



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 ADVENT YEAR A - December 14, 2025

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: 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@sfc.vic.edu.au

Reflection by Fr. Alex Clemente, RCJ

Gaudete Sunday is an encouragement to rejoice because the Lord is near! We are halfway through our journey in this season of preparation and the pink candle, which symbolizes joy, in the advent wreath is already lighted. The liturgy of the word for third Sunday of Advent, centers on a profound, supernatural joy that endures despite life's difficulties, as God's promised salvation is at hand. It's a strong call for a patient, yet active, anticipation to meet Christ who came in history, who visits us in the ordinary and who will return in glory.

Isaiah in the first reading prophesied; "the desert will bloom, the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will leap, and the mute will sing," all leading to everlasting joy as the ransomed return to Zion on a "Highway of Holiness". The responsorial psalm is a celebration of God as the ultimate provider, liberator, and just ruler, with verses highlighting His faithfulness, care for the oppressed, hungry, prisoners, and the weak. While James in the second reading urges the believers to be patient and steadfast while awaiting the Lord's return. The Gospel features John the Baptist, who, even from prison, is filled with active expectation and firm hope sent his disciples to confirm that Jesus is "the one who is to come".

What aspects of my life make it difficult to feel joy right now?

How can I invite God's presence into those specific areas?

In what practical ways can I, like John the Baptist, be helping others recognize the presence of Jesus in our world?

Next Week's Readings:

Isa 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mat 1:18-24

Recently Deceased:

Rev. Michael Leonard Shadbolt PE, Antoniette Gatt

Remembering Death Anniversaries:

George Coburn, Julius Motha, Felomina Aguares, Fiore Antoniani, Doreen Swainston, Anka Klasic, Lydia Certeza, Louis Cutajar, Don Mc Carthy, Evelyn Bell, Robert Rayner, Molly Donnelly, Erika Lesnianski, Carmani Savirimattu, Margaret Cutajar, Claudia Nenita Itliong, Kathleen Dillon, David Mackeen, George Verlander, Donald Graham Reardon, Maureen Prada, Lorna Munro, Nell Butler, Jenny Lucas (nee Dias), Monique Clencie, Corie Clencie, Estrella de Jesus, James Milligan, Margaret Caffrey, Margaret Hilbert, Alexander & Helen Sayno 241219-59

The Smart Terminal is operating and available again. It is now 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.



The Parish of Melton Office will be Closed
from Wed, 24 December 2025
till Monday, 5 January 2026



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

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading *Isa 35:1-6,10*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age **(R.)**

Parousya Faith app receive Day's Readings,
and make secure donation on Apple Wallet
[Download App now](#)



Second Reading *James 5:7-10*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
- *Alleluia!*

Gospel *Mat 11:2-11*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



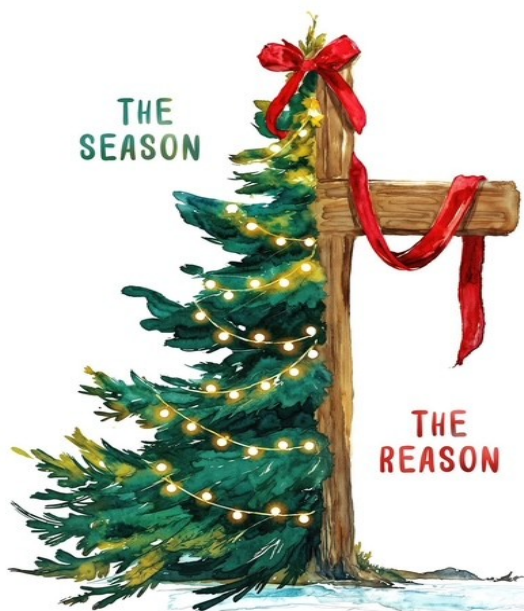
Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Announcement: Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod 2026

We are all invited by Archbishop Peter Comensoli to pray for the success of the upcoming Archdiocesan Synod 2026. It is an important journey for a renewed way of walking together as a church. Details to follow come Jan. 2026.

THE
SEASON



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT A WEEKEND MASS?

Pick up a 'Volunteer Information Pack' in the Gathering Area of the church for detailed information on each ministry, necessary requirements and the application form.

