

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*

15th March, 2026



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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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

FIRST READING:

Samuel 16.1b, 6-7, 10-13

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING:

Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 5.8-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

GOSPEL: JOHN 9:1-41.

As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day.

Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see. continued

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshipped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."



Tuesday 17th March	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 18th March	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church.
Thursday 19th March	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. Feast of St Joseph (Whole School Mass)
Friday 20th March	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church. 10.30am Funeral Mass for Irene Sosnowski (Mother of Julie Gallagher) 6.30pm Stations of the Cross St Mary's Church, Williamstown.

Dear Parishioners,

I walked in 2010, 800km through France and its particularly lovely villages (all with wonderful Catholic Churches – both small and large) and in 2019 I was fortunate to walk 1,000 km through a different and almost equally beautiful pilgrimage route. What saddened me was the French Church had been so vital before the French revolution, signs of some recovery after it, but generally the 40,000 Catholic Church's spread throughout every village in France, had showed an incredibly sad decline in practising Catholics as the years went by. Through those days walking in France I prayed strongly for an increase in faith and hopefully one day a return to the faith filled congregations of yesteryear! Well, I am pleased to state that 10,000 adults were baptised last Easter in France, and more than 7,400 adolescents (11- 17-year-olds), which was an increase of 45% on 2024, which was a 50% increase on 2023. It is estimated that at Easter in 2026, more than 20,000 individuals will be baptised into the Church in France. I don't remember the background but in a recent delegation to Marseille, Lyon and Paris with director of Mission for our Archdiocese Teresa Rhynehart, the chief of staff Annie Carrett, fluent French speaking Parish Priest of Caroline Springs, Richard Rosse, also Archbishop Peter Comensoli with them, described that there was ' a profound moment of spiritual awakening ' within the Church in France. I can rejoice more than most people as I have been praying for it and I bet so many also have prayed for this spiritual revival over the decades.

MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL:

For better communication with our parishioners, I have included a short summary of the last two meetings of our Parish Council from February and March. I can only do this in bullet form:

- It was stated that a refresher course needs to be done for those who are willing to hold a **Communion Service** for parishioners of a weekend in the normal Mass time, in case priest celebrant is suddenly sick or injured and no normal notice could be given to contact another priest.
- In May the Archbishop will use our Church and Parish Centre for a **Professional Development Day** for approx. 30 priests under 10 years ordained.
- There will be another **Mothers Evening event** for all St Mary School mothers in Parish Centre on Friday May 1st. This is run by myself and a few school mothers plus help from a few other parishioners.
- We are hoping to have a **Fire Drill** on May 23/24th in accordance with government regulations.
- There will be a **Lectors/Readers** Formation Night for all lectors on **April 8th**
- At our March meeting we had **Youth Group** organisers Martin & Branka Briffa give us a ten minute account of how group is progressing and such things as the Archdiocesan Youth Festival in late November to which the Parish sponsored a few different students.
- **The Archdiocesan Synod** was briefly discussed – taking place in December this year.
- Towards the end of the month we will have another meeting of the **Steering Committee from Newport/ Spotswood and Williamstown**. Progress is being made to try to look at a viable partnership between the two parishes.
- A few different **maintenance issues** were discussed; need for new boiler to replace old hydronic boiler in presbytery, need for new carpet replacement for front of Parish Centre, need at some stage to paint sides and back of presbytery to avoid a long-term expense.
- A number of **Mary Care** items were discussed such as Seniors Luncheons.
- **Risk and Compliance** took up a bit of time. Mainly run by parishioner, Frank Schobben for our parish. It is all very demanding these days from the Government and taken very seriously by the archdiocese.

- It was mentioned of the importance of the **Annual General Meeting of the Parish on Sunday May 31st** following last years one. We need each group to do a summary of their activities to put in a collated mini booklet for that Sunday in May.
- The archdiocese was looking for a parish in the West to conduct a Formation Evening in regard to reintroducing again **"Communion from the Chalice"**.
- There were several other smaller items discussed.

PASTORAL LETTER OF ARCHBISHOP – LAST SUNDAY

Over 40 of you last weekend took home the Pastoral Letter of the Archbishop meant to be read out on March 7 and 8th. Briefly the Archbishop made the following remarks: ' In recent years, the Church throughout the world has entered a time of attentive listening, discernment and renewal through what we have come to call a synodal way of being.....From the earliest times of the Church, gatherings of the faithful – which became known as synods (from the Greek *synodos*, meaning 'journeying together' or 'walking the same path') have met to discern important questions in the light of the Word of God and through attentive listening to the Holy Spirit....The purpose of this Synod is to help shape our evangelical and missionary priorities for the years ahead.....I invite every parish, community, ministry and Catholic organisation across the Archdiocese to take part in this journey....The synodal journey will focus particularly on three themes I shared with you at the end of last year. **Young Discipleship; Missionary Leadership; and Formation and Participation.**

Yours 'in Christ'.

