

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

15th December, 2024



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www.melbcatholic.org/s/williamstown

Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall

0400 524 363

Email:

greg.trythall@cam.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian

0450 789 951

Monday, Tuesday

Parish Staff

Sharon Vassallo

Tuesday 8:30am – 4.00pm

Thursday 8:30am – 4.00pm

Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm

Kylie Skinner-Wednesday

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C



FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah. 3:14-18

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Philippians. 4:4-7

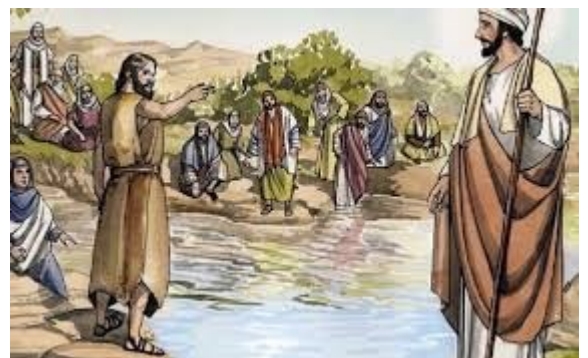
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:10-18

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.



Monday 16th December	9:15am End of Year School Mass at St Mary's Church.
Tuesday 17th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 11.00am Communion Service (Fr Greg) at 'the Village' at Norma's place.
Wednesday 18th December	9:15am Mass at St Mary's Church
Thursday 19th December	9:15am Mass at St Mary's Church
Friday 20th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners

It took me a long time before I was fortunate to visit some of the great European cities of the world, Rome, London and Paris. In my three sabbatical leaves of 2003, 2010 and 2019 I have also been very fortunate to walk extensively through France and to finally understand the real hidden beauties of Paris. Part of that beauty of both Paris and France generally is the incredible number of great Cathedrals. Among my favourites would be Chartres and Sacre Coeur. **I remember visiting in 2003** this well renowned Cathedral called **Notre Dame**, and from what I had heard before, I felt somewhat disappointed by the inside of the Cathedral that particular day. Then the following weekend on a Saturday evening or Sunday when the Church was packed at Mass there emerged the real beauty of that great Cathedral which shone out like a splendid diamond: it had come alive and I thankfully saw it in a different light from a few days before. In my recent Sabbatical Leave in 2019, when I had finished my long walk from Vezelay to the Spanish border, I deliberately went and stayed at Mont Matre in Paris for four days before catching the plane back to Australia. Even, among the beautiful sites of so many buildings and museums in Paris like the Louvre, I could not but feel sad looking across from the Seine river to notice just the outer shell of Notre Dame – only months before it had been gutted by an accidental fire. **However, what a week it has been for the Catholic people of Paris this very week.** Among great fanfare and dignitaries from all over the world, the great beauty of Notre Dame shone for all the world to see. Breaking 5 years of silence, the bell of Notre Dame, known as the bourbon, rang out across Paris. What a sound, what a sight and what a great occasion both for the French and for our Catholic lay people of France and Paris. "May the rebirth of his admirable Church be a prophetic sign of the renewal of the Church in France" (Pope Francis) Without much hesitation one could state very easily "Viva La France" but with its restoration might we go one further "Viva La Notre Dame"! In that **earliest of my sabbatical leaves in 2003 I went first of all to follow the footsteps of St Paul by arriving first at Damascus in Syria.** The simple chalice I bought and use at Sunday Mass comes from "Straight Street", the same straight where the great St Paul received baptism in the Christian faith after formerly being its enemy. In five of the best days of my life I noticed the great friendships between Muslims, Christians and Jews in Damascus – they were so friendly . They had cemented friendships over many centuries in one of the oldest cities of the world. Then with the Syrian revolution around 2011 there was utter chaos and the Assad regime came down heavily with many thousands dying and so many formerly happy Syrians needing to leave their beloved country. I could not believe it this week that Assad has fled to Russia to be in the company of Putin and now there is a different regime in place!! It seemed almost impossible. Hopefully this revolution and regime of the Syrian people brings back the former peace between Muslims, Christians and Jews especially in their wonderful capital Damascus. By the way for those who do not know, our Syrian family we have supported this year in Williamstown come from another of the oldest cities in the world, Aleppo. It was good to see them at the Parish Barbeque two weeks ago.

