

St Mary's Parish

We proudly acknowledge the Boonwurring People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land.

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents

7th December, 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 – 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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 11:1-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. 15:4-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said:

**"A voice of one crying out in the desert,
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.'"**

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from



these stones. Even now the axe lies at the root of the tress. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



Monday 8th December	9.15am Parish Feast of Immaculate Conception – whole school Mass.
Tuesday 9th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 10th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church.
Thursday 11th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 12th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners,

Advent has arrived and much about Advent points towards tomorrow. Very often, our ignorance of tomorrow becomes today's anxiety. We try to prepare for every contingency, but in the end that's impossible and can leave us exhausted. For the Christian, however, ignorance of the future need not be cause for terror. Why? Because we know that whatever else comes, the good Lord will be there. We do not always know how he will come. We do know that he will come. **'At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.'**

He will come, whether swaddled in a manger, stripped on the cross, or raised in glory. He will come in the gift of a deepened faith. He will come in the strength he gives us when he asks us to bear what we never thought ourselves capable of enduring. He will come in a surprise moment of understanding in a difficult relationship. And, ultimately, he will come when we pass beyond the veil of this life. However, frightening the future may look, for us it also bears a promise – the promise of theophany, an encounter with our God.

While we do await the full revelation of his presence, even now God is already with us to lead us through what lies ahead. He led us along the path that brought us to today and await us on the path ahead. If we cannot see tomorrow, it is because he is asking us to trust him today. There is much we do not know about the future. But we know this: he will be there.

Dr Mary Glowery: The cause for sainthood for Australian born medical missionary Dr Mary Glowery has advanced after Pope Leo XIV recognised her 'heroic virtues' on November 21st 2025. Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowery, as she will now be titled, is only the second Australian to be accorded this status. She is believed to be the first religious sister to practice as a doctor. Mary was an educated doctor who spent 37 years in India, where she set up healthcare facilities, services and systems.

Mary was born in the Victorian town of Birregurra (near Colac) on June 23rd 1887. Her father, Edward Glowery, operated the general store in Birregurra, then hotels at Garvoc and Watchem. The latter was in the Parish of Birchip and thirty years ago a year mate and good friend, Fr Gerry Prunty ran the Parish. Now 30 years later he has been assigned to not only look after Birchip but four other former parishes in East Wimmera. It is called the East Wimmera Parish but Fr Gerry and the former Parish Priest, Eugene McKinnon have wanted to name the whole amalgamated parish after Mary Glowery but cannot do so until she is finally recognised as a Saint.

In 1901 Glowery came fourth of 700 entrants in a Victorian State Education Scholarship. She matriculated (Year 12) at the end of her first year at South Melbourne College and won an Exhibition (scholarship) to study at the University of Melbourne. She transferred from a Bachelor of Arts degree to study medicine. She graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery in 1910. Later she returned to the University of Melbourne to undertake higher medical studies, graduating with a Doctor of Medicine in obstetrics, gynaecology and ophthalmology (eye and visual systems). She held a private practice in Collins Street Melbourne.

In October 1915, Glowery read a pamphlet about the life of Agnes McLaren, a pioneering Scottish missionary doctor, and the need for women doctors in India, and felt called to service as a medical missionary doctor there - more about Mary Glowery next week.

PARISH BARBEQUE

On Sunday our annual Parish BBQ was held, what a success, one of our biggest turn outs yet!!!. A very big thank you to our current Parish Council who organised, supervised and cleaned up after. Thanks for the supporters of the day. It was lovely to see a lot of the new prep families and current prep families connect who have children starting at the school in 2026. Thanks also to everyone else who helped out.

Yours 'in Christ '

Fr Greg greg.trythall@cam.org.au -0400 524 363

MEMORIAL MASS FOR DECEASED LOVED ONES

Sunday 7th December at 6:00pm

Annual Memorial Mass for deceased loved ones will be held this **Sunday 7th December at 6:00pm** at St Mary's Church - all welcome and light refreshments in the Parish Centre to follow. You may like to bring a photo or small memento of your loved one to place in front of the altar during the Mass.

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS Reflection Books

This year's Advent and Christmas reflection books will be available on the back table of the church this 2nd Sunday of Advent, 7th December 2025, for \$10 each.