Fr Greg

greg.trythall@cam.org.au 0400 524 363

STATIONS OF THE CROSS LENT at 6:30pm on Fridays:

20th March at Williamstown, Cecil Street.

27th March at Newport, Newcastle Street.

SACRAMENT PROGRAM AT ST MARY'S

For children who do not attend St Mary's school and are in the Parish area who would like to receive their Sacraments in 2026 please contact Monique Julian:

monique.julian@cam.org.au to request an enrolment form. Dates for 2026 are:

FIRST COMMUNION: 27th April, 4th May and 11th May 2026 - 7.00pm in the Parish Centre.
Communion Masses on the weekend of 16th and 17th May

CONFIRMATION: 17th August, 24th August and 31st August 2026 - 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. Confirmation Masses TBC but likely the first week September.

READERS/ LECTORS:

Could all our present Lectors on rosters please meet for 45 minutes on Wednesday April 8th at 7pm in St Mary's Church. We need to tweak a few things, provide some background and correct some ways of doing things for the future so that the Word of God is proclaimed in the best possible manner. If that evening does not suit for some, then another meeting will be arranged for those particular Readers/ Lectors. Thanks, in anticipation. (Fr Greg)

JOIN US FOR A CUPPA

Please join us in the Parish Centre for
Morning Tea following the 8.30am
Sunday Mass. All welcome

RECONCILIATION RITE 2:

Our normal forgiveness of sins will take place
a week before Easter,
Saturday March 28th at 5:15pm – 5:45pm
All sinners welcome !

Rosters for this Week 14th & 15th March 2026

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Eilin Taylor, Stephen Littleton 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Josie Penna 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Olga Reginato
Welcomers	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Maryanne Wenzel 10.30am Di Collins

Rosters for next Week 21st & 22nd March 2026

Counting Team 3	Ian Veal, Frances Moloney, Larry Rigoni, Susan Jamieson
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull 8.30am Peter Kirwan 10.30am Alison Silke, Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Marcia Schobben 8.30am Jenny O'Sullivan 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Welcomers	6.00pm Imma Marguglio 8.30am Mary Frisby 10.30am Herb Zimmer

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Yeme Reddy, Sarah Rodgers, Charlie Galea, David Hume, Finn Pennisi

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Lynette Reid, Maureen Edwards and Irene Sosnowski who passed away recently and Angela Tarascio, Filomena Rubbo, Lillian Magri, Nell Morley, Helen Nicholson, Antonia Kucich, Prisca Reddy, Augustinho Fernandes, Bev Curtis, Dalia Lucia, Angiolina Saragozza, Stella De Luca, Anna Dubiel, Vito Massaro, Pat Brannick, Edith Lovell, Marjory Renton, Gerry Franken, Len Roper, Norm Quale, Ron Grima, Dean Ballantyne, Catrina McInney, Clare Oliver, Kay Hollo, Dorothea Albinson, Lillian Connors, Joan English, Aileen Sandri, Victor Pezzani, Neddy Dawson, Ray Bryan, Anna Spence, Pasquale Fabbro, Herbie Cole, Leo Rogan, Anna Matson, Nellie Heaps, Kath Jones, Kath Dowling, Fay Forbes, Bill Brydon, Patrick Wilkinson, Michael Tuck, Lawrence Meehan, Edna Ross, Anne Smith, Rose Ashkar, David Templeton, Wilma Ulmer, Albert Kennedy, Kerrie Knot, Mary Emilie Meerwald, Aurelio Sagona, Warwick Smith, Paolo Pecora, Salvatrice Pecora, Aristeia Sagona, Antonio Sagona, Salvatore Sagona, Berta Geremia, Patricia McBride, Annie Costa, Natalino Mifsud, Anthony Sammut, Joseph Sammut, Elena and Anthony Banavage, Maria and Lucio Falzon, Teresa and Giuseppe Sciciereff, Lawrence Galea, Olga Cutajar, Joseph Cutajar, Blondina and Lorenzo Sammut, Giacomo Caterina and Lino Lugnani; whose anniversaries are at this time.

Green Team

Green team will be showing a film at St. Josephs by the Sea Williamstown on **Monday 16th March 7.30 pm titled "Eating Up Easter"** A global wake up call from a remote Pacific Island wanting to preserve its environment from over- tourism. Lasts one hour 16 minutes followed by supper and informal discussion.
All welcome including non-parishioners.