



THE TIDINGS

SERVING THE AREAS OF MELTON, MELTON WEST, AINTREE, BONNIE BROOK,
GRANGEFIELDS, HARKNESS, KURUNJANG, PLUMPTON, ROCKBANK & TOOLERN VALE



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 Yr C | March 23, 2025

CLERGY

Parish Priest: FR ALEX CLEMENTE, RCJ
Assistant Priest: FR WILFORD URMaza, 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)

St Dominic's Church, Melton

Church St, Melton, VIC 3337

- **Thursday & Friday** 9.15 am

CONFESSION

St Catherine of Siena Church
Saturday: 5.45 pm | Sunday: 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 7-8): Bridge Rd, Cobblebank
+61 3 8099 6000 | info@sfcc.vic.edu.au

Francis Focus

In today's Gospel reading, Pope Francis explains, we see that 'Jesus rejects and strongly contests the idea of blaming God' for the world's misfortunes.

God does not send disasters to punish people. God is not vindictive, but ever merciful. And we are all called to respond to God's mercy, the Pope says, 'especially during this time of Lent.'

This includes learning how to stop blaming God. We should try to turn our attention to those times when, as the Pope puts it, it is 'our selfishness that tears apart relationships; ... our wrong and violent choices that unleash evil.' We are called to become the kind of people who can acknowledge our own faults.

'But Jesus knows that conversion is not easy,' the Pope adds, 'and he wants to help us here.' This is why Jesus 'encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience of God.'

The fig tree is an obvious symbol for each one of us. 'More time is given to it,' the Pope says, 'another possibility. I like to think,' he adds, 'that a nice name for God could be "the God of another possibility": God always gives us another opportunity.'

Such a chance is here, now. It is up to us to seize it.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is kind and merciful.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, say the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Today's Readings:

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15 1Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 Luke 13:1-9

Next Week's Readings:

Josh 5:9-12 2Cor 5:17-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Death Anniversaries:

Belle Walsh, Pabiito Tolibas, Maureen Rodda, Marianne Sakowicz, 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, Geswalda Borg, Bruce Rayner, Richard O'Rourke, Tanya Balnaves, Thomas Bradshaw, Bryan Jongebloed, Colin Masterton, Albert Prowd, Denzil Tallent, Charlie Spiteri, Antoniette Rebellato, Giuseppe DeVellis, Frances Ritchie, Lawrence DeBrincat, Darren Murdoch, Vitolina Murdoch, John Scicluna, Ivan Fadljevic, Giuseppe Antoniani, Vasantha Fernando, Gerald Galea, Grace Muscat, James McGuinness, Margaret Dillon, Egmidio Ventura, Jo Czlapa



Parish Offertory Giving February Update

Pledged: \$5,776.12

Actual: \$4,877.96

Thank
You

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

Reflection by Sr Mary Fermio, RSJ

We can look at people who are arrested, jailed etc. and say: *They deserve it for their crimes.* There is a sense of judgement in our thoughts and attitude. Do the crime, do the time!

In this Sunday's Gospel there is the call for all of us to repent. Those killed by Pilate were not greater sinners than other Galileans, so Jesus says. He warns us not to judge others by these events, as all of us must repent or we will perish as well. But like the fig tree God gives us the time to look at ourselves and change our ways, sends someone to "water" us, teach us, books etc. we can read and learn from, homilies we can listen to.

And we need to remember, as we may look at others and judge them, they are doing the same to us!

THIS LENT is the time God gives me now to look at my life, to dig around, add some manure of goodness and love in my thoughts and actions. Otherwise, I too may perish!



24 HOURS FOR THE LORD



The "24 Hours for the Lord" was introduced by Pope Francis in 2014 and has been held every year since. It is a Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation. It is celebrated on the eve of the Fourth Sunday of Lent each year. Its intention is to put the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre of the pastoral life of the Church. Parishes and communities can implement this initiative taking care to adapt it according to local needs and customs.

PRAYER

Gracious God, we come before you with open hearts to be healed by your love and mercy. Look with compassion on us as we acknowledge our failures; heal our wounds and stretch out your hand of love to save us and raise us up. Keep us free from harm as members of Christ's body, as sheep of your flock, as children of your family. Hear the prayer we offer you O God. Lead us back to the way of holiness, and protect us now and always. May we ever keep safe in all its fullness the gift your love once gave us and your mercy now restores. We pray in Jesus' name, he who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

BEING PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN THE WORLD

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop used to say: 'We are but travelers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be *pilgrims of hope*: a people who are not only travelers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25).

Pope Francis believes that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair. During Jubilee 2025, he wants everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope -born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35-39) - can breathe life back into weary souls.

This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5).



CARITAS AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at:

caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling:

1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we

**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent

**Project Compassion
boxes are available
in the Gathering
Area of the church.**



"'Fasting' doesn't mean eating fast food!"



