



THE TIDINGS

SERVING THE AREAS OF MELTON, WEST MELTON, HARKNESS, KURUNJANG, TOOLERN VALE, PLUMPTON, GRANGEFIELDS, BONNIE BROOK (WEST), ROCKBANK (WEST).



We are committed to upholding the safety and wellbeing of each child and young person, and endeavour to provide a caring and supportive environment in our Church.

PALM SUNDAY / PASSION OF THE LORD YEAR A - March 29, 2026

CLERGY

Parish Priest: FR ALEX CLEMENTE, RCJ

Assistant Priest: FR WILFORD URMATA, RCJ

Assistant Priest: FR JEFFREY SALVADOR, RCJ

Parish Deacon: DCN CRIS CREO

Email: Cristopher.Creo@cam.org.au

OFFICE

10 Unitt Street, MELTON, VIC 3337

Postal Address: PO Box 96, MELTON, VIC 3337

Phone: 03 9743 6515

Email: melton@cam.org.au

Website: melbcatholic.org/melton

Facebook: facebook.com/catholicparishmelton

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9.15am - 4.45pm

We are **closed** on Mondays, weekends and public holidays.

STAFF & SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

Parish Secretary: WILMA CHUA (Tues - Fri)

Finance Manager: LORRAINE STAFFORD (Mon & Tues)

Email: finance.melton@cam.org.au

Safeguarding Coordinator: LIZ COUSTLEY

Mobile: 0490 885 515 | **Email:** cso.melton@gmail.com

MASS CENTRES & MASS TIMES

St Catherine of Siena Church, Melton West

108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

- **Saturday** 6pm (Vigil Mass)
- **Sunday** 9am, 11am & 5 pm
- **Wednesday Mass** 9.15 am
(no Mass during school holidays at St Catherine's Church)

St Dominic's Church, Melton

Church St, Melton, VIC 3337

- **Thursday & Friday** 9.15 am
(no Mass on public holidays)

CONFESSION

St Catherine of Siena Church

Saturday: 5.45 pm | Sunday: 10:30-10:50am/4.45 pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT & ROSARY

St Dominic's Church

- **Thursday** following the 9.15 am Mass

SCHOOLS IN OUR PARISH

ST DOMINIC'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Address: Church Street, Melton, VIC 3337

+61 3 9743 6225 | enquiries@sdmelton.catholic.edu.au

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Address: 108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

+61 3 9743 2166 | info@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Melton West Campus (Year 7-12): 109-141 Bulmans Rd, Melton West

Cobblebank Campus (Year 7-9): Bridge Rd, Cobblebank
+61 3 8099 6000 | info@sfc.vic.edu.au

Leo's Lens - Reflection by Nick Brodie

Jesus does not face his passion out of fatalism, but out of fidelity to a path freely and carefully accepted and followed.' As Pope Leo explains, 'the gift of his life stems from conscious intention, not a sudden impulse.' Christ chose his path. And he did so for us.

'God always precedes us', the Pope points out. Indeed, 'the Lord has already prepared a space for us where we can recognise ourselves and feel we are his friends.'

But, as the Pope reminds us, Jesus 'asks his friends to do their part.' In this, the Pope sees a spiritual insight worth noting: 'grace does not eliminate our freedom, but rather awakens it. God's gift does not eliminate our responsibility, but makes it fruitful.'

'Today too,' the Pope adds, 'there is a supper to prepare.'

In our daily lives, in what might seem like the most ordinary moments, we are called 'to enter into a gesture that transcends us.' And to do that better, we need to recognise that our liturgies transcend church walls. 'The Eucharist is not celebrated only at the altar,' the Pope affirms, 'but also in daily life, where it is possible to experience everything as an offering and giving of thanks.'

In that spirit the Pope prays: 'May the Lord grant us to be humble preparers of his presence.'



Next Week's Readings:

Acts 10:34, 37-43 Col 3:1-4 John 20:1-9

Recently Deceased:

Wenceslao "Wency" Garrata Jr.

Death Anniversaries:

Alwin Senevirating, Cristina de Silva, John Scicluna, Ivan Fadljevic, Giuseppe Antoniani, Vasantha Fernando, Gerald Galea, Grace Muscat, James McGuinness, Margaret Dillon, Egmidio Ventura, Jo Czlapa, Mariano de Jesus, Mary Buttigieg, Dorothy Corera, Enrico Garde, Mark Mario Dubouzet, John Willmott, Dorothy Mulready, Tess Hodgson, Tonino De Vellis, Francis Fernando, Leodigario Abrenica, Tonino DeVellis, Prince Machado, Carmela Aguis, John Spiteri, Jenette Hunter, Christobell DeJong, Patrick Jansz, Eufemia Agbayani, Joseph Muscat, Michael Bradshaw Hennessey, Harmony Buttigieg, Alwin Senehalre, John Arlette, Pat Fisher, David Dobson, John Woolf Snr, Chris Apap, Louna Teano James

2500328-0304



PROJECT COMPASSION

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY
In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, the safety and wellbeing of all persons is of highest priority.

