

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year C)

30 March 2025

readings

Next Week
5th Sunday of Lent

Is 43:16-21
Ps 125
Phil 3:8-14
Jn 8:1-11

in a nutshell

The joy of forgiveness. The story of the prodigal son confirms Jesus' words that there is great rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner. The joyful lavish banquet prepared by the father to celebrate his son's return is a symbol of the heavenly banquet. In this story the older son cuts himself off from the banquet. Unable to forgive like his father, he chooses to stay outside in his own private hell. May we know the joy of forgiveness and the joy of forgiving.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially, John Laan, Harry & Dorothy Heering, Jim & Pat Henshaw, Fr Pat Purcell. For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

Parish Stewardship Campaign continues this week.

More information inside

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Psalm Response

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon

You must rejoice, my son,
for your brother was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and is found.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest
REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary
Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours
Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass
Saturday—6:30 pm (EST)
5:00pm (EDST)
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary
Tuesday—6:00pm
Thursday—9:00am
Friday—9:00am
Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation
Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm
Tuesday—5:10pm-5:40pm
Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition
Tuesday 5:00pm
Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:
smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/mountevelyn

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Alan Somers
Sue Van der Linden
Karla Zmegac



SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's
Conference 0427 874 374 or John Bird 0407 848
192

Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday please

moutevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Regular Gardening/Working Bee on first
and third Saturdays of the month at 8:00 –
10:00 am. Thank you to the volunteers who
turn up to assist with the maintenance of
the grounds around the church.

Parish Meetings: Tuesday, April 1

Finance Committee 7:00pm

Parish Safeguarding 7:30pm

Parish Council 8:00pm

Parish Notices

Saturday Evening Mass

Note the Saturday evening Vigil Mass will remain at 5:00pm when daylight savings ends.

Parish Stewardship Program

As we continue our parish offertory renewal, we invite those who have not yet returned their Pledge Cards to do so. You may place your completed card in the offertory collection, in the designated boxes in the church foyer, or drop it off at the parish office. If you were unable to collect a Pledge Pack, generic Pledge Cards are available on the pews this weekend. These can be filled out and returned immediately during Mass. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our parish community. Every offering, no matter the amount, is an expression of love and gratitude to God. Your support ensures that our parish can continue to serve and grow in faith together.

Stewardship Corner

"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." - Joshua 5:12

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

Supporting the Parish

There are a number of ways to contribute to the financial viability of the Parish: Cash donations and envelopes in the labelled boxes in the narthex, Tap and Go terminals, the QR code in the bulletin.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Lord Jesus Christ, may I never offend you with my lack of love. You are worthy of all praise and adoration. Christ awaits us in confession with the same love and compassion he details in the parable of the Prodigal Son. "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly". (Lk 15:20-21) How else can we respond to such love except with humility and contrition in our heart?

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Tuesday at 5:00pm & Friday mornings 8:00am. Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Project Compassion

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes, online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling: 1800 024 413

Lenten Series – The Seven Last Words (Discussion Group)

The St. Paul Centre (Dr. Scott Hahn) is offering a free Lenten Video Series. We will have a Lenten Discussion group every Wednesday of Lent at 6pm in the parish portable. We will discuss the videos from The Seven Last Words series. Though we will watch the video on Wednesdays, it would be best if you would have seen the video prior to our discussion. You can sign up for free at <https://stpaulcenter.com/>

Stations of the Cross During Lent—6:00pm Fridays

We are praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. Please come and pray this traditional devotion following the path of our Lord to Calvary.

Fraternity of St Joseph Young Men's Group (Lilydale)

Young men and dads (18-50) are invited to a monthly gathering at St Patrick's for a time of prayer and fellowship. Commencing at 6:30pm with a Holy Hour (Eucharistic Adoration) in the Church; followed by a time of socialising and recreation in the Community Centre, from 7:30pm-9:00pm. Food and drinks provided, plus the opportunity to show your skills with the dartboard and table-tennis table! First Friday of the month.

