



THE TIDINGS

SERVING THE AREAS OF MELTON, WEST MELTON, HARKNESS, KURUNJANG, TOOLERN VALE, PLUMPTON, GRANGEFIELDS, BONNIE BROOK (WEST), ROCKBANK (WEST).



We are committed to upholding the safety and wellbeing of each child and young person, and endeavour to provide a caring and supportive environment in our Church.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A - March 22, 2026

CLERGY

Parish Priest: FR ALEX CLEMENTE, RCJ

Assistant Priest: FR WILFORD URMAZA, RCJ

Assistant Priest: FR JEFFREY SALVADOR, RCJ

Parish Deacon: DCN CRIS CREO

Email: Cristopher.Creo@cam.org.au

OFFICE

10 Unitt Street, MELTON, VIC 3337

Postal Address: PO Box 96, MELTON, VIC 3337

Phone: 03 9743 6515

Email: melton@cam.org.au

Website: melbcatholic.org/melton

Facebook: facebook.com/catholicparishmelton

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9.15am - 4.45pm

We are **closed** on Mondays, weekends and public holidays.

STAFF & SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

Parish Secretary: WILMA CHUA (Tues - Fri)

Finance Manager: LORRAINE STAFFORD (Mon & Tues)

Email: finance.melton@cam.org.au

Safeguarding Coordinator: LIZ COUSTLEY

Mobile: 0490 885 515 | **Email:** cso.melton@gmail.com

MASS CENTRES & MASS TIMES

St Catherine of Siena Church, Melton West

108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

- **Saturday** 6pm (Vigil Mass)
- **Sunday** 9am, 11am & 5 pm
- **Wednesday Mass** 9.15 am
(no Mass during school holidays at St Catherine's Church)

St Dominic's Church, Melton

Church St, Melton, VIC 3337

- **Thursday & Friday** 9.15 am
(no Mass on public holidays)

CONFESSION

St Catherine of Siena Church

Saturday: 5.45 pm | Sunday: 10:30-10:50am/4.45 pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT & ROSARY

St Dominic's Church

- **Thursday** following the 9.15 am Mass

SCHOOLS IN OUR PARISH

ST DOMINIC'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Address: Church Street, Melton, VIC 3337

+61 3 9743 6225 | enquiries@sdmelton.catholic.edu.au

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Address: 108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, VIC 3337

+61 3 9743 2166 | info@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au

ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Melton West Campus (Year 7-12): 109-141 Bulmans Rd, Melton West

Cobblebank Campus (Year 7-9): Bridge Rd, Cobblebank

+61 3 8099 6000 | info@sfc.vic.edu.au

Reflection by Fr. Jeffrey Salvador, RCJ

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the reading from the Gospel of John 11:1-45 presents the powerful story of the raising of Lazarus. As we move closer to Holy Week, the Church invites us to reflect on the deeper meaning of life, death, and hope through the words and actions of Jesus Christ.

In the story, Lazarus falls gravely ill, and his sisters, Martha and Mary of Bethany, send word to Jesus. Yet when Jesus arrives, Lazarus has already been dead for four days. For the sisters and the people around them, hope seems gone. Martha expresses what many feel in moments of suffering: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Her words echo the questions we often carry in our own lives—when God seems silent, when prayers seem unanswered, and when suffering appears too heavy to bear.

But in the midst of this grief, Jesus reveals a profound truth: "I am the resurrection and the life." This declaration becomes the heart of the Gospel for this Sunday. Jesus is not only someone who brings life; He is life itself. Even in the face of death, despair, or failure, Christ offers a new beginning.

Another deeply touching moment in the story is when Jesus weeps. Seeing the sorrow of Mary and the people, He is moved with compassion. This shows us that God is not distant from our pain. Jesus shares in our human suffering. He walks with us in our grief and understands our tears.

Finally, Jesus stands before the tomb and calls out, "Lazarus, come out!" The man who had been dead walks out of the tomb, still wrapped in burial cloths. With this miracle, Jesus reveals God's power over death and foreshadows the victory of life that will soon be fully revealed in His own resurrection.

As we journey through the final days of Lent, this Gospel invites us to look at the "tombs" in our own lives—the places where hope seems buried: sin, fear, guilt, broken relationships, or loss of faith. The Lord stands before these tombs and calls each of us by name, just as He called Lazarus.

This Fifth Sunday of Lent reminds us that our story does not end in darkness. In Christ, there is always the possibility of new life. As we approach Holy Week, we are invited to trust more deeply in the One who is truly our resurrection and our life.

