

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*

15th February, 2026



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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Sirach. 15:15-20

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Happy are those who follow the law of the Lord!

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. 2:6-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW: 5:17-37

“Do not think I have come to abolish the law of the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. You have heard it was said to your ancestors, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgement.’ But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement, and whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca,’ will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, ‘Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God’s throne. Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No’. Anything more is from the evil one.”



Tuesday 17th February	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 11:00 am Communion Service at "The Village" – Fr Greg
Wednesday 18th February	9.15am Ash Wednesday Mass at St Mary's Church. Whole School. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church. 7.00pm Ash Wednesday Mass at St Mary's Church.
Thursday 19th February	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 20th February	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Saturday 21st February	9.00am—11.00am. Working Bee Church gardens .

Dear Parishioners,

LENT:

The forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness can be likened to the season of Lent. Jesus' time in the wilderness was a time of preparation for his ministry, a time in which he confronted the temptation to choose self and not the Father. It is a time in which we also are invited to examine whether the will of God is central in our lives.

There are many ways which in Lent we can change a habit, work on a virtue, try to be more aware of the sacred whether that be spending time in nature, in prayer like visiting our Mary Grotto for a few minutes once or twice during the week or go to weekday Mass occasionally through Lent. Self-mortification which I will explain shortly might mean we try to bite our tongue and listen more to the feelings or desires of others. During Lent we might take seriously one of the books for reflection on back of Church today or recite a psalm a day of the Old Testament psalms or whatever! At least **DO SOMETHING !**

MORTIFICATION DURING LENT

Although there are definite aspects of the secular society that are positive, there are other areas that are not up to certain ideal Christian standards demanded by Christ or his followers. Among those is a subject we used to talk about a lot: mortification. In using that simple one word I am much more writing about self- mortification than just mortification – the latter word being more along the lines of feeling embarrassed for some behaviour, whereas self- mortification is more to do with self-denial. Even though Jesus explicitly stated, "if a person does not take up his (her) cross he cannot be my disciple", there is an underlying societal semi blackmail that states self-denial is sick or self- sacrifice verges on masochism. Thus, in the end we can deny self-denial!

The contemplative vision of ourselves, of our world, of God, for which we yearn new ways, comes only when we dare to look at the old word and the old practice of mortification again – for the sake of a good and satisfying Lent.

Mortification, (meaning self- mortification as I write this insert into the bulletin) is the habit of saying "no" to some of one's impulses and could be seen as a denial of life! But not necessarily so. Rather it can and should be an essential way of saying "yes" to life and to its truest goods and pleasures. Mortification at its best arises from a radical doubt. It is the way to raise questions about what everyone else takes for granted. Mortification is the way to question the fundamental assumptions of each age and each institution from this standpoint: do they enable or prevent human life to the full? For instance, mortification calls into question that suffering and pain are to be avoided at all costs. Another different way of looking at it could be to question that the consumption of things, pleasures, and experiences makes a person happy and the more one consumes the better off one is/to sit still is a waste of time/the goal of life is to have/sexual liberation means love is the only rule!!

Mortification arises from a different way of seeing the world. It is not the cultivation of private pain. Whether it involves old- fashioned practices like "giving up" chocolates, alcohol or even smoking, it is in fact an instinct of discipline and control which accepts limits as positive and even creative.

Behind Project Compassion and the Caritas machinery throughout the world is the unfortunate fact that a minority of human beings pursue without limits their own pleasure, while the majority pay for it with their very lives! The affluent minority, consciously or unconsciously keep the poor majority in some sort of submission or often put them off with a trickle of "developed pleasures". This raises questions about what we "have" and are we willing to do without some things or so-called pleasures to help through such organisations as Project Compassion. What can be lacking in our secular society can be an approach to other nations that can be probably summarised as a lack of mortified sensibility.



The goal of mortification, far from being mere piety, is nothing less than the transformation of the public and political reality that takes its shape from us as human beings. Mortification is an act of imagination. It enables us, by denying our impulses to self-aggrandisement (like always buying tattslooto tickets or having to put a fair bit of our money into gambling) to take other people more seriously, to imagine what it is like to be where they are.

