



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.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A - March 8, 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. Alex Clemente, RCJ

The Third Sunday of Lent this year centers our reflection on Jesus, who is the source of living water which transforms our spiritual thirst into eternal life.

Just as the Israelites in the first reading grumbled in the desert due to their physical thirst, we often "murmur" when life is difficult. But Lent reminds us about suffering that leads to transformation and the fulfillment of God's wonderful plan.

Lent is also a time to acknowledge our spiritual "dryness" and allow God to pour His love into our hearts, as St Paul described in the second reading.

The Gospel contrasts ordinary well water, which only quenches physical thirst temporarily, with the "living water" Jesus offers. This water represents the Holy Spirit and God's grace, which provides eternal life and satisfies the deepest longings of the human heart. For all the baptized Christians, this is a call to "re-dig" the wells of their own faith, remembering that at Baptism, God infused His divine life into them like a spring of water.

What are you really thirsting for?

Where are you trying to satisfy your thirst?



40 Days in the Desert: LIVING WATER

(mycatholiclife)

Most compassionate Lord, I am amazed by the depths of Your perfect compassion and love. Help me never to fear You but to always turn to You in my thirst that is caused by my sin. As I receive Your unfathomable mercy, I pray I will also become Your merciful Heart to those in need. Jesus, I trust in You.

Next Week's Readings:

1Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13 Eph 5:8-14 John 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

Death Anniversaries:

Catherine Wade, Vincenzo Girardi, Chinnamma Paul, Stanislaw Glowacki, Walenty Glowacki, Peter Myer, Tony Palis, Catherine Kwiecinski, Dianne Pribic, Aurora Padlan Mercado, Margaret Whittaker, Gilbert Lyons, Peter Hull, Kit Richards, Anthony Samy, Jacque McElroy, George Peters, Paul Barlow, Sr Fortunata, Johannas Cornelissen, Herbert Thomas, Susanna Walsh, Tereza Vella, Michael Carabott, John Dalli, Paul Silao, Marnie Calleja, Simon Zammit, Josephine Harrington

2500307-13



PROJECT COMPASSION

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

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

First Reading

Exo 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
For he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the
Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Praise to you Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

Gospel

John 4:5-16, 19-26, 39-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering
and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again:
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to
eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know;
for salvation comes from the Jews.
But the hour will come – in fact it is here already –
when true worshippers will worship the Father in
spirit and truth:
that is the kind of worshipper
the Father wants.
God is spirit,
and those who worship
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.



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

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.

A prayer for the Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi

Pope Leo XIV had announced that 2026 is a Jubilee Year of St. Francis, to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. The Holy Father has offered this prayer for the occasion:



Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago, went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord. You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall. You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries. In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen~~~

Prayer for the Synod

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity

so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Melbourne Synod 2026

On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening Church' (Evangelii Gaudium, §31). Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (Lumen Gentium, §4).

Three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern: Young Discipleship; Missionary Leadership; and Formation & Participation.

For further info: melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

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



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

Third Sunday of Lent Year A

MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM No Mass Manager	11 AM	5 PM
Welcomer	Tania Walters	Anne Stokie	Liz Coustley	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Tetchie Hadfield	Sanghaya Creo	Lea Jacuta	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
Responder	Maria Prasetyono	Jennifer Peters	Liz Coustley	Ismael Sosa-Sanchez
Presentation of Gifts	Robert Obtinalla	Karl Metha	Marissa Tuason	Josephine Krajina
Holy Communion	Leny Obtinalla	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
PowerPoint Operator	Kate Mulholland	Sanyata Creo	Chelsea Amato	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
Choir	Divine Mercy	Samoan	Veritas	No Choir
Counters	Elizabeth Marshall, Jennifer Peters			

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A

Saturday & Sunday March 14 & 15, 2026

MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome	Bill McGuiness	Asther Creo	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Maria Prasetyono	Lawrence Camenzuli	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
Responder	Tetchie Hadfield	Jennifer Peters	Cira Cleary	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
Presentation of Gifts	Leny Obtinalla	Marissa Tuason	Lea Jacuta	Elaine de los Santos
Holy Communion	Kate Mulholland	Charlu Chua	Liz Coustley	Josephine Krajina
PowerPoint Operator	James Taniman	Sanyata Creo	Chelsea Amato	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Kate Mulholland	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Janet Estrada
Choir	Divine Mercy	Samoan	Veritas	Tongan
Counters	Leslie Gordon, John Woof			



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

Tuesday, 10th	7pm Baptism Information Night St Catherine of Siena Church
Wednesday, 11th	9:15am Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church Year 2 Student's Mass
Thursday, 12th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 13th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church Year 6 Student's Mass
Saturday, 14th	Baptisms 11am
Wednesday, 18th	9:15am Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church Year 3 Student's Mass
Thursday, 19th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 20th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church Year 4 Student's Mass
Wednesday, 25th	9:15am Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church Year 2 Student's Mass
Thursday, 26th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 27th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church Year 3 Student's Mass

KSC Men's Breakfast at St Dominics Hall

Date: 14th March 2026 Time: 8.00 am

Speaker: Josua Ince- Prominent scientist and materials specialist.

More info contact Lawrence 0448398344

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.

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.

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

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

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. We will continue to monitor delivery performance and provide updates as required.

For our weekly bulletin and newsletter please refer to our parish website: www.melbcatholic.org/melton

Memorial Wall Plaques

There are still spots available on our Memorial Wall next to St Dominic's Church to commemorate former parishioners and loved ones whose remains are buried or interred elsewhere with a memorial plaque.

For more details or to arrange or reserve a spot, please contact the Parish Office directly. Forms are also available in the Gathering Space to fill out and return to the Parish Office.



HOME VISITATION & BLESSING REQUESTS

For Home Visitation & Blessing requests, please speak to Deacon Chris after Mass or fill out the online request form:

[TINYURL.COM/HBLESSING](https://tinyurl.com/HBLESSING)

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.



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