Next Week's Readings:

Isa 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mat 27:11-54

Recently Deceased:

Lagalaga Aiono (funeral 26/03/26), Melchor Talavera

Death Anniversaries:

Timothy Mitchell, Lilani DeMel, Pierino DeVellis, Frank Taricani, Paul Olinowski, Ken McCarthy, John Dalli, Nilahau Samaranayake, Antonio Fucile, Belle Walsh, Pabiito Tolibas, Maureen Rodda, Marianne Sakowicz, Teofilo Ferrer Sr., Edgardo Gomez, Arthur Whitty, Gerard Grant, Henry Portelli, Emilio Cueno, Francesca Marotta, Jomelo Zagala, Laurence DeBono, Frances Micallef, Alice Noonan, Fred Gill, Carmel Formosa, Doris Fenech, Rene Tiglaio, Geswolda Borg, Bruce Rayner, Richard O'Rourke, Tanya Balnaves, Thomas Bradshaw, Bryan Jongbloed, Colin Masterton, Albert Prowd, Denzil Tallent, Charlie Spiteri, Antoniette Rebellato, Giuseppe DeVellis, Frances Ritchie, Lawrence DeBrincat, Darren Murdoch, Vitolina Murdoch, Felipa Abad

2500321-27

**In case of urgent situations, sickness etc.
in the parish please call 0422 869 646**

Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading

Eze 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) . (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 8:8-11

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in
you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Praise to you Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Gospel

John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.

Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.



Prayer for Vocations

O Jesus' gentle heart, in your entire mortal life you sought always the glory of Your Father. Deign to send to Your Holy Church good and evangelical workers, who will incessantly glorify Your Father who is in heaven with the holiness of their life and apostolic work.

Send of Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church.



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.

Holy Week & Easter Triduum 2026

St Anthony of Padua Melton South

Lenten Retreat (Becoming a Synod Church)

April 1, Holy Wed. 7pm by Bishop Rene Ramirez, RCJ

8:15pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &

Reconciliation; 9:30pm Benediction

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH, WEST MELTON

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
followed by Adoration of
Blessed Sacrament till 10pm

Good Friday, April 3

10:30am Station of the Cross followed
by Individual Reconciliation
3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's
Passion

Holy Saturday, April 4

10:30am Blessing of the Easter food
Baskets
7:30pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, April 5

9am & 11am Easter Sunday Masses

Please note: No 5pm Mass



THE 'GREEN SAINT' OF OUR 'GREEN CITY' - ST PATRICK PATRON SAINT OF MELBOURNE

A legend larger than history

Last Thursday, 17 March, Melbourne celebrated its patron saint – St Patrick, whose name graces the most beautiful building in the heart of our city, the Cathedral. For those of us who live here, this feast day carries a special meaning.

St Patrick belongs to those saints who have transcended the boundaries of history and become part of the living tradition of the Church. Alongside the historical facts of his missionary work in Ireland, the centuries have woven rich legends around him – of banishing snakes, outwitting druids, of kings who knelt before him. These stories carry something of the aura of a biblical prophet, recalling Elijah, Moses, Daniel. And therein lies their value.

We need not choose between history and legend. Legends are not lies – they are the language through which tradition preserves deeper truths. The legends of the saints evangelise our inner life – and the imagination of our children. They are worth reading, retelling, and keeping alive.

There is a deep historical reason for all of this. Irish settlers shaped Australia from its earliest colonial days – more than 300,000 arrived between 1840 and 1914. Their descendants keep that tradition alive today, so it is no surprise that St Patrick's Day in Melbourne takes on the feel of a genuine popular celebration – with Irish coffees, whiskey, live bands, and communal singing.

If you find yourself in the city, stop by St Patrick's Cathedral and visit the Chapel of the Irish Saints – the Chapel of St Brigid. Two beautiful stained glass windows depicting St Patrick will tell you more than many words ever could: one shows the moment Pope Celestine sends him on his mission, the other his arrival on Irish shores – and the beginning of one of the most beautiful chapters in the history of evangelisation.



MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE WEEKEND LITURGY ROSTER ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP?

Pick up a 'Volunteer Information Pack' in the Gathering Area of the church for detailed information on each ministry, necessary requirements and the application form.

Caritas AUSTRALIA
PROJECT COMPASSION

**PLEASE RING MASS MANAGER IF UNABLE TO
ATTEND AND PERFORM YOUR ROSTERED DUTY**



6pm—Tania Walters 0492 952 478 11am— Lea Jacuta 0414 390 151
9am Theo Franken 0411 040 897 5pm - Josephine Krajina 0407 042 133

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A				Saturday March 21 & 22, 2026
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcomer	Margaret Richards	Karl Metha	Chelsea Amato	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Tetchie Hadfield	Alzira Mascarenhas	Cira Cleary	Ismael Sosa-Sanchez
Responder	Maria Prasetyono	Vickie Cassar	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
Presentation of Gifts	Tetchie Hadfield	Charlu Chua	Marissa Tuason	Elainne de los Santos
Holy Communion	Robert Obtinalla	Asther Creo	Lea Jacuta	Ismael Sosa-Sanchez
PowerPoint Operator	Kate Mulholland	Sanyata Creo	Chelsea Amato	Daniella Ahmet
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
Choir	Divine Mercy	Veneration	Veritas	Filipino
Counters	Karl Metha, Anne Stokie, Maria Abela			

