

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

30th March, 2025



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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 – 4:00pm

Thursday 9:00am – 4:00pm

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 LENT—YEAR C

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Joshua. 5:9-12

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians. 5:17-21

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

I will rise and go to my father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-3, 11-13, 17-24

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So to them he addressed this parable. Then he said, “A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’ So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.....Coming to his senses he thought, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here I am, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”’ “So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But his father ordered his servants, ‘Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.’ Then the celebration began.”



Tuesday 1st April	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 7.00pm Meeting of the 4 parish reps at St Mary's Altona
Wednesday 2nd April	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church
Thursday 3rd April	9:15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 6:30pm Parish Council at presbytery.
Friday 4th April	11:30am Seniors Mass and Anointing of the Sick at St Mary's Church. Followed by Luncheon in the Parish Centre. – All welcome. 6.00pm Stations of the Cross – St Mary's Williamstown. DAYLIGHT SAVING CHANGE OVER NEXT SUNDAY

Dear Parishioners,

The **National Council of Priests of Australia** met in Sydney for three days last week. 100 of us gathered at the Great Southern Hotel in Haymarket – **bordering on China Town**. The seeds of the organisation started in 1969 at the Coogee Hotel – a Sydney beach side suburb. A number of idealistic and somewhat angry priests gathered at that hotel for a serious meeting as they believed many of the Australian bishops were being tardy and not properly progressing the recent and great Council of the Church called Vatican 11. Another 400 of them gathered in 1973 – still angry – at Hunters Hill in Sydney to form the National Council of Priests. They not only wanted to promote a spirit of fraternity among priests in Australia, devise ways and means for priests to serve better the people of Australia but very much also to inform the hierarchy of the Church that it was not business as usual! They desired the Church to come out of a semi enclosed world mindset (a circling of wagons approach) but take up more the mantra of the People of God all working together to progress the Kingdom of God in a modern era. Within ten years nearly 2000 became members of the National Council of Priests. Nevertheless, there will always be priests who love things of the past, who like to wear the Roman Collar the majority of the time, dress in finer vestments and strongly keep the status quo. Consequently, they formed another organisation around 1980 to foster their calling as Catholic priests. One of my main criticisms of them is that generally they can lack an understanding of modern Australia society such as being too strict on musical selections on couples presenting themselves for marriage, or musical selections by a bereaved family for a funeral, or even not allowing a video of photos of the deceased during the ceremony, whether Mass or otherwise. They probably represent about 7 - 10% of Catholic clergy in this country. They tend to find Pope Francis to be too progressive! Many are very fine men but I believe would be better pastors if they loosened up a bit. When all is said and done the Church is a very big organisation and we can accommodate all types from progressives to conservatives. Anyway, back to the organisation I joined many years ago. For various reasons the National Council of Priests is down to about 20% of Australian priests as paid-up members at last count – down from 25% a few years ago. We have tended to attract a high percentage of Anglo-Saxon background clergy who went through the same seminarians such as Manly or Werribee – now at Carlton. Nowadays, with a large number of both religious order and diocesan priests born overseas – we have not been able to attract their numbers as they have not usually joined any of the two possible organisations of priests. They tend to for instance stick to their religious order priest friends/fellowship and get support from their likeminded nationality group. Also, only maybe my personal belief but I think priests get sick of meetings. There are not only numerous seen and unseen meetings in a Parish but for instance for us there is always an annual Conference for 3-4 days of the Archdiocese; added to this there are about two to three mandatory workshops organised by the Archdiocese during each year; there are the twice monthly meetings of the Deanery in regards to the Senate of Priests agendas, there is a monthly dinner meeting between priests of the same deanery if one is available at the time, and for some of us including myself we meet under a professional councillor for ongoing professional development every 2 months. Maybe just the NCP becomes another seeming imposition which is a pity because in the end it is more about vision and a working for God's Kingdom in a progressive way for our own particular and difficult society, in the context of the broader Australian Church. How we can attract these overseas priests is a big challenge for our NCP as we are getting older in our membership. We are no less idealistic though and at our meeting last week it was decided that before appointing our next committee in a year's time, then the nine guys who put up their hands as an interim committee need to work out both our strategies and priorities for the future of the NCP. Besides progressing Vatican 11 and fraternity among clergy there are a number of other aims of the NCP.

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One being to devise ways and means for members to serve better the people whom they are called to minister. Another aim is to affect a liaison with other national bodies of religious men and women and with national bodies of laity. Anyway, we need to look at all those priorities and future strategies through an interim committee. Please pray for them in their discerning.

