

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH—Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Hear us, almighty God, and, having instilled in your servants the teachings of the Christian faith, graciously purify them by the working of this sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OR II OF LENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON — Jn 8:10-11

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We pray, almighty God, that we may always be counted among the members of Christ, in whose Body and Blood we have communion.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

JESUS' LIBERATING GAZE

Today's Gospel from John might seem out of place in a year where the liturgical focus is on Luke. However, some scholars suggest that the story of a woman caught in an adulterous act belongs more in Luke's Gospel and became misplaced in time. Whatever of the story's history, it is the teaching that unfolds that is so important as we come to our final week in our Lenten journey.

In the story, the woman becomes a pawn in a dispute over Torah teaching and as an object to trap Jesus in his apparent moral liberality and rejection of Mosaic teaching. Never addressed is the way the knowledge of the woman's adulterous act is derived. How would her accusers know of her conduct if they had not set themselves in a position to spy upon her? They, too, are incriminated by their very witness. Jesus does not buy into their legal dispute nor their accusation of the woman.

As her accusers depart from the scene without condemning the woman, Jesus gazes upon her without judgement. His gaze frees her. The story leaves contemporary listeners with at least two insights. It affirms Jesus' forgiveness and his desire for our spiritual release. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the way women are treated today in many contexts as objects of sexual desire, domestic violence, male abuse and pornographic depiction.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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ST MARY'S PARISH, DANDENONG—160 FOSTER STREET, DANDENONG

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TEL: 9791-4611/OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MONDAY-FRIDAY/EMAIL: dandenong@cam.org.au

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

6 APRIL 2025

STRAINING AHEAD. The Israelites in exile, St Paul the apostle and the woman caught in adultery all had shameful pasts. They acknowledged their sins but were not weighed down by them because they experienced the forgiveness of God. Freed of the burden of their sin they were able to continue on their way. We also are sinners but with God's forgiveness we too can put the past behind us and strain ahead for the prize to which God is calling us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you were lifted up to draw all people to yourself: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You shouldered the cross, to bear our suffering and sinfulness: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You open for your people the way from death into life: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God, may we walk eagerly in that same charity with which, out of love for the world, your Son handed himself over to death. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. R.

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. R.

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. R.

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, / carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. R.

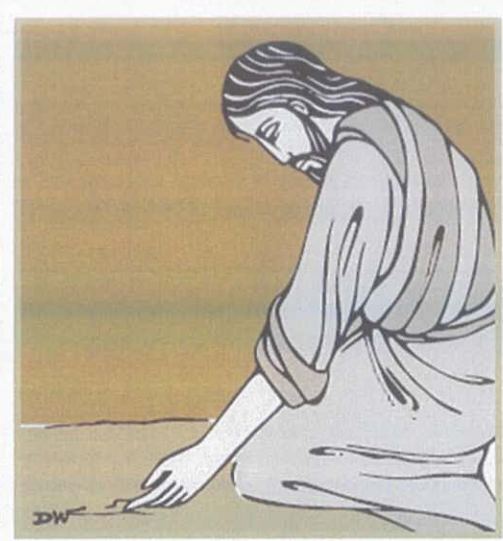
SECOND READING

Phil 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on



everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION — Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Jn 8:1-11

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

PARISH WEBSITE

<https://melbcatholic.org/s/dandenong>

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Sebastian Arockia

PARISH SECRETARY: Franca Van Boxtel

FINANCE OFFICER: Deslene de Niese

PARISH CENTRE MANAGER:

Mr. Miguel Matamala

If you urgently need a priest please call 9791 4611, if Father does not answer, please leave a message and he will call you back.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Morning: 9.15am

Saturday Evening: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 9.15am

Friday (9.45am – 12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction at 12.30pm)

ANOINTING MASS

Last Friday of every month 9.15 am

DAILY ROSARY

After morning Mass Mon-Sat

(Friday will be before Mass)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after 9.15am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

MARRIAGE

Please book the Church at the same time as you book your venue. As marriage preparation is an essential condition of marriage, you must book your preparation course at least 4 months prior to the wedding. Further details can be obtained from Fr. Sebastian

HOUSE BLESSING

If any Parishioner would like their house to be blessed, please contact Franca or at the Parish office on 9791-4611 to make a booking with Fr Sebastian

COMMUNION AND ANOINTING OF SICK

Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing. Any parishioners who take Communion to the sick, could you please put your name and the person you are taking Communion to, into the **Communion to the Sick** book. This book is kept in the sacristy.

