

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

4th January, 2026



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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

The EPIPHANY of the LORD

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 60:1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. 3:2-3, 5-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

We have seen his star in the east;
and have come to adore the Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW: 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and

have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

**'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'**"

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



Tuesday 6th January	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 7th January	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church.
Thursday 8th January	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 9th January	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church. 10.30am Funeral Mass for Lucia Sagona at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners,

I feel somewhat overwhelmed by your cards, messages of good will for Christmas and the New Year, plus all the other presents for Christmas: golf balls, wine, chocolates, food and so forth. I feel humbled and blessed by it all.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:

Each year on this feast, we encounter a story that really defines Christianity: the story of pilgrims on a journey. Thus, we meet the magi – outsiders, Gentiles, coming in search of the king. The Gospel doesn't tell us how many Magi there were. Probably because of the number of gifts mentioned – the number over the centuries dwindled to three. Matthew's Gospel is the only one that even mentions them. We really don't know much more about them, except they were searching for Jesus. But that searching is what their story is all about. Like so many of us, they are on a quest. The magi come into history asking a simple question, but it may be one of the most important: **"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"** It is a question that seekers are asking even today. Where is Christ? In a world so often shrouded in despair, where is hope?

Today you find Christ, for example, in the very land that tradition tells us was home to the magi: Persia, or as we know it, Iran and Iraq.

In Iraq, you will find Christ. You will find him in the quiet and courageous ministry of the Dominican Sisters of St Catherine of Siena, who fled their convent in Mosul in the middle of the night as ISIS was approaching. Today in Erbil, they patiently and prayerfully provide medical care, find homes for the homeless, teach children, and give hope to the hopeless.

You will find Christ in the countless Iraqi Christians who hold fast to their faith in the face of hardship.

Where is the newborn king of the Jews? You will find him in Los Angeles, in the ministry of Fr Gregory Boyle, the Jesuit priest founder of Homeboy Industries, where he with a large band of others are teaching former gang members how to bake, clean, cook, balance a budget, and run a business. With the help of his parish organisation, Fr Gregory Boyle helps around 10,000 men and women a year. Consequently, Homeboy Industries is now the world's largest intervention and rehabilitation program – thanks to this man still and initially – another Christ.

Where is the newborn king of the Jews?

You will find him wherever the hungry are being fed, wherever the grieving are being consoled, and wherever the forgotten are being remembered in his name.

You will find him on St Mary's altar of a Sunday – in something as small as a crumb of bread.

You will find him – as the magi did – anyplace where light dispels the darkness.

The magi were among the first to seek Jesus. They aren't the last. As we begin this New Year, pray that those who are seeking Christ today may find him, somehow, in each of us.

INCREDIBLE WORK OF CARITAS 2025

Amid escalating global crises, Caritas Australia during 2025 supported more than 2.3 million people in 30 countries through life saving humanitarian aid and long-term development programs.

HELP FOR SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEE FAMILY:

Other parishes are starting to get on board in Australia with helping different refugee families through the Federal government CRISP program (COMMUNITY REFUGEE INTEGRATION & SETTLEMENT PILOT). I noticed another one last week to be the first from the Brisbane archdiocese. Indeed our parish was one of the first to help through sponsoring a Syrian family of mother and two teenage children. So much work was done by our CRISP subgroup representing our Way of the West parish group. Now we are still one of the forerunners with recently (as announced in bulletin last week) helping a South Sudanese family with initial settlement help and further long-term accommodation.

FUTURE OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY.

I have no doubt of the success of our parish community long term. Yet certain challenges must be met. Firstly, in case you are new to the parish or you were away before Christmas much of the following is essential to understand as we try to engage more with the St Joseph parish (Newport/Spotswood) for the eventual good of both of us.

- Although there used to be a plentiful supply of priests this is no longer the case. Our Melbourne Archdiocese only has 2-3 ordinations to priesthood each year whereas we lose approximately 8 -12 through retirements, sickness or death.
- I will not be replaced when I retire in June 2027. The Parish Priest of Newport/Spotswood will be the Parish Priest of an even wider area taking in Williamstown as well.
- Archbishop Peter Comensoli has called for a new direction for our parishes with a renewed focus on mission.
- We are working with the archbishop and in collaboration with our neighbourhood parish to make our two parishes vibrant, vital and viable
- As with Pope Francis original approach, we are also committed to a synodal approach – walking together, listening deeply, and discerning carefully.
- Our next meeting for the ‘steering committee ‘of our two parishes will be on January 28th, 2026.

Yours ‘in Christ’

Happy New Year.

Fr Greg greg.trythall@cam.org.au -0400 524 363

NEW ROSTERS FOR 2026:

The new rosters for Welcomers, Special Ministers and Readers for 2026 are now available on the back tables. Thanks to everyone for helping out.

TAP AND GO.

This financial facility has helped greatly with the financial stability of our parish as normally it brings in another \$250 each week. We wish to truly thank those who have contributed over the last year and made things so much easier.

ASK MARY QUESTION OR REQUEST BOX

With the ‘Ask Mary’ box at back of Church the Parish Council has looked at all questions, insights or comments. Some we have acted on and some just did not seem suitable for our situation in this Parish. Please do keep putting in things that will help us all to move forward in some way or other.

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

The St Mary’s Parish has been present at most of the important milestones in your life: your Baptism, your 1st Eucharist, at times of great celebration and at times of great sadness. By leaving a gift to your parish in your Will, you will leave a legacy of faith, a legacy to help ensure that the mission and pastoral outreach that has been important to you will continue both for today’s needs and for those of our children, our grandchildren and beyond.

Rosters for this Week 3rd & 4th January 2026

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Eilin Taylor, Stephen Littleton 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Emma Pinzone 8.30am Chris Maine, Jan Maine 10.30am Olga Reginato
Welcomers	6.00pm Simon Pinzone 8.30am Teofila Hunt 10.30am Joe Covelli

Rosters for next Week 10th & 11th January 2026

Counting Team 2	David Jamieson, Marguerite Buckley, Bob Paz, Lauren Dittmar
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull 8.30am Peter Kirwan, Maryanne Wenzel 10.30am Maria Laudato, Maylene Clayton
Mass Readers	6.00pm Marcia Schobben 8.30am Christal Augustin 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Welcomers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Chantel Castelino

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Finn Pennisi, Dominic Piccolo, Yeme Reddy, Sarah Rodgers, Charlie Galea, Annelore Goetz

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Lucia Sagona who passed away recently and Djuro Djulic, John Carlon, Anna Murrone, Bob Meehan, Joan Dingli, Sue Harkin, Sue Gherdovich Immacolata Laudato, Felicity Buckley, Marga Mardesic, Bill McTaggart, John Alexander, Beatrice Duncan, Roman Caragiali, Margaret McGrath, Vera Spurling, Josie McBean, Pietro Sokolic, Ethel & Leslie Berry, Jim Longman, Kay Doohan, Georgette Fares, Joan Moloney, Neil Kelly, Michael Quinn, Kit Cooney, Margaret Hynes, Kathleen O'Grady, John Jeffkins, Roland Zammit, Eileen Butterworth, Tomaso Sirgiovanni, Anna Lee, John Vincent, Maria Falzon, Andrej Udovic, Edoardo Saragozza, Riccardo Dell'Antonio, Siggie Kerin, Concetta Merlino, Berta Costa Geremia, Romeo & Rosaria Camilleri, Clemente & Giorgina Mifsud, Antonia Mifsud, Margaret Johnson, Julia Farrugia and Charlie Mifsud, whose anniversaries are at this time.

