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www.melbocatholic.org/s/werribee

Tel: 9741 4144
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PARISH TEAMS

Clergy

Fr. Albert Yogarajah PP
Fr. James Baptist
Fr. Martin Adichilamackal
Rev. Deacon William Daw

Pastoral Worker

Kemp Vinson

Home Based RE Coordinator

Benita Ediriwickrema

Finance:

Natascha Eve Klein

Administration:

Cora Ilagan

Tamil Chaplain

Fr. Anton Aseervathampillai

South Sudanese Chaplain

Fr. Stephen Kumyangi

Assistant Chaplain

Rev. Deacon William Daw
9741 4144

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Andrew's Primary

School – Ph. 9741 3686

Principal: Melissa
Evgeniadis

Corpus Christi Primary

School – Ph. 9741 8440

Principal: Adele Vesty

Bethany Primary School

– Ph. 9742 9800

Principal: Joanne Webster

Our Lady of the

Southern Cross Primary

School – Ph. 9974 8500

Principal: Justin Hilton

St. John the Apostle PS

Tarneit West -

Ph. 8754 4300

Principal: Simon Dundon

St. Joseph Primary

School – 8742 3381

Principal: Troy Rickard

MacKillop Catholic

Regional College –

Ph. 8734 5200

Principal: Chris Caldow

Thomas Carr Catholic

Regional College -

Ph. 8734 2444

Principal: Rose Connolly



ST. ANDREW'S PARISH

Incorporating the Communities of
Werribee Central, Wyndham Vale, Werribee South,
Werribee North,
Tarneit West, Upper Point Cook
and Little River

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A – 21ST AND 22ND FEBRUARY 2026

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand, the Wathaurong People. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.

FIRST READING: *A reading from the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7)*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So, she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So, they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loincloths. **THE WORD OF THE LORD.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Psalm 50:3-6. 12-14. 17*

Response: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Response: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

SECOND READING: *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Romans 5:12-19)*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

St. Andrew's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 4:1-11)*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him. **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**



GOSPEL REFLECTION: In today's Liturgy, the destiny of the human race is told as the tale of two "types" of men the first man, Adam, and the new Adam, Jesus (see 1 Corinthians 15:21–22; 45–59). Paul's argument in the Epistle is built on a series of contrasts between "one" or "one person" and "the many" or "all." By one person's disobedience, sin and condemnation entered the world, and death came to reign overall. By the obedience of another one, grace abounded, all were justified, and life came to reign for all. This is the drama that unfolds in today's First Reading and Gospel. Formed from the clay of the ground and filled with the breath of God's own Spirit, Adam was a son of God (see Luke 3:38), created in His image (see Genesis 5:1–3). Crowned with glory, he was given dominion over the world and the protection of His angels (see Psalms 8:6–8; 91:11–13). He was made to worship God to live not by bread alone but in obedience to every word that comes from the mouth of the Father. Adam, however, put the Lord his God to the test. He gave in to the serpent's temptation, trying to seize for himself all that God had already promised him. But in His hour of temptation, Jesus prevailed where Adam failed and drove the devil away. Still, we sin after the pattern of Adam's transgression. Like Adam, we let sin in the door (see Genesis 4:7) when we entertain doubts about God's promises, when we forget to call on Him in our hours of temptation. But the grace won for us by Christ's obedience means that sin is no longer our master. As we begin this season of repentance, we can be confident in His compassion, that He will create in us a new heart (see Romans 5:5; Hebrews 8:10). As we do in today's Psalm, we can sing joyfully of our salvation, renewed in His presence. **Scott Hahn**

PRAYER AT HOME: Again, today's entrance antiphon makes a suitable prayer for this week: ***O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful to me.***

VOCATION VIEW: Lent is a season of renewal, of spiritual growth. These forty penitential days invite us to strive for our true calling.