The Parish Prayer Group

Meets Monday at 9:15 am and Fridays at 2pm. For more information please call Maria at 0409 793 001 or just come on in and discover peace in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist!

Save with CDF Community Fund

By opening a savings account or Term Investment, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, but your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities. With competitive interest rates available across a range of savings accounts, including 5.10% p.a.* on a 6-month Term Investment, it's a way to save while doing good.

To find out more, visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer, scan the QR code, or speak to us on 1800 134 135.

*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.

Something to make you Smile!

Why should you avoid the stairs on April Fools' Day? Because they're always up to something.

I told a chemistry joke in honour of April Fools', but I didn't get a reaction.

sourced from www.majellan.media

Holy Week Both Parishes.

Tuesday: No Mass or Adoration at St Mary. Father will be at the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass. Everyone is invited to attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral at 10:00am, Tuesday, 15 April. This special Mass will have the blessing of the oils by the archbishop and the renewal of the promises by the priests gathered for the Mass.

Wednesday: Regular Mass at Yarra Junction at 9am.

Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper: Yarra Junction, 6pm & Mount Evelyn 8pm (No morning mass)

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross at 9am at St Mary and Passion of the Lord at 3pm at St Mary.

Confessions: after Stations and the Passion of the Lord.

Easter Saturday: Easter Vigil will be celebrated at St Mary's at 7pm. There will not be a Vigil celebrated at Yarra Junction.

Easter Sunday: Easter Mass at Yarra Junction at 8:30am and St Mary's at 10:30am & 5:00pm.

Readings Reflection

[Found Alive Again](#)

In today's First Reading, God forgives "the reproach" of the generations who grumbled against Him after the Exodus. On the threshold of the promised land, Israel can with a clean heart celebrate the Passover, the feast of God's firstborn son (see Joshua 5:6-7; Exodus 4:22; 12:12-13).

Reconciliation is also at the heart of the story Jesus tells in today's Gospel. The story of the Prodigal Son is the story of Israel and of the human race. But it is also the story of every believer.

In Baptism, we're given a divine birthright, made "a new creation," as Paul puts it in today's Epistle. But when we sin, we're like the Prodigal Son, quitting our Father's house, squandering our inheritance in trying to live without Him.

Lost in sin, we cut ourselves off from the grace of sonship lavished upon us in Baptism. It is still possible for us to come to our senses, make our way back to the Father, as the prodigal does.

But only He can remove the reproach and restore the divine sonship we have spurned. Only He can free us from the slavery to sin that causes us—like the Prodigal Son—to see God not as our Father but as our master, One we serve as slaves.

God wants not slaves but children. Like the father in today's Gospel, He longs to call each of us "My son," to share His life with us, to tell us: "Everything I have is yours."

The Father's words of longing and compassion still come to His prodigal children in the Sacrament of Penance. This is part of what Paul today calls "the ministry of reconciliation" entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and the Church.

Reconciled like Israel, we take our place at the table of the Eucharist, the homecoming banquet the Father calls for His lost sons, the new Passover we celebrate this side of heaven. We taste the goodness of the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm, rejoicing that we who were dead are found alive again.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

The Secret of Sanctity

Here is the whole secret of sanctity; the method is available to everyone and deserves particular notice from those who ask: "What can I do?" For many good souls are hungry to do great things for God. They complain that they have no opportunities for heroic virtue, no chance at the apostolate. They would be martyrs; but when a meal is late, or a bus is crowded, when the theater is filled, or the dance postponed, or the bacon overdone, they are upset for a whole day. They miss their opportunities for loving God in the little things He asks of them.

Our Lord said: "He who is trustworthy over a little sum is trustworthy over a greater." (Luke 16:10) The Divine Beloved speaks to the soul in a whisper, but because the soul is waiting for a trumpet, it loses His Command. All of us would like to make our own crosses tailor-made trials. But not many of us welcome the crosses God sends. Yet it is in doing perfectly the little chores He gives that Saints find holiness. The big, world-shattering things many of us imagine we would like to do for God might, in the end, feed only our egotism.

