ivonne Cram 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Chris Maine, Jan Maine 10.30am Mareena Peter
Welcomers	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Jenny O'Sullivan 10.30am Di Collins

Rosters for next Week 18th & 19th April 2026

Counting Team 1	Robyn Jones, Kimberley Jones, Paul Francis
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Alison Silke, Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Daniel Corcoran 8.30am Christal Augustin 10.30am Eilin Taylor
Welcomers	6.00pm Imma Marguglio 8.30am Jeanette Thompson 10.30am Herb Zimmer

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Yeme Reddy, Sarah Rodgers, Charlie Galea, David Hume, Finn Pennisi

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Ruth Francis, Peter van der Merwe, Tina Dey, Barb Shea, Leslie Bernardo, (Fr.) Lou Heriot, Marga Mardesic, Ljubica & Ive Vuksevic, Benarda Milin, Mara Peros, Petar Mardesic Snr, Nicola Nardo, Ann Brydon, Tessie Zahra, Cecilia Dalton, Maree Beaton, Hilda Lloyd, Josephine Dimeck, Marianne Gerada, Ernie Clare, Mary Sweet, Rene Hynes, May Sinclair, Lucia Scalia, Des Moore, Francis O'Loughlin, Matilda Luczyc, Annie Broadfoot, Jack Cronin, Miles McGrath, Rita Consolandi, Giselda Darmanin, Tess Hannebery, Lyn Trojkovic, Stella Costa, Carmela Pisano, Ersilia Portelli, Joan Spiteri and Alberto Mangion whose anniversaries are at this time.

SACRAMENT PROGRAM AT ST MARY'S

For children who do not attend St Mary's school and are in the Parish area who would like to receive their Sacraments in 2026 please contact Monique Julian:

monique.julian@cam.org.au to request an enrolment form. Dates for 2026 are:

FIRST COMMUNION: 27th April, 4th May and 11th May 2026 - 7.00pm in the Parish Centre. Communion Masses on the weekend of 16th and 17th May

CONFIRMATION: 17th August, 24th August and 31st August 2026 - 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. Confirmation Masses TBC but likely the first week September.