

out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

"Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

"The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH—Nicene Creed
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I AND II OF LENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Lk 15:32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life;

he was lost and is found.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy

and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

GOD'S LAVISH DELIGHT

This Sunday's Gospel brings us to the very heart of Luke's teaching—forgiveness and God's delight in the return of the sinner. The Gospel's introduction sets the scene: Jesus attracts and dines with moral reprobates. Is this mirroring what's happening with Luke's householders as they gather for the Lord's Supper? Like Jesus, are they too being criticised by religious legislators?

Three parables follow. Our focus is on the third, the parable of two lost sons. Preachers often exclusively focus on the young son who demands his inheritance to leave the farm for a life of pleasure. The son is virtually treating his father as though dead when inheritances were usually bequeathed. He wants to completely cut family ties. We know what follows. The son's need to address his chronic hunger and loneliness sitting with Earth's most unclean creature, the pig, brings him to acknowledge his wrongdoing. He wants to return to his father's farm not as a son but as a hired hand.

The father's longing for his son's return is palpable and completely upturns social expectation. It reflects God's visceral response to the lost one who returns. The second older son is also lost. His adamant rejection of his younger brother's behaviour and his unwillingness to join the celebration of the brother's return flags an attitude circulating in Luke's world. The father's plea to this son for a change of heart is also a plea to the Gospel audience: Are we able to celebrate the joy of God's lavish delight over those we would prefer to exclude?

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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ST MARY'S PARISH, DANDENONG—160 FOSTER STREET, DANDENONG

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TEL: 9791-4611/OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MONDAY-FRIDAY/EMAIL: dandenong@cam.org.au

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

30 MARCH 2025

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 and 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.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 66:10-11

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

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Josh 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua
The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you."

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 33:2-7. R. v. 9

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. 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.**

2. 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.**

3. 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.**

SECOND READING

2 Cor 5:17-21

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 15:18

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!

GOSPEL

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. "This man" they said "welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he spoke this parable to them:

"A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

"When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

"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. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring

PARISH WEBSITE
<https://melbcatholic.org/s/dandenong>

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Sebastian Arockia
PARISH SECRETARY: Franca Van Boxtel
FINANCE OFFICER: Deslene de Niese
PARISH CENTRE MANAGER:
 Mr. Miguel Matamala

If you urgently need a priest please call 9791 4611, if Father does not answer, please leave a message and he will call you back.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES
 Saturday Morning: 9.15am
 Saturday Evening: 6.00pm
 Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIMES
 Monday to Friday: 9.15am
 Friday (9.45am –12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction at 12.30pm)

ANOINTING MASS
 Last Friday of every month 9.15 am
DAILY ROSARY
 After morning Mass Mon-Sat (Friday will be before Mass)

RECONCILIATION
 Saturday after 9.15am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM
 Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

MARRIAGE
 Please book the Church at the same time as you book your venue. As marriage preparation is an essential condition of marriage, you must book your preparation course at least 4 months prior to the wedding. Further details can be obtained from Fr. Sebastian

HOUSE BLESSING
 If any Parishioner would like their house to be blessed, please contact Franca or at the Parish office on 9791-4611 to make a booking with Fr Sebastian

COMMUNION AND ANOINTING OF SICK
 Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing. Any parishioners who take Communion to the sick, could you please put your name and the person you are taking Communion to, into the **Communion to the Sick** book. This book is kept in the sacristy.

ST MARY'S PARISH
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2025
SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 5TH APRIL
 Lenten Retreat 9:30am-3:30pm

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL
 Palm Sunday (Vigil) Procession 6:00pm

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL
 Palm Sunday Procession 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:30pm

TUESDAY 15TH APRIL
 Parish Reconciliation 6-7:30pm

THURSDAY 17TH APRIL
 Holy Thursday 8pm (Altar of Respose in Church)

FRIDAY 18TH APRIL (GOOD FRIDAY)
 Divine Mercy Novena 8:30am (for 1 week)
 Stations of the Cross (Dandenong Park) 11:00am
 Passion of the Lord 3:00pm

SATURDAY 19TH APRIL
 Easter Vigil 8pm

SUNDAY 20TH APRIL
 Easter Sunday
 8:30am and 10:30am (no 5:30pm Mass)



EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT on the first Thursday of the month. **THURSDAY 3RD APRIL** after morning mass followed with **Adoration** concluding with Benediction at 5:30pm. We will need at least 3 volunteers to cover the day and evening hours. A sign up sheet is in the church foyer if you would like to reserve your spot.