On the other hand, to accept the crosses of our state of life because they come from an all-loving God is to have taken the most important step in the reformation of the world, namely, the reformation of the self. Sanctity can be built out of patient endurance of the incessant grumbling of a husband—the almost intolerable nagging of a wife—the boss's habit of smoking a pipe while he dictates—the noise the children make with their soup—the unexpected illness—the failure to find a husband—the inability to get rich. All these can become occasions of merit and be made into prayers if they are borne patiently for love of One Who bears so patiently with us, despite our shortcomings, our failures, and our sins.

It is not hard to put up with others' foibles when one realizes how much God has to put up with from us. There is a legend that one day Abraham was visited in the desert by an Arab, who set up loud complaints of the food, the lodging, the bed, and the wine which his generous host had offered him. Finally, Abraham became exasperated and was about to put him out. God appeared to Abraham at that moment and said: "Abraham, I have stood this man for forty years; can't you put up with him for one day?"

Accept the Duty of the Moment

To accept the duty of this moment for God is to touch Eternity, to escape from time. This habit of embracing the Now and glorifying God through its demands is an act of the loving will. We do not need an intellectual knowledge of God's plan in order to accept it. When St. Paul was converted he asked merely: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" We can be warmed by a fire without knowing the chemistry of combustion, and we can be cured by a medicine without knowing its prescription.

The Divine Will, pouring into the soul of a simple cripple resigned to suffering, will give him a far greater understanding of theology than a professor will get from a lifetime of theoretical curiosity about religion which he does not practice. The good and the bad thief on the cross had the same crisis of fear and suffering—one of them complained and lost his chance for Heaven that day; the other spiritualized the brief moment of suffering. Some souls win peace and sanctity from the same trials which make others rebels and nervous wrecks.

God cannot seize our wills or force us to use our trials advantageously, but neither can the Devil. We are absolute dictators in deciding whether we wish to offer our will to God. And if we turn it over to Him without reservation, He will do great things in us. As a chisel in the hands of Michelangelo can produce a better statue than a chisel in the hands of a child, so the human will becomes more effective when it has become a liege of God than if we try to rule alone. Our wills operating under our own power may be busy about many things, but in the end they come to nothing. Under Divine Power, the nothingness of our wills becomes effective beyond our fondest dreams.

The phrase which sanctifies any moment is "Thy Will be done." It was that fiat of our Saviour in Gethsemane which initiated our Redemption; it was the fiat of Our Lady which opened the way to the Incarnation. The word cuts all the guy ropes that attach us to the familiar, narrow things we know; it unfurls all our sails to the possibilities of the moment, and it carries one along to whatever port God wills. To say and mean "Thy Will be done" is to put an end to all complaining; for whatever the moment brings to us now bears the imprint of the Divine Will.

Evil Can Benefit Us

It will seem strange to the worldling, but even our enemies—even those who cheat, malign us—can become occasions for advancement toward union with God. All contradictions can be turned to good by those who have put their trust in God. Seeing the trial as issuing from the Divine Hand, one never has to wonder how to meet it, nor question why it came, nor seek defense against it. Each trial is an occasion for faith and an opportunity for virtue. Having put oneself in the deeper dimension of Divine Love, one knows as a child in a loving family knows, that even what is not understood is done kindly and for the best. There finally comes a period of union with God when everything seems unreal except Divine Love. The soul in the midst of trials and aches becomes like an airplane flying—it follows the beam of God's Will through the fog and mist.

We would all like to make our own crosses; but since Our Lord did not make His Own, neither do we make ours. We can take whatever He gives us, and we can make the supernatural best of it. The typist at her desk working on routine letters, the street cleaner with his broom, the farmer tilling the field with his horses, the doctor bending over a patient, the lawyer trying his case, the student with his books, the sick in their isolation and pain, the teacher drilling her pupils, the mother dressing the children—every such task, every such duty can be ennobled and spiritualized if it is done in God's Name.

Ven. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Life is Worth Living
www.catholicexchange.com (Sam Guzman)