

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

14th December, 2025



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016

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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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A



FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 35:1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, come and save us.

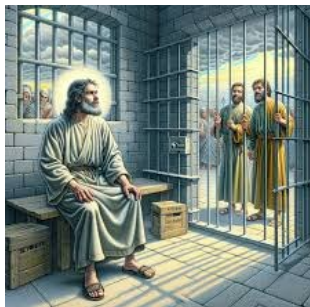
SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of James. 5:7-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

The Spirit of the Lord now upon me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11



John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Monday 15th December	9.15am St Mary's School end of year Mass.
Tuesday 16th December	10.00am No Normal Mass today as Funeral Service for Patricia (Trish) Hart.
Wednesday 17th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church.
Thursday 18th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 19th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners,

PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE TALK:

If you were not here last week or had other distractions, then I will leave a very brief summary of the talk given by our three steering committee members as we seriously consider a partnership with the Parish of St Joseph: Newport and Spotswood. I thought it may be best to summarise in my words but in the end chose to just use snippets of their same speech:

'The Archdiocese of Melbourne remains the largest in Australia. At one stage it had over 200 individual parishes – our pews were full, and priests were plentiful.....We currently ordain 2-3 priests each year, while we lose 8-12 per year through retirement or passing.

These realities have prompted Archbishop Comensoli's call for a new direction for our parishes with a renewed focus on mission – one that will enable them to be re-energised as places where faith is communicated and charity is seen – where we live the values of the Gospel with faith and purpose. Parishes that can be vibrant, vital and viable into the future.

We have been advised by the archdiocese that following his retirement (mine in June 2027), St Mary's will not have a "stand alone" priest – but will share a priest with St Joseph's Parish, Newport and Spotswood. Barring any changes in the interim, Fr Samuel Kapani will assume the role as Parish Priest of St Mary's in addition to his current role at St Joseph's (Newport and Spotswood). This early advice from the archdiocese provides us with a wonderful opportunity to plan for that time.

NB One needs a much fuller explanation in regards the future of our parish and that explanation will be handed out at the end of this Mass today. Please take a copy.

Dr Mary Glowery:

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. Glowery discerned her religious vocation over subsequent years with her spiritual director, Father William Lockington SJ. Mary left Melbourne on 21 January 1920 and never returned to Australia. She arrived in Guntur (around middle India on the east coast) on 12 February. She joined the Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph and took the religious name Mary of the Sacred Heart. The basic dispensary where Mary Glowery began her medical mission work in Guntur grew into St Joseph's Hospital. She provided direct medical care for hundreds of thousands of patients, most of them marginalised women. In 1943 Mary founded the Catholic Health Association of India (then called the Catholic Hospitals Association). Today, its 3500 + members auspice the care of more than 21 million annually. It is very likely that after Mary of the Cross McKillop, Mary Glowery will be introduced as our second Australian Saint. The only other person to beat her to that could be Caroline Chisolm who also led an equally impressive life. Caroline helped so many young and destitute female immigrants and I gather was able to obtain around 11,000 jobs for so many of them.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival:

For their long-term growth as young parishioners of both Newport and Williamstown, I believe it was well worth the \$2,370 the Australian Catholic Youth Festival cost our parish to send these wonderful younger people last week. There were so many positive remarks made by them as they came together again, only a few days later to our normal monthly 13-18 Youth Group of the first Saturday of the month. We are always thankful to Antoinetta and Claude for their pizza help as well for this and the other evenings.

Yours 'in Christ '

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

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS Reflection Books

This year's Advent and Christmas reflection books are available on the back table of the church
this 3rd Sunday of Advent, 14th December 2025

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



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.

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 this weekend. According to Fr Michael Kalka 600 American dollars is needed to keep each seminarian at the seminary for food and other items. This would be also for helping the seminary to pay for its expenses such as gas and electricity to keep the place running in Dili, the Capital of Timor Leste.

Mary Care Team End-of-Year Acknowledgement

Gratitude for Volunteers and Parish Support

As 2025 comes to an end, the St Mary's Mary Care Team wishes to extend our sincere gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers. Your generosity, time, and commitment have made a significant impact on our community throughout the year.

We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of our school families. Their willingness to donate food items has been essential in supporting our regular seniors' lunch, ensuring these gatherings are welcoming and nourishing for all who attend. The combined efforts of volunteers and families have truly enriched the lives of our seniors and strengthened the bonds within our parish community.

Pastoral Areas Supported by Volunteers

Our parish volunteers have played a vital role in several important pastoral areas throughout the year, including:

- Co-ordinating and providing a monthly lunch for 30-35 seniors

- Conducting regular home and facility visitations, offering communion

- Providing bereavement support to those experiencing loss

- Assisting with the organisation and running of the yearly memorial Mass

Appreciation for Parish Leadership

We would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support of Father Greg and the Parish Pastoral Council, whose guidance and encouragement are invaluable to our mission.

Season's Greetings and Looking Ahead

We wish everyone a safe and blessed Christmas period. The Mary Care Team looks forward to continuing our commitment to the community in February 2026, beginning with the seniors' lunch.

Sincerely, Joe, Ivonne, Mary and the Mary Care Team

Rosters for this Week 13th & 14th December 2025

Counting Team 4	Leanne Spiteri, Greg Morgan, Herb Zimmer, Steven Sagona, Eugene Yii
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am Doreen Mitchell, Maryanne Wenzel 10.30am Maria Laudato
Mass Readers	6.00pm Marcia Schobben 8.30am Himali Peter 10.30am Olga Reginato
Welcomers	6.00pm Imma Marguglio 8.30am Teofila Hunt 10.30am Di Collins

Rosters for next Week 20th & 21st December 2025

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull 8.30am Evol Farrelly, Eilin Taylor 10.30am Maria Laudato, Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Josie Penna 8.30am Christal Augustin 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Welcomers	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Jenny O'Sullivan 10.30am Joe Covelli

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Patricia (Trish) Hart who passed away recently and Paollo Ilardi, Febronia Mondio, Brian Warlond, Margaret Murphy, Pam Neely, Peter Wenzel, Kath and Ray Wilmott, Jason Gilham, Brad Dobney, Matthew Busuttil, John Wilson, Sr. Myrene Erdman, Josie Wilde, Nora Doig, Stan Woodruff, Eric Flackhlam, Maria De Grassi, Merle O'Keefe, Marion Lorient, Libero Costanzo, Andrej Edovic, Giuseppe Pecora, Maria Napoli, Shannon Gillis, Mario Camilleri, Lorenza Camilleri, Francesco Camilleri, Rita Consolandi, Carmelo Consolandi, Alberto Mangion, Celestina Mangion, Ersiglia Mangion, Jo Bruchhaus, Frank Schobben Sr and Rosaria Mangion, whose anniversaries are at this time.

St Mary's Parish Bulletin

If you would like to receive our bulletin weekly via email please scan the QR code and enter your details. Alternatively you can go to www.stmaryswilliamstown.org.au/subscribe and subscribe via the website.



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