RECENT DEATH: Boy and Emilu Acaso

DEATH ANNIVERSARY: Anna Trifilo and Giovanni Trifilo, Salvatore Piccolo, Katarina and Annetto Mangion, Benny Camilleri, Censino Cauchi, Thelma Grace Fernandes, Rosaria Burgio, Maryse Sawmy and Marc Burzoo, Joyce Bugeja, Tonina Demicoli and all the deceased members of Bugeja, Demicoli and Ancilleri family, Pietro D'Alessandro, Lloyd Ediriwickrema

PRAYER FOR THE SICK: Nimal Pandithakoralege, Yvan

To add or renew names for the Prayer for the Sick, please complete a Mass offering envelope and return it to the parish office. Envelopes are available in the church brochure racks or at the parish office. Names will be kept on the list for two months.

REMINDER: Parishioners are asked to note that requests for Recently Deceased, Anniversaries, and similar intentions to be included in the Prayers of the Faithful must clearly indicate the date and time of the Mass you will be attending for the name to be mentioned. All requests must be received at the Parish Office no later than Wednesday afternoon, and Mass offering envelopes should be addressed to Administration. Envelopes are available in the church brochure racks or at the parish office

WEEKDAY LITURGY (23RD to 28th February 2026)

Mon: *No Mass and No Communion Service*
Tues: 9.00am Mass
Wed: 9.00am Mass
Thurs: 9.00am Mass
Fri: 9.00am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
7.00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass
Sat: 9.00am Mass

WEEKEND MASSES (28th February and 1st March 2026)

Sat: 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am and 5pm Mass
2.00pm Karenni Community Mass – Penola Hub
5.00pm Tamil Community Mass – Penola Hub

✠ Mary Magdalene – The Musical

An uplifting Lenten production retelling the journey of Mary Magdalene through music and story. Presented by **COG Theatre Group** and directed by **Beth Mondragon Williams**, this moving work reflects on redemption, grace, and hope.

When: Fri & Sat 13–14 March, 7:00 pm
Sat & Sun 14–15 March, 1:00 pm

Where: [Renaissance Theatre, High Street, Kew](#)

Tickets: trybooking.com/DHZPD

For more information: Please see flyers on notice board

CALLING ALL NEW AND EXISTING LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS - There will be a training session to held on Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 7.30pm and on Saturday 28th February 2026 at 10.30am in St. Andrew's Church. You are expected to attend the training session for you to be added on the July 2026 parish rosters. Anyone interested, please register by calling the Parish Office on 9741 4144. Thank you for your generous support to St. Andrews Parish.

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) will be held on March in the Penola Hub. we are asking all Parish Groups to submit a report on year 2025 activities (one A4 page as a guideline) to be included in the AGM Booklet, as part of Parish accountability to one another. To enable the Parish Office staff to collate the reports and produce the booklet, **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR GROUP'S REPORT NO LATER THAN Friday, 27th February 2026**. Please email your report, if possible, to werribee@cam.org.au or drop it into the Parish Office. We are hoping to see at least two representatives of your group attending the AGM. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance. Exact date and time of the AGM will be confirmed later date.

ROSTERS FOR THE WEEK 15th to 23rd February 2026

	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am	5.00pm
LECTORS 28 th Feb / 1 Mar	Thilosini Perera	Peter Walters	Lea Arida	Titus Lizardo	Stephen Hart
MUSIC 28 th Feb / 1 Mar	Joyful Voices Choir	St. Anthony's Choir	Sariling Tinig Choir	Ensemble of Faith	King Jesus Praise and Worship Choir
Communion Minister 28 th Feb / 1 Mar	Ann-Marie Palmer Thiloshini Perera	Anna Obieta Alfred Obieta Laura Chamberlain	Jen Climie Charles Emmanuel	Dominic Thiep Dennis Vanspall Sheridan Fevaleaki	Gennie Katrine Canet Nadia Richards
COMMUNION SERVICE (MONDAY)		This week: Next week:	Mon 23 Feb: No Communion Service Mon 2 Mar: S. Raphael		
CLEANER		Cleaning: Vacuuming:	Mon 23 Feb: Z. Prasad Fri 27 Feb: P. Palamara Mon 23 Feb: Volunteer		
ALTAR CLOTH		This week: Next week:	Sun 22 Feb: C. Demate Sun 1 Mar: J. Francisco		
OUR LADY'S STATUE		This week: Next week:	Sun 22 Feb: C. Ilagan Sun 1 Mar: Volunteer		

MASS AT THE HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOMES

We focus on parishioners who are ill or elderly. Please let us know if you or your loved ones are in hospital or at home. Please be informed that we have Masses in our hospital and in all our nursing homes.