Mortification in the sense of being more in tune with the poor of our world means more along the lines of living without certain things(not all the latest gadgets in a new car/ going for the cheaper but still very good model) ; living without certain possessions that others might have. I suppose in saying this that mortification is a form of consciousness in which my world includes yours. By denying myself I can imagine what it is like for you to be denied. Often real compassion is a failure of one person to see through the eyes of another. We could for instance during Lent adopt a habit of trying to understand more where others are coming from by just listening more intently. Even good listening is a self-discipline we can all be better at. It is a good form of self-mortification. For others, adopting a better habit of biting our tongues in order not to say something that might hurt another person is a good exercise for Lent. For others it is developing a more caring habit of being in touch more with family or friends – a friend in need is a friend indeed! It is no good giving up chocolates if there is no effort to transform oneself. For this to happen we need some form of self-mortification. For to change ourselves is not easy and I am only talking about changing for the better. For some it might mean drinking less, like only weekends in Lent, in order that we don't get into a habit of abusing others or worse still inflicting violence on another family member. For others Lent might mean cutting our gambling down so that we have more money available to pay our family mortgage or pay our family bills on a rainy day. Make Lent a good Lent so that we can all rejoice more at Easter.

Yours 'in Christ'. Fr Greg greg.trythall@cam.org.au -0400 524 363

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:

RECONCILIATION: 16th February, 23rd February and 2nd March 2026 - 7.00pm in the Parish Centre. Reconciliations to be held 3rd-7th March

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.

WORKING BEE AROUND CHURCH GARDENS

SATURDAY 21st February, 2026—9.00AM—11.00AM

Come along and help clean up our beautiful church gardens, even if it is only for an hour or two. If you could bring your own equipment, it would be greatly appreciated.

CONGREGATION PLEASE LEARN
FOR LENT AND ASH WEDNESDAY:

MYSTERY OF FAITH:

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



Rosters for this Week 14th January & 15th February 2026

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull 8.30am Peter Kirwan 10.30am Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Marcia Schobben 8.30am Himali Peter 10.30am Joe Covelli
Welcomers	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Teofila Hunt 10.30am Di Collins

Rosters for next Week 21st & 22nd February 2026

Counting Team 1	Robyn Jones, Kimberley Jones, Paul Francis
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Larry Rigoni 8.30am Doreen Mitchell, Evol Farrelly 10.30am Alison Silke, Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Daniel Corcoran 8.30am Chris Maine, Jan Maine 10.30am Cindy Kotevski, Charlize Kotevski
Welcomers	6.00pm Imma Marguglio 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Joe Covelli

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Laura Rose Ilardi who passed away recently and Eddie Dawson, Judy O'Keefe, Alfred Spiteri, Anna Trifilo, Barney Cooney, Philip Webb, Lisa Di Donato, Stephen Kelly, John Paul Camilleri, Luigina Frlan, Mario Frlan, Ignazio Kucich, Elaine Jones, June Dibbs, Marie Anderson, John Brennock, Rosario Guastalegname, Rita Sargasso, Robert Morton, Kate Dawes, Marie Farrelly, Joso Djuric, Steven Drozdek, Frank Galli, Veronica Knight, Peter Black, Robert Barry, Rita Holdworth, Brian Williams, Joseph Maguire, John O'Grady, Ivy Shields, Alan Urban, Lena Cassar, Frank Woodruff, Mary McLinden, Mary Dyson, Michael Frawley, Agnes McDonagh, Joyce Zammit, Kay Green, Peggy Price and Laura Palumbo, whose anniversaries are at this time.

Green Team—Recycling Tubs

Recycling of small household items:

On Sunday 22nd February and the 1st March (first and second Sundays of Lent), there will be an opportunity for recycling of items which cannot be disposed of **in the yellow household bin**. E.g. outdated mobile phones, batteries, packaging for medication (must be empty), light globes, CDs. **No large items please.**

The recycling tubs will be at the back of the church. The Green Team will arrange for immediate removal and recycling.