In case of urgent situations, sickness etc.
in the parish please call 0422 869 646

Entrance Antiphon

Six days before the Passover,
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,
the children ran to meet him;
in their hands they carried palm branches
and with a loud voice cried out:

* Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have
come in your abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!
Who is this king of glory?

He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

* Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have
come in your abundant mercy!

First Reading

Isa 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult & I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' *(R.)*
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. *(R.)*
3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! *(R.)*
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' *(R.)*

Second Reading

Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us & God raised him on high.

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are,
and being as all men are,

he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings

in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death
dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Mat 26:14-27:66

I am the resurrection and the life.

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Communion Antiphon

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking
it, your will be done.



"Others cut
branches
from the trees
and spread
them on the
road."

Matthew 21:8

Holy Week & Easter Triduum 2026

St Anthony of Padua Melton South

Lenten Retreat (Becoming a Synod Church)

April 1, Holy Wed. 7pm by Bishop Rene Ramirez, RCJ

8:15pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &

Reconciliation; 9:30pm Benediction

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH, WEST MELTON

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
followed by Adoration of
Blessed Sacrament till 10pm

Good Friday, April 3

10:30am Station of the Cross followed
by Individual Reconciliation
3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, April 4

10:30am Blessing of the Easter food
Baskets
7:30pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, April 5

9am & 11am Easter Sunday Masses
Please note: No 5pm Mass



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.

Prayer for Vocations

O Jesus' gentle heart, in your entire mortal life you sought always the glory of Your Father. Deign to send to Your Holy Church good and evangelical workers, who will incessantly glorify Your Father who is in heaven with the holiness of their life and apostolic work.

Send of Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church.

St Catherine of Siena church & St Dominic's church Fund Raising

TONY'S PIES



Fundraising for our Alpha program & parish activities Tony's Pies of Essendon will supply us with freshly baked pies, quiches and rolls on **Saturday, April 18, 2026**
Last day to order is midnight, Thursday April 16, 2026



To start ordering open your smartphone camera and hold it over the QR code till the link pops up. Or copy and paste the link below to start ordering on your PC .

<https://tonyspiedrives.com.au/fundraiser/saint-catherines-of-sienna>
Pricelist available in the gathering area.

Thank you for supporting our Parish.

During the Passion of the Lord liturgy at St Catherine of Siena Church on Good Friday, we place a stone at the foot of the cross. Do you know why?

Although the custom of placing a stone on a grave probably draws upon pagan customs, the stones also symbolize the permanence of memory.

It is a common Jewish custom to place a small stone upon the gravestone of a loved one when visiting the cemetery. This act of placing **visitation stones** is significant in Jewish bereavement practices. Small stones are placed by people who visit Jewish graves in an act of remembrance or respect for the deceased. This demonstrates that the person buried has not been forgotten and that people had been to visit.



Marking a grave with stones was customary in Biblical times before the adoption of gravestones. The oldest graves in the Old Cemetery in Safed are piles of rocks with a more prominent rock bearing an inscription.

MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE WEEKEND LITURGY ROSTER ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP?

Pick up a 'Volunteer Information Pack' in the Gathering Area of the church for detailed information on each ministry, necessary requirements and the application form.

PLEASE RING MASS MANAGER IF UNABLE TO ATTEND AND PERFORM YOUR ROSTERED DUTY



6pm—Tania Walters 0492 952 478 11am— Lea Jacuta 0414 390 151
9am Theo Franken 0411 040 897 5pm - Josephine Krajina 0407 042 133

Palm / Passion Sunday Year A		Saturday & Sunday March 28 & 29, 2026		
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome	Kate Mulholland	Theo Franken	Marissa Tuason	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Maria Prasetyono	Jennifer Peters	Lea Jacuta	Janet Estrada
Responder	Tetchie Hadfield	Theo Franken	Cira Cleary	Ismael Sosa-Sanchez
Presentation of Gifts	Leny Obtinalla	Karl Metha	Lea Jacuta	Elainne de los Santos
Holy Communion	Kate Mulholland	Anne Stokie	HELP NEEDED	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
PowerPoint Operator	James Taniman	Sanyata Creo	Liz Coustley	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
Choir	Divine Mercy	Samoan	Veritas	Filipino
Counters	Liz Coustley, Lorraine Stafford			

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday April 2, 3, & 4, 2026		Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday Saturday & Sunday April 4 & 5, 2026
MINISTERS OF:	Ministers have been asked to volunteer for a roster over this period. The roster, once complete, will be emailed to these volunteers.	
Welcome		
The Word		
Responder		
Presentation of Gifts		
Holy Communion		
PowerPoint Operator		
Gift Shop		
Counters	Liz Coustley, Lorraine Stafford	



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.



