

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

4th August, 2024



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

Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian

0450 789 951

Monday, Tuesday

Parish Staff

Sharon Vassallo

Tuesday 8:30am – 4.00pm

Thursday 8:30am – 4.00pm

Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm

Kylie Skinner-Wednesday

9.30am–1.30pm

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Exodus. 16:2-4, 12-15.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. 4:17,20-24.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL: JOHN 6:24-35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal." So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent." So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written:

'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

So Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."



Tuesday 6th August	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 7.00pm Continuation of faith sessions for those interested in the Catholic faith at St Mary's Presbytery. Looking at the sacraments.
Wednesday 7th August	9:15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 7.00pm Parish Finance Team Meeting at the Presbytery
Thursday 8th August	9:15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 9th August	9.15am Whole School Mass at St Mary's Church for Feast of Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Dear Parishioners,

As I stated last weekend, we will be having a **merry go round of nearby priests' swapping pulpits this weekend**. I will be at Altona for all masses, new priest administrator of Newport/Spotswood, Fr Sam will be here while Fr Michael Kalka will be celebrating all his masses at Newport/Spotswood. Fr Sam has only been in Australia about two years and is from far north east India, in a province next to the Burma border.

I will be celebrating in two weeks' time a milestone I could never have contemplated without a great deal of help from the Holy Spirit. While praying on my annual holidays in 1994 at one of my favourite prayer spots, right under Byron Bay lighthouse, I related to God that after 17 years of priesthood, how I was feeling the pinch somewhat from the overall workload and I was not sure how I could keep the enthusiasm going for the many years to come. "How can you help me!" It was not long after that I had the insight from what I believe was the Holy Spirit to go back to running and swimming in the sea which I used to do in my early twenties. Consequently, I went back to running and swimming at Torquay Front Beach every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. **I made Sunday a nonnegotiable so that at least if I missed the other days, there would be at least one day a week I would not miss swimming in the ocean.** I started in a practical sense with trying to achieve 10 Sundays in a row. Well, back 10 years I had more than surprised myself by achieving 1,000 Sundays without missing one while in Australia. Some years before I had reached 443 Sundays in a row and in taking Sabbatical Leave overseas in 2003 to follow the footsteps of Jesus, St Paul and the Australian soldier I thought that was the end of that streak. But in coming back I started again on 444 Sundays as I had not in reality missed one Sunday while living in Australia: the same has continued over the years. **In two weeks', time it will be 1500 Sundays continuously while on Australian soil!** Instead of my normal 6:50am swim of a Sunday on August 18th I will be swimming at 4pm on that Sunday in order that some other swimmer friends can join me to swim out to the first buoy and back. The kiosk at the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club will be specially open if anyone wants a coffee (or food) in order to see me achieve this new milestone with their families.

God has been incredibly good to me as his Holy Spirit knew I could achieve a fitness regime which would help me in my own vocational call to serve his kingdom. It was only with his help in those wet, windy and cold days that I could have kept going on something I knew was meant for me. Indeed, the sea has nourished me with its great beauty; it has greatly enhanced my health and kept me from moping but usually coping when the workload has become almost too much for me.

Without fully appreciating it over the years I have been blessed by swimming A – Z in this world. A being Anglesea in my previous parish and Z being Zeally Bay right next to Torquay front beach also in my previous parish. Without any background swimming technique or any real swimming ability I have not only managed to swim every Sunday for nearly 30 years, but also hopefully achieve the 1500 Sundays on August 18th, 2024, as well as somehow managed to swim the 1200 metres of the Lorne Pier to Pub in both 1989 and 1990.



One could get carried away with the danger of the Ocean, such as my needing to be rescued by a life saver while caught in a secret rip off a Newcastle beach in 1977, or a helicopter pilot luckily having seen a sizeable shark in the waters near me as I was swimming one Sunday morning on holidays in Byron Bay - waking up to its dangers and yelling down to me "SHARK, SHARK, SHARK"(!!) Nothing worthwhile is ever gained in life without some sacrifice or risk.'

I believe knowing what one is capable of, and acting on that for one's general health can be the difference between thriving and just coping in one's own particular vocational calling. To me it just happens to be priesthood, but at the very least I can understand that God gave many of us the benefits of sea water to help us keep the best of health and even with that greater happiness. I understood physical benefits are only achieved by first making a habit. Once started and found beneficial, the habit can become part of one's life whether it be for most people walking or riding a bike, and for a smaller percentage of us swimming!

