

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

21st December, 2025



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016

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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.

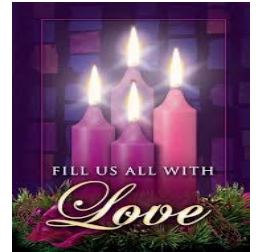
Baptism must be booked

prior to attending

Preparation Night.

Baptisms 12:30pm Sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A



FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 7:10-14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. 1:1-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

A virgin will give birth to a son:
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-24

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet;

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

Which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.



Tuesday 23rd December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve	2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church. 5:40pm Christmas Carols 6:00 pm Christmas Pageant & Mass. 8:30pm Christmas Carols 9:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
Thursday 25th December Christmas Day	9.10am Christmas Carols 9.30am Christmas Day Mass.
Friday 26th December	No Mass or Service at St Mary's Church (Recovery or watching of Boxing Day Test – Australia to beat England again!!)

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is our season of peace and good will, as we acknowledge our faith in Jesus and his Gospel message. Accordingly, thanks once again to all who have contributed in one way or another, throughout the year, office staff, volunteers, musicians, lawn mowers, gardeners, just to name a few of the many. This is not to forget those in our parish school community and their families, helping our young people connect with their faith and apply it to their day to day lives.

Hoping you can join us for our liturgical celebrations in the spirit of the season.

ANNOUNCEMENT MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

Although somewhat overdue compared to other dioceses in Australia, eventually our Archbishop has responded to the initiatives of Pope Francis, Pope Leo and the Australian Plenary Council of 2021-2022 to have a Synod. Through the Synod, bishops, priests, religious and lay leaders from parishes are challenged to gather together to listen deeply to the Holy Spirit and to one another to foster participation and help carry our Christ's mission in our Archdiocese. It is the intention of the archbishop to hold the Synod sometime in 2026 as one of his auxiliary bishops Rene Ramirez has been given the task of leading the process. Three themes will be taken up in the Synod process: Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, Formation and Participation.

REGIONAL BISHOP VISIT TO OUR PARISH OCTOBER 2025

The Western region Bishop Martin Ashe left a more than comprehensive seven-page report of his three-day visit to our Parish from 17th to 19th October. As I was going on annual holidays, I did not get the chance to publish. I have left twenty copies at the school side back table. Otherwise here is a summary and I leave his words to speak for themselves even though they are in a digest form:

“ I was pleased to be able to visit your Parish recently and spend some time with you and with your Parish Priest.....Many experiences were shared with me that spoke of your love and commitment to the Parish.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School: One would need to read the full report as it is too detailed to include a short summary. He commended the efforts of the school and the parish in growing their relationship with each other.

Lunch and Meeting with Parish Staff: I met with one of the Parish secretaries who works 30 hours per week. She works Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (from home that last day). She is also a Pastoral Associate, and she catechizes the children in the Parish Program. The other secretary works on a Wednesday.....The Parish has about 35 weddings taking place this year in St Mary's Church which is a substantial contrast to many churches in the Archdiocese where there are fewer Church weddings....The Parish Registers are in good order.

Site Review: Following a short break in the afternoon, a tour of the buildings took place.....Your church is in a very good condition and well maintained. The presbytery, a two-storey building, also designed by Wardell (I am not sure of that!) was renovated in 2012 and is in a very good condition. The Parish Centre was built in 2001.....It is also in good condition.

Commend: You are to be commended for the way the Parish maintains its buildings and for allocating the necessary Parish funds for this to take place.

Evening Meal at 6.00pm: (Friday), a lovely evening took place, with the members of the Parish Council. This took place at the Chair of the Council. There was conversation around the life of the Parish and what the Parish meant to each member. One sensed a real commitment to the goals of the faith community outlined in recent years.

Saturday Morning Those involved in Ministries. One would have to look at the fuller 7-page report to get the best picture but Bishop Martin commented on meeting reps from the Way of the West team, Mary Care, Garden Maintenance group, Green Team and Welcoming group.