ST MARY'S PARISH—FUNERAL NOTICE

ANNA MARIA APPELMAN
 31/10/1935 - 24/3/2025

FUNERAL-WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL 2025 at 11:30AM




The Community of Sant'Egidio is a worldwide Christian community committed to prayer, friendship with the poor, and working for peace. Members of the Community are engaged in a variety of ways in acts of friendship with the poor and the vulnerable in our city. The Community meets in Melbourne to pray for peace, for the sick and for the poor at 7.30 pm on the last Monday of each month at All Saints Church, King William Street, Fitzroy. All are welcome at the Community's next prayer meeting on Monday 31 March 2025 at 7.30 at All Saints, Fitzroy. Inquiries to seinaustralia@gmail.com and more information at www.santegidio.org

St. Mary's Primary School Phone: 9791 7650, New St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Terry Gardiner
St. John's Regional College Phone 8793 2000 Caroline St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Timothy Hogan
St. Mary's Community Centre: Tel 7064 3928 Bookings: Miguel Matamala 0402 155 192

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Anna Maria Appelman

Anniversaries: Kimberley Tirant, Ambrose Family, Jacob Family, Moses Family Carolina Hinnestrosa,

Sick: Rosa Maria Santos, Long Phan, Ush Henry Bangkal, Leti Luki, Kathleen Nelson, Jim Lynch, Bernardo, Ray Gilligan, Frank Pezzaro, Janet Augustine, Bridget Phyland, Desmond Hopper, Chris Grubb, Solofuti, Samantha Vasanthy, Kevin, Maria Perez, Alan John Borninkhof, Angela Anthony, Ray Simmons, Frank Camara, Rita Breen, Katrina, Tasileta Lolesio, Jim, Lucia Germano, Imelda Quatre-bornes, Sandra Wills, Reuben Jacobs, Maddie, Herve, Asis Zullah, Nacera Burekovic, Charlie Mastrogiovanni, Carla Lunardi, Russell D'Costa, Satty Lee, Ping Lo, Dale Reynolds, Keith Reynolds, Robyn, Marlene Pootren, Fr Brendan Lane
(The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed in the Marian. (IF THERE ARE ANY NAMES THAT NEED TO COME OFF THE SICK LIST PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE))

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER A ministry in the Catholic Church offering couples a weekend of discovery for their marriage. Enhance communication and rekindle the passion in your marriage!
When: 25-27 April 2025 **Where:** St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South For additional information contact us: Mobile 0409 183 676
Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

PARISH BULLETIN
Lent 2025 Online Mission with Bruce Downes – The Catholic Guy
 Experience spiritual renewal this Lent through an inspiring online Mission Event with Bruce Downes with people from all around the world.
 Online and easy to access, this powerful resource is perfect for individuals, families, and parish groups.
Starts April 5, 2025. Registration required.
 Register now at: missionevent.thecatholicguy.com

St Mary's Parish, Dandenong—Saturday 5th April 2025
Led by Fr Joby George VC
 Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, Prayers, Worship and Healing.



Starting at 9:30 concluding at 3:30pm
 (tea/coffee and light lunch included)
 Please register your attendance on the signup sheet in church foyer.

REGULAR GROUP MEETING
ST MARY'S PARISH

LEGION OF MARY:
 Saturday mornings after 9:15am mass in the Fellowship Room followed by Rosary

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP :
 Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the church

VINCENTIAN RETREAT CENTRE:
 Fridays Mass with healing prayer 7pm

ST MARY'S FRIENDSHIP CLUB:
 3rd Wednesday of month lunch meet at Dandenong RSL.12pm

BINGO AT ST MARY'S
 St. Mary's Bingo is on Tuesdays at 12noon & Saturdays at 6.30pm in St Mary's Community Centre, New St, Dandenong

WEEKLY COLLECTION
 Thanksgiving: \$2036.00
 Presbytery \$501.00 Loose: \$3420.00

Support our Parish
 If you would like to make direct payments to our bank accounts, the details are:

St Mary's General Account: (Thanksgiving & Donations)
 NAB BSB: 083 347
 ACC. No. 483196852

For contributions to support our priests and the Archdiocese
Presbytery Account:
 NAB BSB: 083 347
 ACC. No. 460761193

CALENDER

DATE	EVENT
1 April (Tue)	Catechism Classes –Reconciliation
2 April (Wed)	RCIA Classes
3 April (Thur)	Catechism Classes—1st Eucharist and Confirmation
5 April (Sat)	Parish Lent Reflection Day
13 April (Sun)	Palm Sunday
17 April (Thur)	Holy Thursday (Lord's Supper)
18 April (Fri)	Good Friday (Passion of the Lord)
19 April (Sat)	Easter Vigil
20April (Sun)	Easter Sunday (Resurrection of the Lord)

ROSTERS 5-6 APRIL	6:00PM	8:30AM	10:30AM	5:30PM
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Maxine Fernandez R. Coomaswamy Elizabeth Fernandez	Ulalia Niupuluso Wigbertha Ngadha Marilyn Meyer	Ofelia Alvarado Orito Aqo Thorwald Philipp	Neville Thomas Sharmini Perera Graham Newberry
READERS	Allister Simon Dayang Balenbin	Tim Evans Kasia Leo	CAlara Marasigan Michelle Lobo	Volunteer Leni Domin

St. Mary's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adult