Although I never needed a wetsuit in years gone by, these days as I get older I appreciate the help of the 'short john' wetsuit and the help of the two caps on the head, plus in the coldness especially of July and August, the help of gloves. All in all it was not mainly about my own self-discipline but God's Holy Spirit leading me down a personal path which would have been madness for me not to follow as I have discovered over the years. Anyway anyone who wants to see me accomplish another hurdle or another milestone are welcome to come **down to the beach at the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club on Sunday August 18th at 4pm** and hopefully I will remerge again from the waters soon after.'

SOME HELPFUL BACKGROUND TO THE BIBLE READINGS:

1. FIRST READING:

A month out into the desert, the novelty of their journey had worn off and the Israelites began to grumble against both God and Moses.

2. SECOND READING: We hear from St Paul that faith in Christ imposes a new order that will mark the readers off from the aimless life of the pagan world

3: GOSPEL: When Our Lord refers to the Bread of Life, we are drawn into the very heart of Catholic worship, the celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass.

REFUGEE and ASYLUM SEEKER SUPPORT: Thanks for the 'Dried Food" this week – please put it with the other food on the far left side of the Church near the school side door. Next week we are hoping parishioners will bring "Tinned Food" : tuna in oil, sardines or salmon, vegetables such as tomatoes, carrots, corn, yellow split peas, split red lentils, chickpeas, red kidney peas (not baked beans) , tomato paste, honey, long life full cream milk, coconut cream or milk, tomato paste, and cooking oil – thanks.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION August 15th

In order to help workers get to the Mass, there will be an evening Mass on Wednesday August 14th at 7pm and a whole school Mass the following day on August 15th at 9:15am.

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN:

Follow-up continues of those parishioners who haven't provided their Working With Children Check to the parish office, as well as their signed parish Code of Conduct. Frank Schobben, our Safeguarding Officer, is also contacting parishioners whose specific volunteer role requires a Police Record Check, e.g. Children's Liturgy; Collectors; Counters; Mary Care; Pastoral Council; Finance Committee; Special Ministers visiting hospital, private residences, care facilities etc. Please continue to assist and fulfill our safeguarding obligations by handing in your checks as soon as possible to the Parish Office in the presbytery, or put in the slit of the presbytery front door.

Yours 'in Christ'
Fr Greg 1/8/2024

GREEN TEAM SUSTAINABILITY THIS WEEK:

Reduce Paper Consumption by only printing when needed.

Rosters for this Week 3rd & 4th August 2024

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm Larry Rigoni
8.30am Jeanette Thompson, Evol Farralley
10.30am Eugene Yii, Maria Laudato

Mass Readers

6.00pm Marcia Schobben
8.30am Peter Kirwan
10.30am Joe Covelli

Welcomers

6.00pm Imma Marguglio
8.30am Charels Hili
10.30am Maylene Clayton

Rosters for next Week 10th & 11th August 2024

Counting Team 1

Frank Jones, Robyn Jones, Kimberley Jones, Paul Francis

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm Beata Sicat
8.30am Ivonne Cram, Maryanne Wenzel
10.30am Eugene Yi, Maylene Clayton

Mass Readers

6.00pm Josie Penna
8.30am Stephen Littleton
10.30am Antoinetta Acquaro

Welcomers

6.00pm Frank Schobben
8.30am Mary Frisby
10.30am Mariza O'Keefe

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Sarah Rodgers,
Assunta Delgrosso, Yemme Reddy, Anne-Marie Pelikinakis,



RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Agnes Harney, Denise Stewart, Eddie Gauci, Brigitta Johnson, Kevin Mahoney, Paul Cassar, Cliff Gibson, Tanya Travers, Val Hall, Fay Barlow, Peter Hoare, Margaret Flood, Les Elias, Keith Tyrrell, Claire Hindle, Nora Shepherd, Charles Axelson, Jack Dowling, Sandra Guilford, Arthur Mangan, Alma Hynes, Eliza Raponi, David Templeton, Mary Blenheim, Jim Railton, John Cassar and Concetta Gerovich whose anniversaries are at this time.

NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL

If you would like to receive the St Mary's newsletter in your InBox each week, please register at our website www.melbcatholic.org/s/williamstown or use the QR code.

