

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TEL: 9791-4611/OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM TUESDAY-FRIDAY/EMAIL: dandenong@cam.org.au

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / A

8 MARCH 2026



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. Jn 4:42, 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; / give me living water, that I may never thirst again. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Jn 4:4-5, 19-26, 39-42

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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' said the woman. '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 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 when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done,' 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**PROFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.**PREFACE OF 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT***After the Preface, we sing or say:*

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace.***LAMB OF GOD**

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Jn 4:13-14

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.**BREAKING OPEN THE WORD****FOR WHAT DO WE THIRST?**

The first two Sundays of Lent are from Matthew's Gospel, the Gospel of this liturgical year. They recall Jesus' temptation (*Mt 4: 1-11*) and his experience of being transfigured (*Mt 17: 1-9*). For the remaining Sundays of Lent, we listen to John's Gospel. These Sundays will explore the central religious and theological questions especially relevant for contemporary disciples in their Lenten journey: For what do we truly thirst (today's Gospel)? How might our eyes be opened to Jesus (next Sunday)? What is the life for which we deeply desire (the final Sunday of Lent)?

In today's Gospel a Samaritan woman comes to a well at noon—the brightest moment of the day—and encounters the source of Light, Jesus. She comes to draw water and only later realises that she has met the one who can quench her deepest spiritual thirst. The whole scene is replete with theological symbolism, a characteristic of John, as Jesus invites the woman to explore the depths of her thirst that only he can address. We learn that she has had several 'husbands'. This is not an admission of the woman's adventurous liaisons, as many commentators have interpreted, but an acknowledgement of her attraction to the 'husbands' (the 'Baals') of religions that are 'not her own'. She is looking for the true one from God, not these other counterfeits.

Jesus reveals himself to her: He is the 'I AM', the Old Testament name for God. Through him the woman comes to encounter the Sacred and sets her on a journey back to her townspeople. Like the woman, we, too, thirst, for God and for a deeper religious life as we journey through Lent.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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THE WATER OF LIFE. Jesus is the saviour of the world. In today's Gospel he offers the water of life to a Samaritan woman who, in turn, becomes the first missionary of Jesus. She hurries to tell the people of her town about him. We, who have received the life of God in baptism, are also called to be missionaries by inviting others to come and see Jesus.

INTRODUCTORY RITES**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 24:15-16

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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.**PENITENTIAL ACT**

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. For we have sinned against you.

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

R. And grant us your salvation.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.*The Gloria is not said during Lent.***COLLECT**

P. O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.**LITURGY OF THE WORD****FIRST READING** Ex 17:3-7**A reading from the book of Exodus***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?'

ST MARY’S PARISH, DANDENONG

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Sebastian Arockia **ASSISTANT PRIEST:** Fr. Vincent Nguyen
Parish Website: <https://melbcatholic.org/s/dandenong> **Facebook:** St Mary’s Parish Dandenong
Parish Phone: 9791-4611 **Email:** dandenong@cam.org.au **Address:** 160 Foster Street, Dandenong
PARISH SECRETARY: Franca Van Boxtel **FINANCE OFFICER:** Deslene de Niese
Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm **(Mondays office closed)**
PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGER: Mr. Miguel Matamala
St. Mary’s Community Centre Tel: 7064 3928 or 0402 155 192



St. Mary’s Primary School Phone: 9791 7650, New St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Terry Gardiner
St. John’s Regional College Phone: 8793 2000 Caroline St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Timothy Hogan

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Morning: 9.15am

Saturday Evening: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 9.15am

Friday (9.45am –12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction at 12.30pm)

ANNOINTING MASS

Last Friday of every month 9.15 am

DAILY ROSARY

After morning Mass Mon-Sat (Fridays will be before Mass)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after 9.15am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE OR HOUSE BLESSING

Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

COMMUNION AND ANOINTING OF SICK

Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing.

REGULAR GROUP MEETING ST MARY’S PARISH

LEGION OF MARY:

Saturday mornings after 9:15am mass in the Fellowship Room followed by Rosary

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP :

Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the church

ST MARY’S FRIENDSHIP CLUB:

3rd Wednesday of month lunch meet at Dandenong RSL.12pm

BINGO AT ST MARY’S

St. Mary’s Bingo is on Tuesdays at 12noon & Saturdays at 6.30pm in St Mary’s Community Centre, New St, Dandenong

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).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern:

- young discipleship
- missionary leadership
- formation and participation.

across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

In the synodal Church ‘the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions (ITC 68) for mission’ (Final Document, §87).

Letter from the Archbishop of Melbourne is available in the church foyer.

MARY MAGDALENE – THE MUSICAL

An uplifting Lenten production retelling the journey of Mary Magdalene through music and story. Presented by **COG Theatre Group** and directed by **Beth Mondragon Williams**, this moving work reflects on redemption, grace, and hope. **When:** Fri & Sat 13–14 March, 7:00 pm Sat & Sun 14–15 March, 1:00 pm **Where:** [Renaissance Theatre, High Street, Kew](#)
Tickets: trybooking.com/DHZPD

COIN COLLECTION FOR THE DOMINICAN SOLOMON ISLAND MISSIONS

This week I received a cheque for \$952.00 the coins collected over the past twelve months, to help with the Education of children in the Solomons.

I am deeply grateful for your constant generosity over many years. Thank you ever so much I pray that the Lord will bless you abundantly.

Our Solomon Island sisters ask needy families to pay what they can, and your money then supplements the school fees in total. This means that some children can continue in school, especially into secondary education.

Your giving inspires me and warms my heart.

Gratefully—Sr Margaret Fields.