TRADITIONAL BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD BASKETS

In many Eastern European countries, it is a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday morning. This practice dating back to the 15th century or earlier, is one which is still maintained by many families.

The blessed food items in the Easter basket have special significance. Each family may have its own traditions, but there are some practices that are universal.

Basket Decorations

A lot of thought, time, and care are put into how the basket is assembled. It is lined with an embroidered cloth or traditional folk fabric. Once the basket is filled, it is covered with a white linen cloth representing the shroud of Christ. The basket can also be decorated with greenery and/or flowers.

Symbolic Foods

A typical Eastern European Easter basket would include a variety of symbolic foods, although families can personalize to their liking. Baskets may include:

- Bacon as a symbol of the abundance of God's mercy
- Bread representing the staff of life given by God
- Cake is reminiscent of the risen Lord
- Butter to celebrate the end of Lent and the richness of our salvation
- Candles symbolize Jesus, the "light of the world"
- Cheese to remind Christians of moderation
- Coloured eggs as well as uncoloured hard boiled eggs, indicate hope, new life, and Christ rising from his tomb
- Ham as well as other meats, symbolizes great joy and abundance in celebration of Christ's resurrection
- Sausage links are symbolic of the chains of death that were broken when Jesus rose from the dead, as well as of God's generosity
- Horseradish is a reminder of the bitterness and harshness of the Passion of Jesus, and the vinegar it is mixed with symbolizes the sour wine given to Jesus on the cross
- Salt is present to add zest to life and preserve us from corruption
- Sweets suggest the promise of eternal life or good things to come.

Family Traditions

Although every family might have its own traditions when it comes to the Easter baskets, many make sure to include enough food so every family member can have a bite of all the blessed foods after Mass on Easter Sunday.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4 AT 10.30AM
BLESSING OF THE EASTER FOOD BASKETS
AT ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH, WEST MELTON

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm
Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm

APRIL

For Holy Week & Easter Liturgies see page 2 of this Tidings

Wednesday, 1st	9:15am Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church Holy Wednesday Whole Student's Mass
Thursday, 2nd	NO Mass: St Dominic's Church <i>Maundy Thursday schedule</i>
Friday, 3rd	NO Mass: St Dominic's Church <i>Good Friday schedule</i>
Tuesday, 7th	Baptism Information Night 7 pm St Catherine of Siena Church
Wednesday, 8th	NO Mass: School Holidays St Catherine of Siena Church
Thursday, 9th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 10th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Saturday, 11th	Baptisms 11am & 12.15pm
Wednesday, 15th	NO Mass: School Holidays St Catherine of Siena Church
Thursday, 16th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 17th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church



HELP WANTED FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY (HOLY THURSDAY)

Twelve parishioners are required for the washing of the feet at the 7.30pm Mass on April 2. If you are willing to have your foot washed by the priest (man, woman, child, young or old) please text or email

Liz Coustley on: mobile: 0490 885 515 / email: cso.melton@gmail.com & leave your name if you can help.



PARISH OFFERTORY GIVING

February 2026 Update:
Pledged: \$5,324.04
Actual: \$4,423.23

Thank You

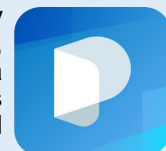
If you would like to:

- Make a **one-off donation**
- Set up **recurring donations** to the parish
- Or **request a payment report**

please scan the QR code or head to our website: [TINYURL.COM/GIVEMELTON](https://tinyurl.com/GIVEMELTON)

A smart terminal is situated on the table by the wall in the Gathering Area of the church. You can tap & give with your card or smart device to support the Parish too.

Parishioners can download and use the **Parousya Faith** app to automatically check-in when they arrive at their parish, receive the Day's Readings, and make a quick, simple, secure and anonymous donation using their Apple Wallet, all without registering an account.



PARISH BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Announcements & Notices: Please submit your announcement or notices no later than 9am every Wednesday. Bulletin notices are normally retained in *The Tidings* for two weekends. Notices and announcements submitted after the deadline will be considered for publication on the following weekend. All subject to approval.



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