



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.

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A - February 22, 2026

CLERGY

Parish Priest: FR ALEX CLEMENTE, RCJ

Assistant Priest: FR WILFORD URMZA, 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@sfcc.vic.edu.au

Reflection by Fr. Jeffrey Salvador, RCJ



1st Sunday of Lent

In Gospel of Mark 4:1-11, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower, a familiar yet deeply challenging story. A farmer goes out to sow seed. Some falls on the path, some on rocky ground, some among thorns, and some on good soil. The seed is the same in every case—good and full of life. What changes is the condition of the soil. As we begin the First Sunday of Lent, this Gospel invites us to reflect on the condition of our hearts.

Lent is a season of grace, a time when God tills the soil of our souls. The seed, Jesus tells us, is the Word of God. God is generous; He scatters His Word everywhere, not only on perfect soil. This reminds us that God never stops speaking to us. The real question is not whether God is sowing, but whether we are ready to receive.

The seed that falls on the path cannot penetrate the hardened ground. Sometimes our hearts become like that path—compacted by routine, disappointment, sin, or distraction. We may hear Scripture, attend Mass, or pray, yet remain unchanged. Lent calls us to break open that hardness through repentance and humility.

The rocky ground represents those moments when faith begins with enthusiasm but lacks depth. Without strong roots, the plant withers under the heat. Trials, suffering, or inconvenience can quickly weaken a shallow faith. Lent invites us to deepen our roots through consistent prayer and trust in God, especially when it is difficult.

The seed among thorns speaks to the worries, desires, and attachments that choke spiritual growth. Anxiety about the future, the pursuit of success, or constant busyness can crowd out space for God. Fasting during Lent is not just about giving something up; it is about clearing the thorns so the Word can breathe and grow within us.

Finally, the good soil represents a heart that is open, patient, and receptive. This soil does not merely receive the seed—it bears fruit abundantly. Almsgiving, acts of charity, and forgiveness are signs of a fruitful heart. When we allow God to cultivate us, our lives begin to reflect His love.

As we journey through Lent, we are invited to examine our soil honestly and allow the Divine Farmer to transform us.

Questions for Reflection:

In what ways has my heart become hardened like the path?

Where is my faith shallow, needing deeper roots?

What “thorns” are choking God’s Word in my life right now?

How can prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help me become good soil this Lent?

What fruit is God calling me to bear for others?

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

Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

First Reading

Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned!

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**
4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips and
my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 5:12-19

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.



Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Mat 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but
on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Communion Antiphon

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word
that comes forth from the mouth of God.



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

3 Ways to Prepare for LENT

Go to Confession

Lent is about conversion of heart, and confession clears the slate. Many parishes offer extra confession times before Ash Wednesday, it's a powerful way to enter Lent spiritually reset.



Pray and choose a Lenten focus

Spend time asking God what He's inviting you to this Lent. Maybe it's deeper prayer, patience, detachment from distractions, or charity. Picking a clear intention helps your fasting and sacrifices have real purpose.



Plan your fasting, abstinence, and almsgiving

Decide ahead of time what you'll give up or take on (food, habits, screen time), how you'll observe fasting and abstinence, and how you'll give to the poor like money, time, or service. Lent works best when it's intentional.



Next Week's Readings:

Gen 12:1-4 2Tim 1:8-10 Mat 17:1-9

Remembering Recently Deceased

Neville Prada

Death Anniversaries:

Angela & Arthur Pace, Gesmond Vella, Kathleen Twomey, Helen Luettgau, Jesus Sarmiento, Francesca Barton, Jean White, Pietro Anselmi, Brenan Boulhereau, Leo McGuire, Una Donovan, Gwenda Bishop, Emil Jongebloed, Nellie Breslin, Anthony Jarvis, Lanza & Paul Piscopo, Joe Larkin, Aileen Lacey, Edil Huerto, Robert Hulett, Clara Cham Dominguez, Stanley Pereira, Mary Spiteri, Joyce Dias, Salvina Borg, Sr. Bernadette Joseph FC, Nancy Poulton, Renee Williams, Leslie Simmons, Josephine Camilleri, Les Simmons, Abby Rogers, Giuseppe Tartaglia, Bernard Williams, Ramona Gliddon, Cecil Tissera, Dominic Ryan, Bertram Stone, May McCann, Fred Lazarus, Sydney Vas
250221-27

