

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! / Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, / Galilee of the nations! / The people that lived in darkness / has seen a great light; / on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death / a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.’ And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Shorter form: 4: 12-17

HOMILY

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. Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and in sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation. 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 I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

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 cf. Ps 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring us to new life, we may always glory in your gift. 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 the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

REPENT

Last Sunday’s Gospel from John, though critically important for our spiritual reflection, seemed unusual in this year of Matthew. So, today, we return to Matthew. In the past two Sundays, John the Baptist has been central in the Gospel selections. Today he is no longer with us, having been arrested. Our focus is squarely now on Jesus. He moves from his hometown of Nazareth to Capernaum. Both towns are on the fringe. The first, Nazareth, is the symbolic place of exile in Matthew. When Mary, Joseph and Jesus returned from Egypt they could not go back to their hometown of Bethlehem because of the vengeful ruling presence of Herod’s son Archelaus. They go to live in Galilee, to Nazareth. They, like the Israelites several centuries earlier, are in exile. It is from here that the rest of Matthew unfolds.

Jesus next moves to Capernaum located geographically close to pagan and Gentile territories. It is a fishing village and a taxation collection centre at the crossroads of two major E-W and N-S highways. It is here that Jesus proclaims the great clarion cry in the Gospel: ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand’ (4:17). This cry ‘to repent’ (Greek *metanoia*) is an urge to have an openness of heart. It comes with a conviction that God is already present and active in the world (‘the kingdom of heaven is close at hand’).

Finally, after Jesus calls four fishermen to be his first disciples, our Gospel proclamation ends with a note about Jesus’ teaching and healing ministry. The first-called disciples will model for Matthew’s audience how to be repentant and live out the conviction of God’s presence in their lives and world.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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ST MARY’S PARISH, DANDENONG—160 FOSTER STREET, DANDENONG

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 JANUARY 2026

JESUS, OUR LIGHT. At times we can find ourselves ‘walking in darkness.’ We get caught up in difficulties and cannot see a way out. Today’s liturgy reminds us that Jesus is our light and our salvation. As with the first disciples, he calls us to follow him. In the Gospels we have the Good News that brings light into the dark moments of our lives.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 95:1, 6
O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

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.
All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the



Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. 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 Isa 8:23–9:3
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.
The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 26:1, 4,13–14. R.v.1
R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; / whom shall I fear? / The Lord is the stronghold of my life; / before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, / for this I long, / to live in the house of the Lord, / all the days of my life, / to savour the sweetness of the Lord, / to behold his temple. **R.**

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness / in the land of the living. / Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. / Hope in the Lord! **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 1:10–13,17
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe’s people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: ‘I am for Paul’, ‘I am for Apollos’, ‘I am for Cephas’, ‘I am for Christ’. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:23
Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 4:12–23
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

ST MARY’S PARISH, DANDENONG

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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

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

‘Responding to today’s challenges may sometimes seem beyond our capabilities,’ Pope Leo says, ‘but this is not the case.’ He calls on us to ‘work together to set humanity free from the encircling gloom’ that ‘threatens to “cancel” hope.’

Reflecting on St John Henry Newman’s hymn, *Lead, Kindly Light*, the Pope wants us to ‘disarm the false reasons for resignation and powerlessness.’ He wants us to ‘share the great reasons for hope in today’s world.’ Even in the darkness, we see a great light.

With our eyes focused on the true light of this world, we are called to be pointers to it.

‘Let us’, the Pope says, ‘reflect upon and point out to others those “constellations” that transmit light and guidance at this present time, which is darkened by so much injustice and uncertainty.’

Indeed, our own lives should become living reflections of that light. ‘Life shines brightly not because we are rich, beautiful or powerful’, the Pope says. ‘Instead, it shines when we discover within ourselves the truth that we are called by God, have a vocation, have a mission, that our lives serve something greater than ourselves.’

‘Every single creature has a role to play’, he continues. ‘The contribution that each person can make is uniquely valuable.’ For that reason, we should also always be open to the light shining in those we meet.

ST. MARY’S SOCIAL GROUP

St. Mary’s Social Group successfully hosted the Christmas Eve Dinner Dance and the New Year’s Eve Dinner Dance. We are pleased to announce that a total of **\$3,200.00** was raised from these events (excluding all expenses).

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the members who contributed and generously sacrificed their valuable time and talents to make these events a success. May God abundantly bless each one of them.

Thank You!

We warmly invite more members to join us and help strengthen the Social Club Festival Committee as we continue to serve our Parish.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased: Brenda Rainbird

Anniversaries: Henk Van Der Ven, Roperta Montecanas, Joseph Torelli, Visitacion

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, Katrina, 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, Keith Reynolds, Robyn, Fr Brendan Lane, Anne Richards, Gervais Tourmentin, Ashleigh Wills, Anthony Morri, Lyma Payne, Eva Salvacion Satuito, Fr Michael Willemsen, Vreni Bien, Liz Gilligan *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)**

Sacramental Program 2026 Enrolment Information

The Parish offers a Sacramental Program to students not attending Catholic schools. Classes are held on Thursday’s 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Parents and families are asked to submit an enrolment form (available on website or church foyer) **with supporting Sacramental Certificates.** We require a copy of your child(ren)’s Baptism certificate and any other Sacramental Certificate upon enrolment. Your child must be baptised prior to commencing the Sacramental Program.

The program fee is \$150.00 per child. *Note: this fee is subject to change. Fee is to cover the cost of books, photocopying, stole and candle.*

Children can only receive one Sacrament per year.

The Sacramental Preparation Program is for children who are;

- in Grade 3 and wish to register for the Sacrament of Reconciliation,
- in Grade 4 and wish to register for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist,
- in Grade 6 and above and wish to register for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026:

- **Registration Date: Thursday 12th February 3-5pm (in the church foyer).**

Class commencement date:

- **Reconciliation and First Eucharist:** DATE AND TIME TO BE CONFIRMED.
- **Confirmation:** Thursday 19th February 4:30-5:30pm (Church Fellowship Room) (12 weeks)

No classes during school holidays between 7th and 19th April 2026 inclusive.

Easter season: Thursday 2nd April to Monday 6th April 2026 inclusive.

SACRAMENTAL MASS/SERVICE DATES FOR 2026:

- **Confirmation Mass: Sunday 31st May at 5:30pm Mass**
- **Reconciliation Service:** . DATE AND TIME TO BE CONFIRMED.
- **First Eucharist Mass:** . DATE AND TIME TO BE CONFIRMED.

Please contact parish office if you require more information on 9791-4611



We extend our sincere thanks to the Kasia Leo & family who lovingly prepared our altar flowers each week for many years.

Contributions toward altar flowers are welcome. Envelopes are available in the church foyer and may be returned to the office or placed in the collection basket during Mass.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Thanksgiving: \$1582.90 **Presbytery** \$754.55 **Loose:** \$1537.80
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