



St Francis of Assisi Parish

290 Childs Road, Mill Park 3082 phone: 9407 6700

web: www.melbcatholic.org/millpark email: millpark@cam.org.au

PARISH BULLETIN		SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		15TH FEB 2026	
PARISH PRIEST	Fr Francis Denton		ASSISTANT PRIEST	Fr Simeon Anthony	
YOUTH MINISTER	Michelle Biju - 9407 6704		PASTORAL ASSOCIATE	Sr Rodelia Bordan - 9407 6720	
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	Maree Chamoun - 9407 6700		PARISH/SCHOOL LIAISON	Ruth Lees - 9407 6703	
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL	Mark Basile - 9407 3100		PARISH BOOKKEEPER	Paul - 9407 6722	
WEEKEND MASS TIMES	Saturday vigil 5:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am, 10:30 am & 5:00 pm				
WEEKDAY MASS TIMES	Monday – Saturday 9:15 am Wednesday 7:30 pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help				
RECONCILIATION	Wednesday evening after Mass and Novena Saturday 9:45 am				
ADORATION	Saturday 9:45 am – 10:45 am concluding with Benediction				
VIGIL MASS:	1st Friday of the month 7:30 pm to Midnight Mass.			Next Mass: 6 th March	
FILIPINO MASS:	2nd Sunday of the month at 12 noon.			Next Mass: 8 th March	
MALTESE MASS:	3rd Saturday of the month at 4 pm. Confession 3:30. Rosary 3:40.			Next Mass: 21 st February	
INDONESIAN FAMILY GROUP MASS:	3rd Saturday of the month at 7pm.			Next Mass: 21 st March	
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Wednesday 6:30 am - 7:00 pm in the chapel.					
NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH: 1st Wednesday of the month after 9:15 am Mass.					
ST ANTHONY'S PRAYER GROUP MASS: Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm.					
NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY (MALAYALAM): Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm.					
LEGION OF MARY: Every Thursday at 10:00 am in the church fellowship area. Contact Jackie - 0422 443 324.					
JUNIOR LEGION OF MARY: Every Wednesday at 3:30 pm during school terms in the fellowship area. Contact Jackie - 0422 443 324.					
WORD OF LIFE PRAYER GROUP: Every Friday at 7:00 pm in the chapel. Contact Nancy - 0434 559 352.					
PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP: Contact Regina - 0432 267 557					
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: Every Friday at 3:00 pm in the chapel and Friday mornings after 9:15am Mass.					
AGAPE RENEWAL PRAYER MEETING: Contact Jigimon - 0402 652 646.					
JESUS YOUTH YOUNG ADULTS PRAYER MEETING : Every Thursday at 7 pm in the chapel. Contact Irene K. Jacob - 0481 829 529					
CATECHIST R.E. CLASSES: For all enquiries contact May Park at sfranciscatechist@gmail.com.					
MEN'S MEET & GREET GROUP: 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm (Small Hall).					
MOTHERS WHO PRAY FOR THEIR CHILDREN: Every Monday night 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the Church fellowship area.					
LIFE TEEN: Every Sunday during the school terms 6 - 7:45pm for those in high-school. Contact Michelle at the Parish Office 9407 6700					
AYA FELLOWSHIP: Young Adults aged 19-35. Every Last Saturday of the Month. Contact the Parish Office 9407 6700					
CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sunday 10:30am Mass. All pre-school and lower to middle primary school children are welcome.					
PARISH NEWS					
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:					
PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS: Contributions can be dropped off between 9am and 5pm each day at the parish office.					
THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES: Please remember to write the amount on the front of your thanksgiving envelopes.					
PARISH CELLS OF EVANGELISATION: There will be NO Cells All Leaders Meeting this Tuesday – owing to the Cells Launch.					
SUGGESTION BOX: All suggestions with full names & Phone No included will be considered. (Location: Church Foyer)					
HOUSE BLESSINGS: To invite our clergy to visit and bless your house, please fill in the card in the church foyer.					
ALTAR SERVER TRAINING: 1st Saturday of every month (except school holidays), meeting in the church foyer.					
PRAYER COMPANIONS: prayers for people after Mass in the Chapel after 9 am & 10.30 am Masses.					
PLEASE PRAY FOR					
RECENTLY DECEASED: Nola Carter, Gennaro Ursumando					
IN MEMORIAM: Clara Surlanetto, Michael Salbia, Federico Javier					
THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Pierce Ng, Angus Santosa, Fr Anthony Fox, Julieta Bordan, Kim Ki Tan, Greg Forrester, Nancy Gheno, Caterina Schiavello, Cliff Aquilina, David Wallace, Fr Terry Kean.					
(From time to time we will modify the sick list. If you prefer a person to remain on the list please contact the parish office.)					
The newsletter will be available each week on our website www.melbcatholic.org/millpark					

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With Ash Wednesday in the coming week we will begin the liturgical season of Lent. Here is a short reflection on the meaning of the ashes.