Christmas At St Mary's Church Williamstown

Reconciliation:

Saturday 20th December 5:15pm

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

Children's Pageant: 6:00pm with carols from 5:45pm

Vigil: 9:00pm with carols from 8:30

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December

Mass: 25th 9:30am with carols from 9:10am



Green Team Sustainability News

The Green Team will be hosting an Electrify Everything stall after masses on Sat night 6th and Sun 7th December at 10.30. We will try to demystify the process of converting your home to all-electric and have up to date information on rebates and subsidies.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES:

All parishioners who are part of the Stewardship program should have received their new envelopes in the post for the next cycle, which starts this weekend. If you are on credit card or direct debit you should be receiving a letter from me in the mail early this week. Thanks again as the Parish Finance Team is more than thankful for the response during the last year.

RECONCILIATION RITE 2:

There will be the opportunity for the forgiveness of sins on **Saturday evening December 20th at 5:15pm**. Fr Barry Hughes and myself will be conducting the ceremony. Otherwise the Church is open at 10:00am every Saturday for those who wish to go to the sacrament and receive its graces.

NEW YEAR READING AND SPECIAL MINISTER ROSTERS.

If you have a reason from sickness or otherwise and do not wish to continue on the Reading or Special Minister roster please be in touch with myself or our Parish Office according to the times listed. We could do with a few more Special Ministers. If you feel it could be a ministry for you then please be in touch with me on 0400 524 363 or greg.trythall@cam.org.au

Rosters for this Week 6th & 7th December 2025

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Beata Sicat 8.30am John O'Keefe, Mary Frisby 10.30am Alison Silke, Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Emma Pinzone 8.30am Anthony Verhoef 10.30am Eilin Taylor
Welcomers	6.00pm Simon Pinzone 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Mariza O'Keefe

Rosters for next Week 13th & 14th December 2025

Counting Team 4	Leanne Spiteri, Greg Morgan, Herb Zimmer, Steven Sagona, Eugene Yii
Ministers of the Eucharist	5.30pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am Doreen Mitchell, Maryanne Wenzel 10.30am Maria Laudato
Mass Readers	5.30pm Marcia Schobben 8.30am Himali Peter 10.30am Olga Reginato
Welcomers	5.30pm Imma Marguglio 8.30am Teofila Hunt 10.30am Di Collins

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Rosa Sirgiovanni, Maryanne Grech, Nicola Nardo, Luciano Azzopardi, Sr. Margaret Barry rsj, Doris Mifsud, Maria Elia, Kevin Jenkinson, Marie Kosowski, Sr. Eileen McHugh, Stephen Rush, Mladenka Obradovic, Mollie Maine, Dr. John Anchen, Ignazio Kucich, Teresa Rimbaldo, Dan Buckley, Ellen Croke, Gary Metcalf, Guiseppe Pecora, Maria Ivelja, Michael Hctor, Graeme Bloedorn, Patrick Kirley, Carmelo Pagliaro, Kath Allman, Joel Finn, Cecilia Penn, Edward Maguire, Roland Zammit, Francesca Oliveri, Margherita Mangion, Luiza Kucich, Emmanuel and Rosaria Raffaele, Albert, Celestina, Ersilia and Rosaria Mangion, Carmelo and Rita Consolandi, Francesco and Lorenza Camilleri, Mario Camilleri, Annie Taliana, Leslie Carlon, Babara Sawyer, Michelle Cafagna and Patricia McBride; whose anniversaries are at this time.

COLLECTION FOR EAST TIMOR SEMINARIANS:

As per financial help to three East Timor seminarians, in line also with Altona Parish also sponsoring another three, then please put some money on the plate next weekend. That money will go to one of our parishioners Anthony O'Keefe who will transfer it into American dollars and present personally in January to the Rector of the East Timor seminary. You were extremely generous last year with the necessary support and I hope you can at least afford a few dollars with this worthy cause of helping poor farmers children to be future priests. East Timor is 97% Catholic and needs those guys to fill the places of others and hopefully with so much interest in the seminary in East Timor, some of them will help replace others in Australia who need to retire at the normal age of 75. It is only on our doorstep.