

St Mary's Parish

We proudly acknowledge the Boonwurrung People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land.

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents

8th December, 2024



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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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C



FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch. 5:1-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Philippians. 1:4-6, 8-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. He went throughout the region of Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah.

“A voice of one crying out in the desert:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.

Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the
salvation of God.”



Tuesday 10th December	9:15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 11th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Thursday 12th December	9:15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church (Fr Greg celebrating end of Year Secondary Staff Mass.)
Friday 13th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners

In today's Gospel we hear again the lonely voice of John the Baptist. In the manner of an Old Testament prophet, John undertakes to prepare the people for the coming of the Saviour by calling them to repentance. Similarly in line with this we will have a **Reconciliation/Repentance service before the 6pm Mass in two weeks' time on 21st December at 5:15pm**. Bring some greater peace to your soul for Christmas. Maybe then you will be able to put up with some of your more cantankerous relations!!

As a Parish Council we have had several parishioners express their desire to have their favourite saint displayed more permanently (of which there are hundreds!) or something of a prominent display on a particular feast. Sorry, but it is impossible to accommodate all requests otherwise the Church would be completely cluttered. Anyway, the Parish Council decided that we should to keep it simple and stay with the status quo.

THANKS TO THE MANY:

There are so many I should thank for recent events or support to the Parish - here are a few that come to my mind just lately:

A: While I was away on annual holiday, I am informed that retired Williamstown living priest, Fr Barry Hughes for some of the weekday Masses and Evol Farrelly for the Communion Services did a great job. Also thanks to anyone else who helped out while I was away: rubbish bins, closing of church etc etc.

B. What about the **wonderful music night last Saturday night**. It was an enormous success not only due to the musicians and singers who were in fine voice, but the many helpers of Stephen Littleton on the night who made it a great social occasion in the Parish Centre for drinks before, and after this once again memorable performance.

C. Also what a success was the **annual Parish Barbeque!** We had so many thanks from the new prep parents who also turned up at the Barbeque as well as the present prep parents. It was the members of the present parish council who prepared for the event, supervised it during the day and cleaned up afterwards. Thanks to those others who helped with the cooking and so forth. Furthermore, thanks to parishioners who brought such nice food to the table such as salads etc. The Mass beforehand was also appreciated by one and all with so many of the present prep children and new prep children for 2025 being present: a beautiful song by them at the end. For the Mass I can't thank enough musicians, singers and in particular Charlotte Lipnicki as Faith Formation Leader and Monique Julian as our Pastoral Associate for helping to coordinate the Liturgy as they have so often during the year.

Yours 'in Christ' Fr Greg 4/12/2024

OUR PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM

Our Parish Renewal Program has been finalised and I am pleased to report it has been a great success. Our parish groups and ministries have been revitalised – pleasingly we welcome the involvement of a number of parishioners for the first time. We set ourselves a real challenge to significantly increase contributions to our Stewardship Program. I am pleased to say that the challenge was accepted! We now have pledged contributions from 175 parish families with 35 joining the Program for the first time. Our pledged Stewardship Income has increased from \$2,500 to just under \$3,500 per week, representing a near 40% increase. Another key result from the Program is a renewed commitment to engagement – as advised during the Program we will publish a Parish Annual Report which will be delivered at a special parish gathering in May—June of each year, once appropriate reports have been finalised at the end of the church financial year. I thank you all once again for your involvement in the Renewal Program and your continued support of our wonderful parish of St Mary's. It is very much appreciated.

Fr Greg

FUTURE OF THE SWAG AND NCP

88 priests have indicated they will attend the National Council of Priests Biennial Convention. However, the problem is that we all of the same age mainly! We are priests who came soon after that great Council of the Catholic Church and believe in its essential messages for our world. We represented 80% of the priests of Australia in the year 2000. Nowadays we are diminishing in numbers and membership for various reasons. Most of us were from Anglo Saxon backgrounds with a sprinkling of mainly Italian, Polish and Maltese. We got to know each other so well over 7-8 years. We became friends to many and we enjoyed mostly each other's company. However, with the coming of so many other priests from Overseas, especially from Vietnam, India, Philippines and Sri Lanka there is not the same knowledge or understanding of each other. They are all basically good men but the latter priests see no great reason to join our organisation and tend if a member of a religious order to keep more among themselves. Newly ordained priests have not the same background in the Vatican Council and tend often not to join any clergy organisation. Thus, parishioners can pray for where our next steps should be after our National Convention in March 2025 and whether the Swag journal will continue to exist after those days. Wise decisions need to be made.