Palm / Passion Sunday Year A Saturday & Sunday March 28 & 29, 2026				
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome	Kate Mulholland	Theo Franken	Marissa Tuason	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Maria Prasetyono	Jennifer Peters	Lea Jacuta	Janet Estrada
Responder	Tetchie Hadfield	Theo Franken	Cira Cleary	Ismael Sosa-Sanchez
Presentation of Gifts	Leny Obtinalla	Karl Metha	Lea Jacuta	Elainne de los Santos
Holy Communion	Kate Mulholland	Anne Stokie	HELP NEEDED	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
PowerPoint Operator	James Taniman	Sanyata Creo	Liz Coustley	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
Choir	Divine Mercy	Samoan	Veritas	Filipino
Counters	Liz Coustley, Lorraine Stafford			



First Aid & Defibrillator is located in the Lay-Sacristy.



PARISH OFFERTORY GIVING

February 2026 Update:

Pledged: \$5,324.04

Actual: \$4,423.23

If you would like to:

- Make a **one-off donation**
- Set up **recurring donations** to the parish
- Or **request a payment report**

please scan the QR code or head to our website: [TINYURL.COM/GIVEMELTON](https://tinyurl.com/GIVEMELTON)

A smart terminal is situated on the table by the wall in the Gathering Area of the church. You can tap & give with your card or smart device to support the Parish too.

Parishioners can download and use the **Parousya Faith** app to automatically check-in when they arrive at their parish, receive the Day's Readings, and make a quick, simple, secure and anonymous donation using their Apple Wallet, all without registering an account.



Thank You



Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm

MARCH

Wednesday, 25th	9:15am Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church Year 2 Student's Mass (Annunciation of the Lord)
Thursday, 26th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 27th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Saturday, 28th	11:00am Baptism
Sunday, 29th	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

APRIL

Wednesday, 1st	9:15am Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church Holy Wednesday Whole Student's Mass
Thursday, 2nd	NO Mass: St Dominic's Church <i>Maundy Thursday schedule</i>
Friday, 3rd	NO Mass: St Dominic's Church <i>Good Friday schedule</i>
Wednesday, 8th	NO Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church
Thursday, 9th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 10th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church

Prime Timers

Date: 31 March 2026, Tuesday Time: 12:30pm

The Melton Country Club, Reserve Rd. Melton

\$18.50 Senior Meal available RSVP 27 March

More info contact: Ineke 0400120401

ineke49@yahoo.com

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

During the week, students from St Catherine of Siena and St Dominic's Schools and participants in the parish's St Luke's Sacramental Program had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time.

We pray that they experienced God's healing grace and may we be examples of forgiveness and reconciliation.

*All this is from God, who through Christ
reconciled us to himself and gave us
the ministry of reconciliation;
2 Corinthians 5:18*

Is it time to renew your Working With Children Check card?



PLEASE NOTE: When applying for a Working With Children Check or renewal as a volunteer, please state that the organisation is:

**Catholic Parish of Melton
10 Unitt St, Melton VIC 3337**

NOT St Catherine of Siena Parish, Bulmans Rd., as this is **not** the name of our Parish.

SUBSCRIPTION EMAILS OF THE TIDINGS

Newsletter attachments are no longer permitted in PACEM. These measures are designed to protect long-term email reputation and ensure reliable delivery across all providers. For our weekly bulletin and newsletter please refer to our parish website: www.melbcatholic.org/melton

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, the safety and wellbeing of all persons is of highest priority.

THE SACRAMENTS OF EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION 2026

The *St Luke's Sacramental Program* for young people who do not attend a Catholic Primary School, or attend a Catholic Secondary School and are baptised, have been part of the Penance program but **have not** received one or both of the above Sacraments.

Information and the application form is available online on our Parish website: www.melbcatholic.org/melton or in hard copy from the Gathering Area of St Catherine of Siena church. Please complete the application form and either:

- Email it to the parish office at: melton@cam.org.au,
- Drop it off personally at the parish office (10 Unitt St Melton) Tuesday - Friday between 9.30am and 4.30pm, or
- Place it into the white return box in the Gathering Area of St Catherine of Siena church.

**The Sacrament of
Eucharist program
begins on Thursday,
April 23, 2026.**



*Growing
Together
In
Faith*

PARISH BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Announcements & Notices: Please submit your announcement or notices no later than 9am every Wednesday. Bulletin notices are normally retained in *The Tidings* for two weekends. Notices and announcements submitted after the deadline will be considered for publication on the following weekend. All subject to approval.



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