“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3:19)

The account of the Fall in chapter three of Genesis grapples with the confronting truth of sin, suffering and death that are a universal part of our human condition. All of us are acquainted with sin; all of us know suffering; and all of us will one day experience death. In spite of this fact, our Post-Christian, Post-Modern and (increasingly) post-rational society doesn't seem to cope very well with all three. The reality of sin is flatly denied or repackaged as something that is good for us. Suffering is medicated away with drugs that numb or desensitise us to pain whether physical or mental. Death is shuttered away from us behind the freshly lacquered wood of the coffin and the stainless-steel vault of the morgue. Few people today think to pray for those who have died, or to have Masses offered for repose of the souls of the faithful departed, or to visit the graves of loved ones at the cemetery. Fewer still are those who spend time pondering their own mortality. Instead, most of us go busily about our lives with the peculiarly irrational self-deception that we are always going to be here. When the cold reality of death finally does confront us we find ourselves in a state of shock and disbelief. The paralysing and at times hysterical fear of death is symptomatic of a culture that has jettisoned belief in the immortality of the soul and an afterlife. Many today, including Christians, live as though this life is all they have. Alas, how many Catholics could say with the detached resignation of St Paul: “If we live, we live for the Lord; if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die we belong to the Lord.”? (Romans 14:8)

The liturgical action of the imposition of ashes for Ash Wednesday is a sacramental, which is to say, it is a kind of ‘mini-sacrament’: it is ‘an outward sign of an invisible reality that confers grace’. The outward sign of the ashes functions a symbol of death and destruction because something that is burnt to ash is completely unrecoverable and dissipates before our eyes. The grace of recognising our own earthly mortality is that we can prepare well for our eternal life. The ashes, traditionally procured from the burnt palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday, are marked on the forehead (or sprinkled on the head) accompanied by the words: “Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return”, an obvious reference to Genesis 3:19. The imposition of ashes offer us a vivid and poignant reminder of our mortality, as sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. Through life we contend with the trials and burdens of the day, working ‘by the sweat of our brow’. In our fallen state, with a weakened will and a faltering judgment, we all too often fall into sin. This too is a burdensome part of our human condition, prompting St Paul to exclaim: “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” (Romans 7:24).

By His incarnation and Passion Jesus takes the burden of fallen humanity upon Himself. Jesus, in His Sacred Humanity experiences physical, psychological and spiritual suffering: sweat, blood, tears, hunger, thirst, fatigue, temptation, pain, betrayal, abandonment and desolation are all clearly attested to in the Gospels. Jesus did not sin, but as St Paul says “God made Him who had no sin, to become sin for us” (2Cor 5:21). What does St Paul mean here? Elsewhere St Paul teaches that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23), yet Jesus without having sinned Himself experiences the penalty of death. Jesus, the sinless one, chooses to atone for the guilty: He dies that we may live. The ashes on our forehead impress upon our mind not only the reality of our own death, but the death of the One who died for us. In this way Ash Wednesday orients us toward Good Friday. As we embark on this holy season of Lent may we strive to use our Lenten disciplines to practice ‘dying’ to ourselves daily, so that “it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20).

WELCOMING SEMINARIAN YOUSIF ALKATEB



In the coming week, we will warmly welcome seminarian, Yousif Alkateb, who is studying for the priesthood at Corpus Christi College in Melbourne. As part of his training, Yousif will be completing a pastoral placement at our parish. We ask you to please keep him in your prayers as we support him in his vocational discernment.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES 18TH FEBRUARY

7:30am, 9:15am,
10:15am 12:15pm &
7:30pm

**Project Compassion
Boxes Now Available
for collection in the
church foyer.**

LENTEN SEASON FRIDAY TIMETABLE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Mornings
9:15 am Holy Mass
followed by Stations of
the Cross.

Evenings
7 pm Stations of the
Cross, *followed by* Holy
Mass.

TRUE, GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL TALK SERIES



**PASSING ON THE FAITH
- DR. ANDY MULLINS**
Catholic Educator and Author



Friday 20 February 6:30 pm
Parish Hall, St Francis of Assisi Mill Park
\$10 includes light dinner
Tickets: www.classicalschoolmelbourne.com.au



**MOTHERS WHO PRAY
FOR THEIR CHILDREN**
Begins tomorrow, 16th of February.
Meeting weekly, Mondays 6:30 pm
Church foyer. **All women are invited!**

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET TIMES
During **Lent** the chaplet will be held Thursdays
after the 9:15am Mass and Fridays 3pm.

ALPHA COMING SOON
You are invited to the ALPHA Course, which is
being offered at St Francis in Term 2.
Alpha is an exciting refresher course in the
Christian faith, with videos and small group
discussion. Come & bring your friends!

CELLS LAUNCH 2026
All Cell members, families and friends are
warmly invited to come together as we begin a
new year of Cells.
Sunday, 1st March St Francis Hall, 12:00pm
**Theme for 2026 is Jubilee Year of St Francis
of Assisi. Bring a plate to share Enjoy lunch and
social time Bring your friends!** If you are
interested in finding out more about Cell Groups
— come along and see!
Enquiries: 9407 6700 - **You are welcome!**

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Enrolments for 2026 are now being taken. You are
invited to view our facilities and meet our staff and
students. Applications close Friday 8th May 2026.



2026 OPEN DAYS
Sat 28th February & Sat 28 March
9am - 11:30 am

2026 SCHOOL TOURS
Tours are conducted every Tuesday at 9:30 am
throughout terms 1 & 2 - bookings essential. Please
call the office to arrange a suitable time.
312 Childs Rd, Mill Park VIC 3082 9407 3100