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~~~

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

First Sunday Of Lent Year A

Saturday & Sunday February 21 & 22, 2026

MINISTERS OF:	6pm	9am	11am	5pm
Welcome	Bill McGuinness	Asther Creo	Chelsea Amato	
The Word	Tetchie Hadfield	Theo Franken	Lea Jacuta	Janet Estrada
Responder	Maria Prasetyono	Alzira Mascarenhas	Chelsea Amato	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
Presentation of Gifts	Tania Walters	Faith Tuputala	Amy Jacuta	Janet Estrada
Holy Communion	Tania Walters	Asther Creo	Liz Coustley	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
PowerPoint Operator	James Taniman	Sanyata Creo	Daniella Ahmet	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	
Choir	Divine Mercy	Veneration Choir	Veritas Choir	
Counters	Karl Metha, Anne Stokie, Maureen Mohr			

Second Sunday of Lent Year A

Saturday & Sunday February 28 & March 1, 2026

MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome	Kate Mulholland	Charlu Chua	Marissa Tuason	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Maria Prasetyono	Vickie Cassar	Cira Cleary	Josephine Krajina
Responder	Tania Walters	Alzira Mascarenhas	Liz Coustley	Janet Estrada
Presentation of Gifts	Tetchie Hadfield	Karl Metha	Chelsea Amato	Elainne de los Santos
Holy Communion	Robert Obtinalla	Theo Franken	Lea Jacuta	Ismael Sosa-Sanchez
PowerPoint Operator	Kate Mulholland	Sanyata Creo	Daniella Ahmet	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Tania Walters	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Janet Estrada
Choir	Divine Mercy	Veneration Choir	Veritas Choir	Tongan Choir
Counters	Maria Abela, Tania Walters			



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

Prayer for Vocations

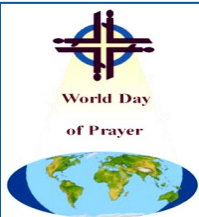
O Jesus' gentle heart, in your entire mortal life you sought always the glory of Your Father. Deign to send to Your Holy Church good and evangelical workers, who will incessantly glorify Your Father who is in heaven with the holiness of their life and apostolic work.

Send of Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church.

COUPLES FOR CHRIST AUSTRALIA (CFCA)

CLP—Christian Life Program

starts 01 March 2026 St Dominics Hall,
Melton West, flyers available in the gathering area



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

Friday 6th March at 10.30am.

Grace Community Church

Yuille Street Melton

Prepared by Women of Nigeria

Theme: "I will give your Rest. Come" Everyone is Invited
More Info Contact: Margaret Richards 0418 883 550
St Catherine's representative—Melton Prayer Committee

PARISH OFFERTORY GIVING

January 2026 Update:

Pledged: \$5,246.27

Actual: \$4,342.12

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



HOME VISITATION & BLESSING REQUESTS

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

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm

Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm

FEBRUARY

Monday, 23rd	6:30pm Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church
Tuesday, 24th	6:30pm Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church
Wednesday, 25th	9:15am Mass & Veneration of the Cross: St Catherine of Siena Church Year 5 Student's Mass Departure of Cross to Springvale, Keysborough
Thursday, 26th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 27th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Saturday, 28th	Baptisms 11am

MARCH

Wednesday, 4th	9:15am Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church Year 4 Student's Mass
Thursday, 5th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 6th	9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church Year 6 Student's Mass
Tuesday, 10th	7pm Baptism Information Night St Catherine of Siena Church



SCHEDULE OF THE MIGRANT JUBILEE CROSS VISIT (Melton & Melton Churches)

Feb 21 -25, 2026

The Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross, a national Catholic initiative marking the 2025 Jubilee Year to honour the contributions, faith, and resilience of migrants in Australia.

Feb 21 (SAT) - Arrival of the Cross in St. Anthony Church around 4pm then followed Holy Mass at 5 pm

Feb 22 (SUN) - Transfer of the Cross to St. Catherine's Church around 4pm then Mass at 5 pm

Feb 23 (MON)- The Jubilee Cross will stay in St. Catherine of Siena Church for an evening Mass at 6:30pm

Feb 24 (TUE) - The Cross is still at St. Catherine of Siena Church for an evening Mass at 6:30pm

Feb 25 (WED) - Holy Mass by 9:15 am at St. Catherine of Siena Church, followed by veneration of the Cross with the students. Departure of the cross to Springvale, Keysborough

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

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

PARISH BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Announcements & Notices: Please submit your announcement or notices no later than 5pm 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.



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