



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		FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT		22ND 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 March	
INDONESIAN FAMILY GROUP MASS:			3rd Saturday of the month at 7pm.		
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:

IN MEMORIAM: Rosa Callipari, Joseph Francis, Slaiman Francis, Juliana Agawin, Simon K. Zacharias, Aleena, Fr Gregorio Bruno Simonelli, Connie Victoria,

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,

The Cross and Three-Dimensional Love

Each year we hear in the Opening Prayer from Ash Wednesday the Church invoking the language of spiritual warfare as we begin the penitential season of Lent: “*Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.*” What are the weapons that take up for this great battle? Prayer, Fasting and Alms-giving are the ancient means by which we train ourselves in this spiritual work of deep interior conversion of life. Each of these ‘weapons’ seeks to address a different dimension of the Christian life: Love for God, love for neighbour and self-love.

The cross itself represents these three dimensions. The vertical dimension, which is the larger part of the cross, represents our love for God, since the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, mind and soul. The second, smaller part is the horizontal dimension representing love for our neighbour. The horizontal part is elevated and meshed to the vertical dimension. In other words it is our love for God that elevates and supports our love for neighbour. The without both of these dimensions there would be no cross. But the cross alone would be of no avail were it not for the one who hangs upon the cross. In living out the demands of loving God and neighbour we too must offer ourselves as a living sacrifice. This brings us to the third dimension of the Christian life which concerns our ability to give of ourselves. We can describe this in different ways: the spirit of mortification (ie. ‘dying to self’), self-renunciation, self-sacrifice, self-mastery, and so on. This penitential aspect of the Christian life is essential and non-negotiable. Jesus Himself declares it to be a condition of Christian discipleship: “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*” (Matt 16:24; cf. Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23). The point of this penitential dimension is to learn how to love oneself (properly understood) by orienting our hearts, minds and souls to the hope of eternal life. To attend to one’s own eternal salvation is the ultimate expression of self-love.

If we turn now to the three ‘weapons’ of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we can see how each one helps us to grow in a different dimension of Christian charity. Prayer aims to draw us closer to God. Prayer is the fuel that keeps our love for God burning fervently. Therefore prayer helps to make us more **God-centred**. Almsgiving teaches us to be attentive to the needs of others, especially those less fortunate than ourselves. Actively cultivating this spirit of concern for others in concrete acts of charity helps to fuel our love for our neighbour. Almsgiving therefore helps to makes us more **other-centred**. The discipline of fasting and the various other acts of self-denial that we practice in the season of Lent teaches us self-renunciation and therefore makes us less **self-centred**.

Since everything we undertake as Christians has to have a spiritual foundation, it is important that we use this time to deepen our interior life through prayer, especially the practice of mental prayer in silence. To assist in this endeavour, for the duration of Lent, St Francis of Assisi parish will be offering a daily Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00am-9:00am, Monday through to Saturday. From 8:30am-9:00am the sacrament of Confession will be available (note well: *not before 8:30!*). I hope many of the faithful will be able to use this opportunity to spend time with Our Eucharistic Lord as we meditate anew on the cross by which Christ won our salvation.

Yours in Christ, Fr Francis Denton P.P.

LENTEN SEASON TIMETABLE

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday Mornings: 9:15 am Holy Mass followed by Stations
Friday Evenings: 7 pm Stations, followed by Holy Mass.

CONFESSION TIMES

Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 9:00 am (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)
Wednesday and Saturday confessions remain as per usual

Catechist Classes 2026

Religious Education
Classes for children
outside the Catholic School System.



Trybooking enrollments
are now open for 2026
Catechist Classes.

The following classes are offered:

- Pre-Sacramental - Children in Years Prep, One or Two
- First Reconciliation - Minimum Year Three level
- First Eucharist - Students who have already received First Reconciliation
- Confirmation - Minimum Year Six level who have already received First Reconciliation & First Eucharist

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

- Tuesday July 14th - Classes resume for all students for the duration of Term 3 (4:15pm - 5:00pm)
 - Tuesday 15th September - Reconciliation at 4pm
 - Sunday 20th September - First Eucharist at 2pm
 - Saturday 7th November - Confirmation at 11:30am
- For Enquires:** May Park, Parish Office 9407 6700

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

WELCOMING SEMINARIAN YOUSIF



This week we have welcomed Youusif on his pastoral placement. He is looking forward to meeting everyone and gaining a great deal of experience at our parish. We continue to pray for him in his vocational discernment to serve the Lord.

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 2027 are now being taken. You are invited to view our facilities and meet our staff and students. Applications close Friday 8th May 2026.



2027 OPEN DAYS

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

2027 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