Parish Finance Team: As per the Parish Overview at the St Mary's Parish Annual General Meeting held in June 2025, your Parish has net operating deficit. However, your Parish is debt-free with no loans or outstanding levies. Your Parish Finance Committee is prioritizing in looking to create means of increasing income through different diversification and growth of income streams.

Youth Ministry: Last year a married couple, who also play music at the church (Saturday night) have begun to gather a number of young people together usually once a month after Saturday evening Mass. There are around 10 young people so far and six of them will attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival,

Commitment to a culture of Safeguarding: St Mary's is a reasonably sized Parish with approx. 112 volunteers actively involved across various groups and ministries. In July 2024, the Parish appointed a Safeguarding Co-Ordinator to work alongside Fr Greg, and the Parish Secretary and with an eight member Parish Pastoral Council, to promote the importance and culture of the safety of children and young people throughout the Parish.

Commend: While in the past, the Parish Council has had the overall responsibility for Safeguarding in the Parish, now having a dedicated Safeguarding Co-Ordinator appointed shows your commitment to the importance of safeguarding our children and at the same time shows the Parish's commitment to strengthening its Safeguarding practices and culture.

Recommendation: I would also encourage that a Safeguarding Team (4-5 people) be formed and led by the Safeguarding Co-Ordinator, to enhance the importance of creating a culture of safety for all children and vulnerable people within the Parish.

(The other half from pages 5 to 7 of his report I should get a chance to briefly summarise next week or sometime in the New Year. Fr Greg)

PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE TALK:

If you were not here the last two weeks, then I will leave on the back table a very brief summary of the talk presented two weeks ago by our three steering committee members as we seriously consider a partnership with the Parish of St Joseph: Newport and Spotswood.

Yours 'in Christ '

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

Christmas At St Mary's Church Williamstown

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

Children's Pageant: 6:00pm with carols from 5:40pm

Vigil: 9:00pm with carols from 8:30

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December

Mass: 25th 9:30am with carols from 9:10am



COLLECTION FOR EAST TIMOR SEMINARIANS:

Thanks for your generosity to these three young men seeking to complete studies as priests in Timor Leste. Due to your generosity our recent collection has raised close to the \$600 US dollars needed for each seminarian. A great effort and no more money needed at this time – thanks.

Rosters for this Week 20th & 21st December 2025

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull 8.30am Evol Farrelly, Eilin Taylor 10.30am Maria Laudato, Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Josie Penna 8.30am Christal Augustin 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Welcomers	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Jenny O'Sullivan 10.30am Joe Covelli

Rosters for next Week 27th & 28th December 2025

Counting Team 1	Robyn Jones, Kimberley Jones, Paul Francis
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Larry Rigoni 8.30am Gerard Colla, Ivonne Cram 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Daniel Corcoran 8.30am Peter Kirwan 10.30am Joe Covelli
Welcomers	6.00pm Michael Dillon 8.30am Jeanette Thompson 10.30am Herb Zimmer

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Charlie Attard who passed away recently and Reinaldo Maia, (Margaret) Anna Cumming, Sue Gherdovich, John Grieve, Mary Ebinger, Vera Makaling, Jarrod Bevan, Ethan Watson-Young, Sr. Leila Fitzgerald, Dermot Harkin, Cecilia Penn, Vivian Boyle, Dorothy O'Brien, John Borojevic, Vera Spurling, Rose Cini, John Hynes, Ezio Fabbro, Adriana & Antonietta Azzopardi, Maria Falzon, Bill Morrish, Neil Kelly, Brian Hamment, Milan Maglica, James Ritchie, Cyril Wilkinson, Ignatius D'Soussa, Brendan Waach, and Bruna Lorient whose anniversaries are at this time.

Rosters for Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve 24th December 2025

Ministers

6.00pm Doreen Mitchell, Di Collins,
Alison Silke, Peter Kirwan
9.00pm Larry Rigoni, Gail Tull

Mass Readers

6.00pm Not required
9.00pm Daniel Corcoran



Christmas Day 25th December 2025

Ministers

9.30am Eugene Yi, Maria Laudato

Mass Readers

9.30am Antoinetta Acquaro