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Third Sunday of Lent 22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413 413.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER TRIDUUM 2025

**St Anthony of Padua
Church, Melton South**
Friday, April 11

6.30pm Stations of the Cross
followed by Reconciliation
(approx. 7.30pm)

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA CHURCH, WEST MELTON

Maundy Thursday April 17



7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
followed by Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament until 10
pm

Good Friday April 18



10.30am Stations of the Cross followed
by Reconciliation
3pm Celebration of the Lord's
Passion

Holy Saturday April 19



10.30am Blessing of the Easter food
baskets
7.30pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday April 20

9am & 11am Easter Sunday Masses

Please Note: no 5pm Mass

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

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

HOME VISITATION & BLESSING REQUESTS

For Home Visitation & Blessing requests, please speak
to one of our priests after Mass or fill out the online
request form: [TINYURL.COM/HBLESSING](https://tinyurl.com/HBlessing)

PLEASE RING THE MASS MANAGER IF UNABLE TO ATTEND:

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

3rd Sunday of Lent			Saturday & Sunday March 22&23, 2025	
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcomer	Margaret Richards	Maureen Mohr	Chelsea Amato	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Tania Walters	Alzira Mascarenhas	Liza Fernandes	Ismael Sosa-Sanchez
Responder	Tetchie Hadfield	Jennifer Peters	Cira Cleary	Janet Estrada
Presentation of Gifts	Robert Obtinalla	Karl Metha	Chelsea Amato	Josephine Krajina
Holy Communion	Tania Walters	Theo Franken	Liz Coustley	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
PowerPoint Operator	James Taniman	Faith Tuputala	Choir	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Kate Mulholland	Maureen Mohr	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
Choir	Divine Mercy	Veneration Choir	St Anuarite Choir	Filipino Choir

4th Sunday of Lent			Saturday & Sunday March 29&30, 2025	
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome	Bill McGuiness	Faith Tuputala	Liza Fernandes	Frank Unferdorben
The Word	Tetchie Hadfield	Lawrence Camenzuli	Liza Fernandes	Frank Unferdorben
Responder	Tania Walters	Vickie Cassar	Cira Cleary	Josephine Krajina
Presentation of Gifts	Leny Obtinalla	Karl Metha	Liz Coustley	Elainne de los Santos
Holy Communion	Leny Obtinalla	Maureen Mohr	Liz Coustley	Ismael Sosa-Sanchez
PowerPoint Operator	Kate Mulholland	Sanyata Creo	Chelsea Amato	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Anne Stokie		Janet Estrada
Choir		Samoan Choir	Veritas Choir	Filipino Choir
Counters	Maria Abela, Tania Walters			



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



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the
seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

Franciscus

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

MARCH

Wednesday, 26th	Mass: St Catherine's Church 9:15 am: St Catherine's Year 1 students to attend
Thursday, 27th	Mass: St Dominic's Church 9:15 am
Friday, 28th	Mass: St Dominic's Church 9:15 am St Dominic's Grade 1 students to attend
Saturday, 29th	Baptism: 11am & 12.15pm

APRIL

Wednesday, 2nd	No Mass at St Catherine's Church Mass at St Anthony's Melton South 9.30am
Thursday, 3rd	Mass: St Dominic's Church 9:15 am
Friday, 4th	Mass: St Dominic's Church 9:15 am Term1 of the school year ends
Wednesday, 9th	No Mass at St Catherine's Church Mass at St Anthony's Melton South 9.30am
Thursday, 10th	Mass: St Dominic's Church 9:15 am
Friday, 11th	Mass: St Dominic's Church 9:15 am
Sunday, 13th	Palm / Passion Sunday
Wednesday, 16th	No Mass at St Catherine's Church Mass at St Anthony's Melton South 9.30am
Thursday, 17th	NO morning Mass at St Dominic's
Friday, 18th	No morning Mass at St Dominic's

**See Holy Week & Easter Triduum Liturgy Times
on page 3 of the Tidings**



St Francis
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

MELTON & COBBLEBANK
**Let us help you
enrol your child
for Yr 7 in 2027**

Tuesday 25 March 2025
anytime between 1.30pm - 6.30pm
109-141 Bulmans Road, Melton West
Enter via Gate 4

Our staff and interpreters (Dinka, Arabic and Burmese
- various dialects) will be there to help you complete
an application for either of our campuses
- Melton or Cobblebank.

Please bring with you:

- Your child's birth certificate (required).
 - Your child's Baptism certificate (if applicable).
 - Your child's most recent school report and NAPLAN results (required)
 - Immunisation History Statement
 - Your child's passport and visa (required if they were born overseas).
 - Court orders including family court orders and intervention orders (if applicable). If both parents cannot sign the application, a Statutory Declaration **must** be provided stating the reason why.
 - Two separate documents confirming your residential address (required).
- A non-refundable application fee (paid via credit card or cash) of \$50 is required for each child.**

Applications for Year 7 2027 close on
Friday 15 August 2025.

Demand for places at the College is high, so we encourage you to apply as soon as possible.
If you need help applying for Year 7 2026, you can come along. Please remember that these applications were due in August 2024 so your child may be added to our waiting list.

PARISH OFFERTORY GIVING

If you would like to make either a one-off donation or to set up recurring donations to the parish, please scan the QR code or head to our website:

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

You may also like to use the Smart Terminal at the welcome desk to contribute to the Parish.



**Would you like to receive
The Tidings
before the
weekend?**

Head to our website and subscribe to The Tidings or simply scan the QR code to enter your email to receive a digital copy.
You will then receive a verification



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.



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