All parishioners and friends are warmly invited to attend a special day of prayer, preaching and healing.
St Mary’s Parish, Dandenong

Date: Saturday 14th March 2026

Time: 9:00am-2:45pm

This will be a grace-filled opportunity for spiritual renewal through prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, and Holy Mass. All are most welcome to attend.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Mama Rose, Mavis Braganza

Anniversaries: *Angelo Johnpulle, Colita Abella, Agostino Napolitano, Cynthia Woods, Sr Josephine Carroll, Elizabeth Gibson*

Sick: Kulandhai Therese, Rosa Maria Santos, Long Phan, Ush Henry Bangkal, Leti Luki, Kathleen Nelson, Jim Lynch, Bernardo, Ray Gilligan, Frank Pezzaro, Janet Augustine, Bridget Phyland, Solofuti, Samantha Vasanthy, Kevin, Maria Perez, Angela Anthony, Ray Simmons, Frank Camara, Rita Breen, Tasileta Lolesio, Jim, Lucia Germano, Imelda Quatre-bornes, Sandra Wills, Maddie, Herve, Asis Zullah, Nacera Burekovic, Charlie Mastrogiovanni, Carla Lunardi, Russell D’Costa, Satty Lee, Ping Lo, Robyn, Fr Brendan Lane, Anne Richards, Gervais Tourmentin, Ashleigh Wills, Anthony Morri, Lyma Payne, Eva Salvacion Satuito, Fr Michael Willemssen, Vreni Bien, Rosario Giaquinta, Joanna Van Der Ven, Ricky (*The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed*) in the Marian. **(IF THERE ARE ANY NAMES THAT NEED TO COME OFF THE SICK LIST PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE)**

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE—BUS TRIP—Saturday 21st March 2026 All parishioners are warmly invited to join our Lenten Pilgrimage. The bus will depart at **8:00am from St Mary’s Parish carpark**. Our pilgrimage will include visits to: Ta' Pinu Shrine – *Stations of the Cross*, St Bernard’s Catholic Church Bacchus Marsh, St Anthony’s Catholic Church, Melton South, St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Melton West **Cost:** \$40 per person **BYO Lunch** For bookings and enquiries, please contact **Pearl Roberts** 0400 294 439. All are welcome to join us for this special time of prayer and reflection during Lent.

GOD AND BEER MONDAY 16TH MARCH - THE SOCIAL REIGN OF CHRIST THE KING

We are pleased to announce that Fr Brendan Arthur will be speaking at our next God and Beer evening.

In a culture that often seeks to confine faith to the private sphere, what does it mean to proclaim Christ not only as King of our hearts, but as King of families, communities, and nations? Fr Brendan will explore the meaning of the Social Reign of Christ the King and what it asks of Catholics today. How should Christians think about society, politics, culture, and public life in light of Christ’s kingship? Is 'Christendom' just a relic of the past, or our hope for the future? Fr Brendan Arthur is the Assistant Priest at St John Henry Newman Parish in Caulfield. This promises to be an evening of good conversation, fellowship, and faith. We hope you’ll join us.

Topic: The Social Reign of Christ the King **Speaker:** Fr Brendan Arthur **Date:** Monday 16th March **Time:** 6.30pm dinner available for purchase, 7.30pm for the talk **Venue:** Notting Hill Hotel, [Steakhouse Room](#), 260-262 Ferntree Gully Rd., Notting Hill

Tickets: Free (but limited) For videos of past God and Beer events [visit this link](#).

Parishioners & Friends come and entertain yourselves, with family and friends. Light lunch and live music.

Time: 11:30am to 2:30pm Every 2nd Thursday of the month.

Commencing: Thursday 12th March 2026

Where: Marian Room, St Mary’s Community Centre, 26 New Street, Dandenong

For further information please contact **BRIAN DAVID:** 0430 076 691 or **BERNARD BARR:** 0412 372 566

DONATIONS WELCOME.—MINIMUM \$10/- PER HEAD



IMPORTANT NOTICE - As you may be aware, last year our Parish underwent a Safeguarding Audit conducted by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL). As a result of this audit, we are currently reviewing and updating all Parish volunteer records.

All clergy, staff, and volunteers are required to:

- Sign the Code of Conduct
- Complete Safeguarding Essential Training (regarding behavioural expectations while performing duties in the Parish)
- Provide a current Working With Children Check

It is essential that we maintain up-to-date records confirming compliance with these requirements for everyone who works or volunteers in our Parish. To assist with this process, a **MANDATORY Safeguarding Essential Training evening** will be held on: **Thursday 26th March, 6:00pm – 8:00pm** All volunteers are required to attend.

Please register your attendance by signing the sign-up sheet located in the church foyer.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to keeping our Parish community safe.



14th-15th March —Rosters

6pm — **Readers:** Ruth & Ramona

8:30am — **Readers:** Dalrene & Rebecca

10:30am — **Readers:** Clara & Michelle

5:30pm — **Readers:** Grace & Michelle

Eucharistic Ministers: Elizabeth, Theresa & Bibiana

Eucharistic Ministers: Ulaia, Wigbertha & Marilyn

Eucharistic Ministers: Thorwald, Edith & Stefania

Eucharistic Ministers: Emma, Sharmini & Graham

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Thanksgiving: \$1502.05 **Presbytery** \$866.40 **Loose:** \$1368.00

Support our Parish If you would like to make direct payments to our bank accounts, the details are:

St Mary’s General Account: (Thanksgiving & Donations) NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 483196852

For contributions to support our priests and the Archdiocese:

Presbytery Account: NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 460761193

St. Mary’s Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adult