Estia Health Werribee

1st Wednesday at 10.30am

Baptcare Wyndham Lodge Community

1st Thursday at 11.00am

Uniting AgeWell Manor Lakes Community

2nd Wednesday at 11.00am

Werribee Mercy Hospital

2nd Thursday at 2.30pm

Mercy Place Wyndham

3rd Tuesday at 11.00am

Manor Court Werribee Aged Care

4th Thursday at 10.30am

St. Vincent's Aged Care

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Friday at 2.00pm

get connected and explore faith with others...

here's a seat for you at the table

Sessions are **FREE** and includes dinner.

Scan and register now, or send an email to: Alpha.StAndrews.Parish@gmail.com

Alpha Key Session Topics:

- ? Is there more to life than this?
- ? Who is Jesus?
- ? Why Did Jesus Die?
- ? How Can I Have Faith?
- ? Why and How Do I Pray?
- ? Why and How Should I Read the Bible?
- ? How Does God Guide Us?
- ? Who Is the Holy Spirit?
- ? What Does the Holy Spirit Do?
- ? How Can I Be Filled with the Holy Spirit?
- ? How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?
- ? How Can I Resist Evil?
- ? Why and How Should I Tell Others?
- ? Does God Heal Today?
- ? What About the Church?

Starts March 05
Thursday Nights...
7 to 9 PM only.
Venue:
33 Mortimer St,
Werribee

Alpha
Werribee

Bring your family, friends and colleagues along !!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE PARISH, PLEASE SEE FLYERS ON THE NOTICE BOARD.

EL SHADDAI PRAYER GROUP - for the coming weeks from Tuesday 24h February to Tuesday 31st March, El Shaddai Prayer Group is running a LENTEN program. We will be reflecting on the Sunday scripture readings, using an excellent resources put out annually by the Diocese of Wollongong. Lenten Program – Catholic Diocese of Wollongong Booklets are provided. All are welcome to join us. TUESDAYS 1pm - 2:30pm followed by tea and coffee. Penola Hub 33 Mortimer St, Werribee.

RINNOVAMENTO NELLO SPIRITO SANTO: ricorda che il nostro gruppo di preghiera continua ogni Mercoledì dalle ore 10am alle 12.00pm nella Penola Hub, 33 Mortimer Street, Werribee. Tutti benvenuti.

SAINT JOSEPH MEN'S DINNER

Event details and booking at: trybooking.com/DJHGC

In honour of the Solemnity of St Joseph, you are invited to join men from around Melbourne for Holy Mass, fraternity and a meal.

WHO
Men aged 18+ (young men aged 15-17 may attend with their fathers).
Dress Code: Semi-Formal

WHEN
Thursday 19th March 2026
• 6.30pm - Holy Mass
• 7.30pm - Dinner

WHERE
St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
• 28 College Street, Caroline Springs VIC
Dinner Location: WestWaters
• 10/20 Lake Street, Caroline Springs VIC

RSVP
Please RSVP by Thursday 12th March



Entertainment
John "Percy" Canavan



Keynote
Mark Wolfenden



LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE IN LOVE...

A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND IS A GIFT FOR EVERY MARRIED COUPLE

Every married couple deserves this very special weekend. Time-out for the two of you to focus on your most precious relationship. You will come away feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep your renewed intimacy alive. No group sharing is required. The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome.