ST MARY'S PARISH HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2025 SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL

Palm Sunday (Vigil) Procession 6:00pm

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL

Palm Sunday Procession 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:30pm

TUESDAY 15TH APRIL

Parish Reconciliation 6-7:30pm

THURSDAY 17TH APRIL

Holy Thursday 8pm (Altar of Respose in Church)

FRIDAY 18TH APRIL (GOOD FRIDAY)

Divine Mercy Novena 8:30am (for 1 week)

Stations of the Cross (Dandenong Park) 11:00am

Passion of the Lord 3:00pm

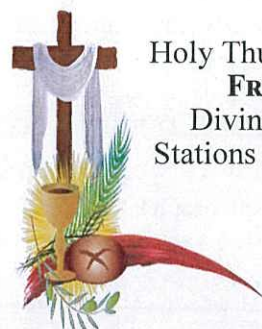
SATURDAY 19TH APRIL

Easter Vigil 8pm

SUNDAY 20TH APRIL

Easter Sunday

8:30am and 10:30am (no 5:30pm Mass)



Donation for the Solomon Island Missions

Last week, I received a cheque for \$713.40 to assist education of children in the Solomon Islands. I am deeply grateful for your continuing support over many years now. I am touched by your thoughtful generosity. The sisters use the money to assist families, who cannot afford the full fees. The families pay what they can, and the sisters are able to supplement the fees, so girls and boys can remain at school. Your money goes directly to young people for their education. **God bless you and thank you.**

Sr Margaret Fields.

SATURDAY 12 APRIL & SUNDAY 13TH APRIL PALM SUNDAY READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROSTER

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	READERS
6PM E. FERNANDEZ T. FERNANDEZ B. FERNANDEZ	6PM R. KIRPALANI R. DIAS
8:30AM R. ALAIN G. PEREIRA C. SIMMONS	8:30AM Y. BLOM M. MONTY
10:30AM T. PHILIPP E. PHILIPP S. VECCHIO	10:30AM B. ROBERTS P. SPINK
5:30PM G. NEWBERRY W. NUNEZ N. THOMAS	5:30PM E. JACOBS M. ALVARES

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Maria Bragagnolo, Sr Merle Parker PBVM

Anniversaries: Michael Guinan, Alessandro Presta, Olga & Jarostaw Drozd, Prince Machado, Morris Martin., Stanley Anderson, Vincent Pereira

Sick: Rosa Maria Santos, Long Phan, Ush Henry Bangkal, Leti Luki, Kathleen Nelson, Jim Lynch, Bernardo, Ray Gilligan, Frank Pezzaro, Janet Augustine, Bridget Phyland, Desmond Hopper, Chris Grubb, Solofuti, Samantha Vasanthy, Kevin, Maria Perez, Alan John Borninkhof, Angela Anthony, Ray Simmons, Frank Camara, Rita Breen, Katrina, Tasileta Lolesio, Jim, Lucia Germano, Imelda Quatre-bornes, Sandra Wills, Reuben Jacobs, Maddie, Herve, Asis Zullah, Nacera Burekovic, Charlie Mastrogiovanni, Carla Lunardi, Russell D'Costa, Satty Lee, Ping Lo, Dale Reynolds, Keith Reynolds, Robyn, Marlene Pootren, Fr Brendan Lane
(The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed) in the Marian.
(IF THERE ARE ANY NAMES THAT NEED TO COME OFF THE SICK LIST PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE)



Fifth Sunday of Lent 5th and 6th of April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground. Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes **Or online** at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

CALENDER

DATE

EVENT

13 April (Sun) Palm Sunday
15 April (Tues) Chrism Mass Cathedral
17 April (Thur) Holy Thursday (Lord's Supper)
18 April (Fri) Good Friday (Passion of the Lord)
19 April (Sat) Easter Vigil
20 April (Sun) Easter Sunday
(Resurrection of the Lord)

Daylight Savings Just a reminder that it ends this Sunday 6th of April the clocks fall back by one hour.



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING

Cleaning of church and preparing of holy water bottles and easter vigil candles
Monday, 14th April after morning Rosary -10am
(Please come to the Parish Office)

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE TUESDAY 15TH APRIL 6PM-7PM

There will be seven priests available to hear confession during this evening.

ST MARY'S PARISH—FUNERAL NOTICE

MARIA BRAGAGNOLO
FUNERAL-WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL 2025 at 2:00PM



Palm Donations – If you have a palm tree and can donate branches, we would greatly appreciate it. Please bring to the church this coming week.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER A ministry in the Catholic Church offering couples a weekend of discovery for their marriage. Enhance communication and rekindle the passion in your marriage!
When: 25-27 April 2025 **Where:** St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South For additional information contact us: Mobile 0409 183 676 **Email:** vicbookings@wwme.org.au **Website:** wwme.org.au

St. Mary's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adult

St. Mary's Primary School Phone: 9791 7650, New St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Terry Gardiner
St. John's Regional College Phone 8793 2000 Caroline St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Timothy Hogan
St. Mary's Community Centre: Tel 7064 3928 **Bookings:** Miguel Matamala 0402 155 192