

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

8th March, 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT — YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Exodus. 17:3-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. 5:1-2, 5-8.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

GOSPEL: JOHN 4:5 - 42

So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw



water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" (For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."..... Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I had done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

Tuesday 10th March	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 11th March	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church.
Thursday 12th March	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 13th March	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 7.00pm Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults at presbytery.

Dear Parishioners,

LENT YEAR A READINGS :

Instead of the normal Year A readings for 2026 from Matthew, for this Sunday and the next two, the Gospel readings are taken from John's Gospel. John does not give us parables. He gives us extended discourses built around images. Thus, the lectionary of readings presents the stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus. In the first story (this weekend) Jesus speaks of water; in the second he speaks of sight; and in the third he speaks of life. There is a double level of meaning in all three. Thus, let us deal firstly with the first of these three magnificent stories and brilliant lessons from the holy Scriptures for all of us.

We need to firstly ask the question of what is the most precious commodity on earth? Oil? No, even though a lot of wars have been fought over it. Gold? Diamonds? No, even though many people have given their lives trying to acquire them. The most precious commodity with which our earth has been blessed is water. Yes, ordinary water. Why? Because without it there would be no life on earth.

In some countries there is such an abundance of water that it tends to be taken for granted. Moreover, it is readily available – all one has to do is turn on a tap. But in other countries water is extremely scarce, and people must travel long distances to get it. In those countries people have a great appreciation of water.

Water is used for cleaning and cooking. But its chief property is to give life. Nothing can live or grow without water. We water a plant. We take it into ourselves by drinking it. We could live for several weeks without food, but we couldn't survive for more than a few days without water. Water is not so much a necessity of life; it is life.

Jesus too needed water. In today's Gospel, St John presents him as completely human. He shows him sitting by a well in the noonday sun, weary and thirsty. We don't often think of Jesus in that way. When a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water he asked her for a drink, and she gave it to him. The woman was a lost woman, and an outcast from her community. Yet Jesus started up a conversation with her. It is one of the most profound conversations in the Gospel.

Besides being the first necessity of life, water is also a powerful symbol. Jesus used water to talk to the woman about something deeper. He began to talk to her about another kind of thirst and another kind of water.

At first she had no idea what he was talking about. Physical thirst she understood. Yet, when she reflected on her life, she began to understand. Yes, there was another kind of thirst – the thirst for love and happiness and meaning. She had been married not once but five times. Yet she still hadn't found what she was looking for.

PRACTICAL WORLD:

You may have noticed the new carpet at the front of the Parish Centre. It is looking good. It now avoids a trip hazard. Unfortunately, the boiler of the presbytery for the hydronic heating has had its day lasting nearly 15 years. Usually, replacement I am told is around 10- 15 years and it is the dearest part of the hydronic heating to replace. My other quote from the original company for replacement boiler was \$11,000 but I have been able to get it replaced during last week for \$7,560,000 from another company with a similar quality boiler. At the same time the hot water in the presbytery is no longer hot and despite trying everything it seems a replacement hot water system is probably needed! Therefore, those who pay into the Stewardship system please as per normal keep up your generosity, and anyone else who wants to help with the 'tap and go' at back of Church, please know this won't go astray.

Yours 'in Christ'.

Fr Greg

greg.trythall@cam.org.au 0400 524 363

STATIONS OF THE CROSS LENT at 6:30pm on Fridays:

13th March at Spotswood, Hick Street.

20th March at Williamstown, Cecil Street.

27th March at Newport, Newcastle Street.

SACRAMENT PROGRAM AT ST MARY'S

For children who do not attend St Mary's school and are in the Parish area who would like to receive their Sacraments in 2026 please contact Monique Julian:

monique.julian@cam.org.au to request an enrolment form. Dates for 2026 are:

FIRST COMMUNION: 27th April, 4th May and 11th May 2026 - 7.00pm in the Parish Centre.
Communion Masses on the weekend of 16th and 17th May

CONFIRMATION: 17th August, 24th August and 31st August 2026 - 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. Confirmation Masses TBC but likely the first week September.

CONGREGATION PLEASE LEARN FOR LENT

MYSTERY OF FAITH:

We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your resurrection
until you come again.



Green Team

- Green team will be showing a film at St. Josephs by the Sea Williamstown on **Monday 16th March 7 .30 pm titled "Eating Up Easter"** A global wake up call from a remote Pacific Island wanting to preserve its environment from over- tourism. Lasts one hour 16 minutes followed by supper and informal discussion. All welcome including non-parishioners.
- Parish herb garden is growing well and all parishioners are welcome to pick herbs as they need for their home cooking. Entry is to the right of the memorial wall behind the parish centre. Please walk on the stepping stones.
- New prayer signs with scriptural quotes have also been placed in the church garden behind the parish centre to assist parishioners in their prayer and contemplation.

Rosters for this Week 7th & 8th March 2026

Counting Team 2	David Jamieson, Marguerite Buckley, Bob Paz, Lauren Dittmar
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am John O'Keefe, Ivonne Cram 10.30am Maria Laudato, Maylene Clayton
Mass Readers	6.00pm Youth Group 8.30am Peter Kirwan 10.30am Bryan Perera
Welcomers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Jeanette Thompson 10.30am Chantel Castelino

Rosters for next Week 14th & 15th March 2026

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Eilin Taylor, Stephen Littleton 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Josie Penna 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Olga Reginato
Welcomers	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Maryanne Wenzel 10.30am Di Collins

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Dominic Piccolo, Yeme Reddy, Sarah Rodgers, Charlie Galea, David Hume

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Mary Ward , Egidia Nave, Giuseppe Demasi, Filomena Renzi Teresa Iaccarino, Pearl Wells, Lynette McCann (Lily), Giovanni Raunik, Peter Wentworth, Brendan Rooney, Kevin Hynes, Zaren Bartolo, Francis Spira, John Bartolo, Marcelle Michaud, Sr. Mary Byrne, Brendan Rooney, Win Kelly, Czeslaw Pleban, Jim Houlahan, Terrence Mahoney, Bessie Wood, Isabella Belmonts, Antonio Fernandes, Kevin Creaney, Terrence Duffy, Carmel Johnson, Cynthia Frawley, Harry Orr, Norma Ranson, Des O'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, Nancy McCrae, Marie Richardson, Baskal Farrugia, Domenico & Maria Ulcigrai, Giacomo, Caterina & Lino Lugnani, Laura Palumba, Henrietta Augustin and Shirley Barclay, whose anniversaries are at this time.

Thank You, Assist Ability Australia

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Assist Ability Australia**, the business of a wonderful family from our school community, for their generous support of our Monthly Seniors Luncheon. Their commitment to donating sandwiches throughout the year, alongside the generous families who are also contributing, ensures this special gathering can continue and provides the seniors in our community with something meaningful to look forward to each month. We are deeply grateful for their generosity and for the spirit of care and connection they bring to our community.