All the guys would state it was a very successful Conference last week . We had not only a number of good operator's volunteer for the interim committee, but we succeeded in getting a younger replacement for our present Swag editor: a very competent man but ageing. After the next edition of the Swag he will be replaced by a Toowoomba diocese priest, Jamie Collins with the promise of a few other fellow Toowoomba priests to support him over his time as Editor.

GOSPEL FOR THE WEEK:

The prodigal Son would be on par with the Good Samaritan as the best known parables of the New Testament. It is arguable that without these two Gospel stories, Christianity would look very different. This is because they both give concrete expression to the great tenant of our faith: Loving God and loving our neighbour. The prodigal son is distinct because it demonstrates that love for others can be shown through mercy, compassion and forgiveness.

PROJECT COMPASSION:

We finish our Project Compassion videos this week. We have covered the shortage of water in Samoa, Lam from Vietnam with the disability and our last one to be shown is another deeply moving story from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

COMBINED STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Combined Stations of the Cross for the four parishes of this area will be at **our Church this coming Friday at 6pm** . I hope you can make it into our St Mary's Church with parishioners from the other three parishes .

VOLUNTEERS FOR EASTER WEEK:

Please put your name down on back table sheet if your able to help as a Special Minister or Reader for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday – also volunteers needed for Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday night.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

In **two weeks time on Saturday April 12th** you are welcome to join us for our annual Lenten Reconciliation Service Rite 2 at 5:15pm.

NEW PARISHIONERS LUNCHEON:

New parishioners luncheon will **take place after the 10:30 am Mass in the Parish Centre on Sunday June 15th**. It would be great if you could put your name down on pad at back table in order for our secretary Monique to contact you at the time.

Yours 'in Christ'

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

COMBINED PARISHES YOUTH GATHERING

Our next Combined Parishes Youth Gathering will be held on Saturday 5th of April from 7:00pm–8:30pm, at St Mary's Church Williamstown Parish Centre, 116 Cecil Street Williamstown.

We invite all Youth aged 13-18 years to come and join us for a fun evening with food/snacks, faith topic discussion, and games.

Rosters for this Week 29th & 30th March 2025

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am Mary Frisby, Jeanette Thompson 10.30am Di Collins, Alison Silke
Mass Readers	6.00pm Emma Pinzone 8.30am Anthony Verhoef 10.30am Family Mass
Welcomers	6.00pm Simon Pinzone 8.30am Maryanne Wenzel 10.30am Chantel Castelino

Rosters for next Week 5th & 6th April 2025

Counting Team 2	David Jamieson, Marguerite Buckley, Bob Paz, Lauren Dittmar
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull 8.30am Peter Kirwan, Stephen Littleton 10.30am Maria Laudato
Mass Readers	6.00pm Marcia Schobben 8.30am Himali Peter 10.30am Eilin Taylor
Welcomers	6.00pm Cathy Pagano 8.30am Mary Frisby 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Children's Liturgy	8.30am Doreen Mitchell, Joe Covelli

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Pope Francis, Yeme Reddy, Sarah Rodgers, Assunta Delgrosso,
Anne-Marie Pelikinkis, Evol Farrelly, Ruth Francis.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Ken Jones and Beverley Shields who passed away recently and Domenico & Maria Ulcigrai, Caterina & Lino Lugnani, Trish Charles, Dolores Farrugia, Dorothy Murphy, Frank Zahra, Margarita Renzi, Rosaria Laudato, Lachlan Sagona, Giovanni Raunik, Peter Wentworth, Brendan Rooney, Kevin Hynes, Francis Spira, John Bartolo, Marcelle Michaud, Sr. Mary Byrne, Win Kelly, Jim Houlahan, Antonio Fernandes, Kevin Creaney, Terrence Duffy, Carmel Johnson, Cynthia Frawley, Harry Orr, Norma Ranson, Des Driscoll, Noreen Hunter, Geoff Hopkins, Kevin Grace, Giuseppe Nardo, William Spurling, William Dorgan, Lou Hindle, Charles Little, Fran Mannix, Michael McGrath, Kevin Walsh, Ted Literski, Margaret Mangion, Len Owens, Gordon Barnes, Edward Maguire, Mary Zahra, Gertrude Embach, Andrew Murphy, Robert Telfer, Win Hogan, Les Williams, Severina Ordinario, John Smith, Giovanni Radoicovic, Robert James Burke, Chahady Yacoub, Samia Yacoub, Piore Soussan and Nancy McCrae; whose anniversaries are at this time.