THE SWAG SUMMER EDITION – BACK TABLE OF CHURCH :

P 3 – From the NCP CHAIRMAN.

P 4 – always worth a read from our editor.

P 5 – Just talks about Convention.

P 6 – 7 Fr Gerald O'Collins was very much a product of Vatican 11. After his death Michael Walsh gives a summary of a wise, broad minded giant of the Church in Fr Gerald O'Collins.

P 8 – another Melbourne ordained priest, Archbishop of Brisbane tries to make sense of numbers coming to the Seminary to study for priesthood.

P 9 – As Paul Collins states 'Pope Francis walks the walk.

P 10 –11 Another very bright Jesuit and lawyer Frank Brennan discusses the aftermath of the Voice referendum.

P 12 – We need more of bishops like Vietnamese background bishop, Vincent Long Van Nguyen. He shows us up somewhat in our Archdiocese and hopefully we get on the bandwagon sooner than later. He launches 'The Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church.

P 13 – Unfortunately, bishop of Broken Bay, Anthony Randazzo comes from the wrong planet and needs Sydney priest to respond to his unusual comments regarding 'women in the Church'. Thankfully most priests I know don't think like Broken Bay bishop – diocese north of Sydney.

P 14 – it talks about the late vocations seminary at Kensington (NSW) Nice little article .

P 15 I don't know what you think as I wrote this article. I will leave it up to you what you think of the sentiments and reflections!

P 16 – 17 a good article on the compatibility of evolution and the Bible.

P 18 – This is pretty deep and meaningful – quite beautifully really.

P 19 -35 Never had chance to read the rest.

Fr Greg

MEMORIAL MASS FOR RECENTLY DECEASED - THIS SUNDAY

Annual Memorial Mass for recently deceased parishioners and family will be held tonight, 8th December at 6:00pm at St Mary's Church. All welcome and light refreshments in the Parish Center to follow. You may like to bring a photo or small memento of your loved one to place in front of the altar during the Mass.

Rosters for this Week 7th & 8th December 2024

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am John O'Keefe, Mary Frisby 10.30am Maria Laudato, Maylene Clayton
Mass Readers	6.00pm Rosemarie Smith 8.30am Christal Augustin 10.30am Eilin Taylor
Welcomers	6.00pm Claudia Hall 8.30am Volunteer Needed 10.30am Di Collins

Rosters for next 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

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 Rosa Sirgiovanni and Maryanne Grech who passed away recently and Nicola Nardo, Luciano Azzopardi, Sr. Margaret Barry rsj., Doris Mifsud, Maria Elia, Kevin Jenkinson, Marie Kosowski, Sr. Eileen McHugh, Stephen Rush, Mladenka Obradovic, Mollie Maine, Dr. John Anchen, Ignazio Kucich, Teresa Rimbaldo, Dan Buckley, Ellen Croke, Gary Metcalf, Guiseppe Pecora, Maria Ivelja, Michael Hocter, Graeme Bloedorn, Patrick Kirley, Carmelo Pagliaro, Kath Allman, Joel Finn, Cecilia Penn, Edward Maguire, Roland Zammit, Francesca Oliveri, Margherita Mangion, Luiza Kucich, Emmanuel and Rosaria Raffaele, Albert, Celestina, Ersilia and Rosaria Mangion, Carmelo and Rita Consolandi, Francesco and Lorenza Camilleri, Mario Camilleri, Annie Taliana, Leslie Carlon, Babara Sawyer and Patricia McBride; whose anniversaries are at this time.

ADVENT BOOKS - *The Light*

There are still a few Advent and Christmas Daily reflections books on back table - \$5 in tin or bring next week if that is more convenient. On this Second Sunday of Advent you will read about the incredible bishop, Saint Ambrose - my favourite bishop! In the 4th century he not only combatted one of the greatest heresies of the early Church, Arianism but converted many to Christ, including St Augustine. Before his own conversion to Christ, and the overwhelming general appeal of the population for him to be their next bishop, he was governor of a Roman Province. I only realised recently that his brother gave up being governor of another Roman Province in order to come and work for Ambrose in Milan.