Yours 'in Christ'

Fr Greg 11/12/2024

SAFEGUARDING – REMINDER

National Police Check / Code of Conduct declaration

As we are preparing for a Safeguarding Audit in 2025 we need to ensure that certain parish volunteers have obtained a National Police Check due to the necessitates of that specific role. We also need to ensure **all volunteers** have completed and returned the Code of Conduct Declaration.

If you have not returned the required documents for your role can you please do so at your earliest convivence.

Should you need assistance in completing either of these please don't hesitate to contact Frank Schobben on 0427 416 184 or the Parish Office.

OUR PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM

Just regarding buildings, we have come along way in the last decade or so. Over \$1 million dollars has been spent on the necessary and appropriate Welsh tiling on the Church (good for a 100 years) plus several hundred thousand to refurbish both the Church and the presbytery. For instance, just the Church carpet cost \$110,000 as a quality carpet was needed for our long-term future. It is now 13 years old, and you can see its value. We struggled to pay off our loans from the necessary refurbishments, but we got there. Since then, especially with higher insurance bills and the difficulty of building up stronger financial resources due to the pandemic in particular it has not been an easy road – but again we got there. **Now if parishioners keep to their new pledges from our recent campaign we will get there again.** We will be able to pay our more than capable staff in Sharon, Monique and Kylie a reasonable wage, pay for necessary refurbishments and pay off bills for various utilities. It is a credit to so many over the last few weeks that we have gone from a starting point of \$2,500 to \$3,436 per week from 176 pledges at a strong \$19.52 average. It was particularly pleasing to notice 32 new contributors come on board – 19% of all pledges. Those 93 existing contributors who renewed did so at a very healthy average of \$24.22 per week – well done all of you and then there was another 50 approximately who had pledges rolled over at the prior giving amount. In all we thank you and also those who put themselves down for new ministries or old as we salute you. Together we stand – divided we fall. **Fr Greg**

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RECONCILIATION AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER

5.15pm Reconciliation Rite 2

CHRISTMAS EVE 24TH DECEMBER

6.00PM Children's Mass and Christmas Pageant

8.30pm Carols

9.00pm Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY 25TH DECEMBER

9.30am Mass



Heart of Life 2025 Program

Heart of Life is an apostolic work of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Australia, committed to contemplative spiritual and pastoral formation through its programs, seminars, people and resources. On the back table of the church there are some information brochures available for the 2025 Program.

Prospectus 2025 - Catholic Theological College

Catholic Theological College offers introductory and further studies in theology, pastoral ministry and spirituality. Should you be interested details for the 2025 units can be accessed at ctc.edu.au/study/timetable/

Rosters for this Week 14th & 15th December 2024

Counting Team 2	David Jamieson, Marguerite Buckley, Bob Paz, Lauren Dittmar
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull 8.30am Doreen Mitchell, Maryanne Wenzel 10.30am Maria Laudato
Mass Readers	6.00pm Emma Pinzone 8.30am Charles Hili 10.30am Olga Reginato
Welcomers	6.00pm Simon Pinzone 8.30am Mary Frisby 10.30am Herb Zimmer

Rosters for next Week 21st & 22nd December 2024

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Larry Rigoni 8.30am Evol Farrelly, Eilin Taylor 10.30am Maylene Clayton
Mass Readers	6.00pm Evol Farrelly 8.30am Peter Kirwan 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Welcomers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Teofila Hunt 10.30am Joe Covelli

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Sarah Rodgers, Assunta Delgrosso, Yemme Reddy, Anne-Marie Pelikinakis, Tita Lopres, Lazarus Wilson, Danuta Kurkowski, Ben Johnson.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Paolo Ilardi, Febronia Mondio, Brian Warlond, Margaret Murphy, Pam Neely, Peter Wenzel, Kath and Ray Wilmott, Jason Gilham, Brad Dobney, Matthew Busuttill, 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.



Santa has a senior moment