We are currently offering 2 weekends in 2026. Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend:

April 24 - 26th

St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.

November 6 - 8th

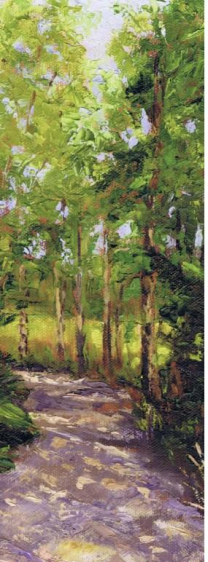
**St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South
Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday
afternoon around 4:30pm**

Information/Bookings:

Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au



THE
JOURNEY
HOME
DAILY REFLECTIONS
FOR LENT
YEAR A

DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT

Lent starts this 18th of February,
Ash Wednesday.

Our parish has a few copies of
"The Journey Home" daily
reflections for Lent that are
available for interested
parishioners.

Limited copies are available for
\$5. If you're interested, please
advise the Parish Office.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VISIT OF SAINT JOHN PAUL II TO ST LEO THE GREAT PARISH AND SCHOOL - St Leo the Great Parish in collaboration with our primary school will begin a Monthly Novena to St John Paul II to commemorate his visit to our parish and school in 1986. The Novena will be held on the 28th day of every month, beginning in February. Each celebration will include Holy Mass, the Novena prayers, and Benediction, followed by a time of fellowship. Everyone is invited to participate and bring your families and friends to take part in this special novena of prayer. The followings are the date, time and names of the celebrant who will be leading the Novena Mass at St Leo the Great Church (389 Mason St, Altona North VIC 3025). For enquires please contact Parish Office via AltonaNorth@cam.org.au or 03 9391 7111. **For more information, please see flyers on the notice board.**

PRAYER OF WELCOME BEFORE BAPTISM - Dear Parents, as you prepare for your child's Baptism, the people of St. Andrew's rejoice that you have chosen to baptize your child, and we pray that in the coming years you and your family will continue to know and grow in the love of God that is everlasting.

f We now have an official parish Facebook page: St. Andrew's Catholic Parish, Werribee. This will be used to post announcements and other events in our parish. Please like and share our page.

St. Andrew's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF PARISHIONERS LENT 2026

109. *The Lenten season has a twofold character:*

- 1) it recalls baptism or prepares for it;
- 2) it stresses a penitential spirit.

By these means especially, Lent readies the faithful for celebrating the paschal mystery after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer. In the liturgy itself and in the liturgy-centred instructions, these baptismal and penitential themes should be more pronounced. Hence:

(A) Wider use is to be made of baptismal features proper to the Lenten liturgy.

(B) The same approach holds for the penitential elements.

110. *During Lent, penance should not be only internal and individual but also external and social.*

In any event, let the paschal fast be kept sacred. It should be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection may be visited on uplifted and responsive spirits.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat.

On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

(a) **Prayer** - for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways.

(b) **Self-Denial** - for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country or elsewhere; or in other ways. Project Compassion is a major means of expressing our self-denial in Australia.

(c) **Helping Others** - for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened; or in other ways.

- All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain (Canon 1252).

- The Season of Lent is a time of penance. During this season the faithful are exhorted to devote themselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves.

- Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled between Ash Wednesday 18 February and Trinity Sunday, 31 May 2026 unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year.

- The wonderful gift of the Lord's merciful love is offered in a special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a most appropriate time to receive this Sacrament.

All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion are bound faithfully to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

HOLY WEEK - The 2026 Ordo contains instructions for the Rites of Holy Week.

FUNERALS – On Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday all Masses for the Dead, including Funeral Masses, are forbidden. Funerals on these days are celebrated with the Liturgy of the Word and without the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

WEDDINGS - Weddings should be discouraged during the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. Should a couple be particularly insistent on a wedding for one of these days, then please indicate that no decorations (including flowers), no music nor Nuptial Mass will be permitted.

Very Reverend Anthony Kerin JCL VG
VICAR GENERAL