

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*

23rd March, 2025



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016

Telephone: 9397 6066

Email: williamstown@cam.org.au

www.melbcatholic.org/s/williamstown

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR C

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Exodus. 3:1-8, 13-15

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING:

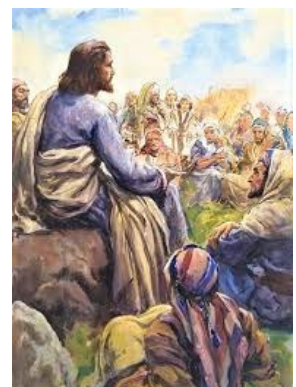
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians. 10:1-6, 10-12.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

GOSPEL: LUKE 13:1-9

Jesus told them this parable: “There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”



Tuesday 25th March	Church closed. Renovations in progress.
Wednesday 26th March	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church
Thursday 27th March	9:15am Mass at St Mary's Church
Friday 28th March	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church 6.00pm Stations of the Cross – St Leo's North Altona (Mason street at Millers Road end)

Dear Parishioners,

The Pharisees had no time for sinners. They believed that sinners should just be written off. Jesus didn't agree. We see that in another of his great informative stories – this one of the barren fig tree. Compared in contrast to the owners hard heartedness, the gardeners way was the way of love as he wanted to give it one more chance to either produce its fruit or if not then face the axe.

PROJECT COMPASSION:

For the next 2 weeks of Lent there will be a Project Compassion video of individual stories—hope you find these videos encouraging of what we as an Australian Church keep doing for Project Compassion on behalf of Australian Caritas. This week it will be a lovely story through video of Lam, a young man from rural Vietnam. Lam's disability made his upbringing difficult. Through, the I-Shine program, supported by Caritas Australia's partner in Vietnam, Catholic Relief Services, Lam was able to pursue his dreams and become more independent. Now he has launched a freelance graphic design business from his home earning a stable income each month. He is not the Lamb of God but the Lam of God – another of God's precious children!

COMBINED STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Again, this year Stations of the Cross will be offered by the four neighbouring parishes as it was so successful last year with greater numbers for all. Accordingly, you are welcome to any of the following:

- Friday 28th March at St Leo's Altona North at 6pm
- Friday 4th April at St Mary's Williamstown at 6pm

COMBINED CHURCHES EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE.

Please note that there is an Easter Sunday Ecumenical Service at 6:45am on April 20th at the Williamstown Timeball Tower.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

This national event will be in Melbourne from November 30- December 2nd . it will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre .

CHILDRENS LITURGY:

All our neighbouring parishes have expressed difficulties with numbers regarding Children's Liturgy as team sport on a Sunday does not help with numbers available. Accordingly, with us it was decided at Parish Council level that we will provide Children's Liturgy at the 8:30am Mass on the first Sunday of the month instead of every Sunday during school term.

LAUNDRY ROSTER

If you are able to help for two months of the year on an altar linen roster that would be great. All it means is taking on a Sunday the small linen from the sacristy such as used on the altar – they are only small items eg linen for washing of the fingers or purifier for purifying the chalice. If able to help then ring the parish office please on 93976066

Yours 'in Christ' Fr Greg Trythall – greg.trythall@cam.org.au -0400524363

Update from the CRISP Team

March 7th 2025 marked 12 months since the arrival of Amina, Omar and Mirva in Australia. The refugee family from Syria whom the parish supported to settle into Australia through the pilot phase of the governments the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP) program, that supports refugees for their first 12 months in Australia.

Since its launched in mid-2022 as a pilot program, more than 500 refugees had been supported by church, community and sporting groups to settle in cities and towns across Australia. In February 2025, (with effect from mid 2026), the government announced that the CRISP program will become a permanent program role in our migration system. This is testament to the wide range of benefits of this community-led approach for refugee newcomers, local communities, and the everyday Australians, such as St Mary's parishioners who put their hands up to welcome a newcomer.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

After being kindly hosted by Brian and Sally Rice for three months in Australia, the family then moved into a rented unit in Williamstown. Much of their first 12 months was spent at English school and making new friends and connections.

Today Amina is studying English and has her learners driving certificate. Omar has a job working with a builder, and in February Mirva started Year 10 at Mount St Joseph's and is studying towards a career in journalism. Special thanks to Mount St Joseph's whose Principal Kate Dishon has arranged for Mirva to attend on a fully paid for basis.

Please see some recent photos below of Omar and Brian Rice at a day out at the football, and of Amina, Principal Kate Dishon, and Mirva at her first day at Mount St Joseph's.

Thank you to the Parish of St Marys Williamstown for its generous support in allowing a refugee family to come to and settle in Australia, and for its part in contributing to the success of a program that will now be a permanent feature of Australia's migration system.

The Way of the West CRISP Parish Sub-Committee is now starting the process of welcoming a second family later in the year, or early next year. We are also welcoming new members to the CRISP team who wish to join. Please let Fr Greg know if you are interested.

***"In this life we cannot always do great things.
But we can do small things with great love." Mother Teresa***



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.

Green Team News - Recycling of small household items:

Thanks to all who contributed recycled materials to our collection over the last two weekends.

We will have a further recycling collection later in the year.

Rosters for this Week 22nd & 23rd March 2025

Counting Team 1	Frank Jones, Robyn Jones, Kimberley Jones, Paul Francis
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Beata Sicat 8.30am John O'Keefe, Eilin Taylor 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Rosemarie Smith 8.30am Chris Maine, Jan Maine 10.30am Cecilia Balson
Welcomers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Jeanette Thompson 10.30am Di Collins

Rosters for next 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 Herb Zimmer
Welcomers	6.00pm Simon Pinzone 8.30am Maryanne Wenzel 10.30am Chantel Castelino

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Domenico & Maria Ulcigrai, Giacomo, 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 Leterski, 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.