

Saints and Masses this Week **Monday** 6 April – of Octave of Easter,
Tuesday 7 April – NO MASS – of Octave of Easter, **Wednesday** 8 April – of
 Octave of Easter, **Thursday** 9 April – of Octave of Easter, **Friday** 10 April – of
 Octave of Easter, **Saturday** 11 April – of Octave of Easter, **Sunday** 12 April –
 Octave of Easter

Project Compassion Collection Boxes *Bring in your Project
 Compassion collection boxes this week to help us finalise our
 donations. Thank you to all who have given so generously over
 this season of Lent. Please continue to pray for those who will
 receive your donations.*

Pious Goods Stall We have lots of pious goods and instruments of
 devotion to help you or someone you love to grow in holiness. Great
 opportunity to give a gift of faith and encouragement.

Safeguarding The Archdiocese of Melbourne holds that children, young people
 and vulnerable adults are a gift from God and have an intrinsic right to dignity,
 respect and security from all forms of harm. We are all being asked to be
 attentive and protective of those around us.

2026 Collection/Observance Details		
26 April	Good Shepherd Sunday	OBSERVANCE
3 May	CatholicCare	– Sunday Appeal

St Patrick's Cathedral Renewal This year the Archbishop formally
 shared a significant vision: *Light into the City* — the 5–10-year plan to
 renew St Patrick's Cathedral and reimagine its precinct as the spiritual
 heart of Melbourne. Over the coming months, he will share updates on
 the staged restoration and precinct planning, along with ways to remain
 engaged with this once-in-a-generation renewal. Regular information and
 updates will be available at: www.lightintothecity.org.au

THIS IS THE SEASON OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MERCY OF GOD AT THIS TIME, WE CHRISTIANS
 HAVE RECEIVED SO MANY PROOFS OF THE LOVE OF GOD; WHY SHOULD WE FEAR? JESUS HAS SHOWN
 HOW CONCERNED HE IS THAT WE FEAR HIM BY TELLING US, 'FEAR NOT, IT IS I!' JESUS IS NOT
 DISCOURAGED AT ALL, DESPITE OUR IMPERFECTIONS AND WEAKNESSES, EVEN OF OUR SERIOUS SINS.
 NOTHING DISCOURAGES HIM, SO LONG AS WE REPENT AND TRY TO LIVE AS HE CALLS US TO LIVE. THE
 MORE TERRIBLE WE FEEL, THE DESPERATE WE ARE, THE MORE DISTANT WE ARE FROM HIM, THE MORE
 HE LOVES AND PITIES US. JESUS DESIRES TO FULFILL HIS MISSION OF BEING OUR SAVIOUR, TO CALL US
 SINNERS BACK TO HIS MERCIFUL HEART. EVEN THOUGH LENT IS OVER, AND WE FEEL WE HAVE FALLEN
 SHORT OVER THIS TIME, WE ARE TO BE STILL CONFIDENT THAT HE WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE THE SAVING
 JOY OF THIS EASTER.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, SEYMOUR

ST JOSEPH'S, TALLAROOK

PO BOX 100, VIC 3661

PHONE: 9412 8406 MOBILE: 0455 123 509

EMAIL: seymour@cam.org.au

Website: <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/seymour>

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Eugene Ashkar

Parish Secretary: Lorraine Nagle (Thurs)

MASS TIMES		ROSTERS THIS WEEK	
TUES – SAT SAT VIGIL SUNDAY	9am at St Mary's	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	
	6pm at St Mary's	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	8:30am Tallarook 10am at St Mary's	Volunteer	Volunteer
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
D Ring	G Quillinan	SATURDAY C. Spykers W. Spykers	SUNDAY C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$496.50

RECENTLY DECEASED We pray for the repose of the souls of Fr Grant O'Neill and of all
 those who have died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 5/4-11/4: Brian Leahy, Joyce Whiting, Archbishop Sir Frank Little,
 Luciano Puppa, Gerrard O'Rourke, Frank Voogt, Bill Chivers, Jim Bourke.

ILLNESSES: We pray for: Anne King, Brian Woods, Margaret Jennings, Sonia Willett, Rimon &
 Ellen Ashkar, John McMahon, Peter Matthews, Peter Gough, Colin Cooper, Milly Brock,
 Jeremy Stokes, Pete Dillon, and all who are suffering from the Corona Virus and all those
 unwell at the present time, who receive support from our prayers.

11/12 APR 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Sat: M Winnell Sun: T Bolton

LECTORS

Sat: D Mercovich Sun: R Basco H Basco

MASS PREPARATION

Sat: J Bettaro Sun: M Flynn

COUNTERS: C Mansbridge C Spykers

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

(Or) The Lord is truly risen, alleluia. To him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 117)

ANTIPHON: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

RESPONSE: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

LECTOR: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end. Let the sons of Israel say: "His love has no end." **R.**

LECTOR: The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. **R.**

LECTOR: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

SEQUENCE Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise. The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; And Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled. Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign. Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose! The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting. Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee. That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 10:34, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

NEXT WEEK (2nd Sunday of Easter, Year A) Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 117; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

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your day with
The Majellan

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Jesus has risen indeed



5 April 2026 Easter Year A

The Stawell Gift is Australia's oldest and most prestigious footrace. The event is held over the Easter weekend at Central Park in Stawell, Victoria, and features runners in a 120-metre race with the finals held on Easter Monday.

It is not Stawell, but in the gospel, Simon Peter, and the Beloved Disciple sprint to the tomb. They are in a hurry to verify the news of Mary of Magdala who went to the tomb early in the morning to discover the stone had been removed. The younger disciple arrives first but waits for Peter's arrival before entering the tomb.

We are told that Peter saw the burial cloths, and the cloth that covered the head of Jesus rolled up in a separate place. Peter observes the body is gone. The Beloved Disciple then enters the tomb, and he 'saw and believed'. Peter observed the facts of the empty tomb, but the Beloved Disciple knew that Jesus had risen as he had promised.

The disciples will spread the good news, but it is Mary of Magdala who is the first evangelist of the Resurrection. It is therefore fitting that she is called the Apostle of the Apostles. This is the title accorded her by St Thomas Aquinas that was officially recognised by the Church in 2016. Hers is a unique role in that she was at the crucifixion and the first witness of the resurrection.

Mary lingers at the tomb after the disciples departed. She questions the angels about his disappearance, turns around and encounters Jesus whom she presumes is a gardener. Jesus reveals

himself when he calls Mary by name and he commissions her to bring a further message to the disciples to let them know that he is ascending to the Father.

The experience of the empty tomb and the different appearances of Jesus to his disciples help them to accept that he is truly risen. They are frightened, but the gift of the Holy Spirit empowers them. In our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear Peter is called to the house of the Roman centurion, Cornelius, where he proclaims the story of Jesus to this gentile believer and his companions. The Jews are amazed, and the Holy Spirit descends on Cornelius, and his household are all baptised.

The resurrection experience has immediate effect on an ever-growing circle of people as the apostles, led by Peter, Paul, and their companions, spread the good news.

In 2016, Pope Francis elevated the liturgical celebration of Mary of Magdala to a feast day, formally recognising her as the first witness to the resurrection who announced the good news to the other apostles.

The Stawell Gift offers prize money to the winner, but the Easter sprint brings surprising news. A traditional Easter greeting is "He is Risen" to which the response is "He is Risen indeed!"

Michael Kelly CSSR
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