THE SACRAMENTS OF PENANCE, EUCHARIST & CONFIRMATION 2026

An invitation is extended to join our partnered parishes of Melton and Melton South, Sacramental Program called:

St Luke's Sacramental Program

for young people who do not attend a Catholic Primary School, or attend a Catholic Secondary School and are baptised, but **have not received one or more of the above Sacraments.**

We begin with an Information Night on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 7pm sharp in St Dominic's Parish Hall - entry via the gate on Smith St, Melton.

Information and the application form for these programs is available online on our Parish website: www.melbcatholic.org/melton or in hard copy from the Gathering Area of St Catherine of Siena church.

Please complete the application form and either:

- Email it to the parish office at: melton@cam.org.au,
- Drop it off personally at the parish office (10 Unitt St Melton) Tuesday - Friday between 9.30am and 4.30pm, or
- Place it into the white return box in the Gathering Area of St Catherine of Siena church.

The Sacrament of Penance program begins on Thursday February 5, 2026.



Growing Together In Faith

PLEASE RING THE MASS MANAGER IF UNABLE TO ATTEND AND PERFORM YOUR ROSTERED DUTY



6 pm Tania Walters 0492 952 478 11 am Lea Jacuta 0414 390 151
9 am Theo Franken 0411 040 897 5 pm Josephine Krajina 0407 042 133

Third Sunday of Advent Year A			Saturday & Sunday December 13 & 14, 2025	
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcomer	Kate Mulholland	Maureen Mohr	Amy Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
The Word	Tania Walters	Sanyata Creo	Lea Jacuta	Janet Estrada
Responder	Tetchie Hadfield	Faith Tuputala	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
Presentation of Gifts	Tania Walters	Faith Tuputala	Amy Jacuta	Elainne de los Santos
Holy Communion	Leny Obtinalla	Anne Stokie	Liz Coustley	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie
PowerPoint Operator	James Taniman	Sanghaya Creo	Choir	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Margaret Richards	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
Choir	Divine Mercy	Veneration Choir	St Anuarite Choir	Filipino Choir
Counters	Leslie Gordon, John Woof			

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A			Saturday & Sunday December 20 & 21, 2025	
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	9 AM	11 AM	5 PM
Welcome	Tania Walters	Asther Creo	Amy Jacuta	Frank Unferdorben
The Word	Maria Prasetyono	Lawrence Camenzuli	Cira Cleary	Janet Estrada
Responder	Tania Walters	Theo Franken	Liz Coustley	Frank Unferdorben
Presentation of Gifts	Robert Obtinalla	Karl Metha	Amy Jacuta	Elainne de los Santos
Holy Communion	Kate Mulholland	Asther Creo	Liz Coustley	Josephine Krajina
PowerPoint Operator	James Taniman	Faith Tuputala	Daniella Ahmet	Nina Ahmet
Gift Shop	Kate Mulholland	Anne Stokie	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina
Choir	Divine Mercy	Samoan Choir	Veritas Choir	Tongan Choir
Counters	Elizabeth Marshall, Jennifer Peters			

If you can assist with the 8pm & 10pm Christmas Mass please notify Liz Coustley (contact details on the front page of the Tidings)

CHRISTMAS MASSES				Thursday, December 25	NEW YEAR'S DAY January 1
Wednesday, December 24				10 AM	11 AM
MINISTERS OF:	6 PM	8 PM No Deacon Cris	10 PM No Deacon Cris		
Mass Manager	Tania Walters	Tania Walters	Josephine Krajina	Liz Coustley	Josephine Krajina
Welcomer	Margaret Richards	Josephine Krajina	Maria Abela	Liz Coustley	Liz Coustley
The Word	Josephine Krajina	Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina	Jennifer Peters	Tetchie Hadfield
Responder	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie	Tania Walters	?	Cira Cleary	Cira Cleary
Presentation of Gifts	Tania Walters		Maria Abela	Vickie Cassar	
Holy Communion	Kate Mulholland Ismael Sosa-Sanchez	Tania Walters Josephine Krajina Lea Jacuta	Josephine Krajina ? ?	Liz Coustley	Liz Coustley
PowerPoint Operator			Danielle Ahmet		
Choir	Tongan Choir		Filipino Choir	Veritas Choir	Veritas Choir

The Partnered Parishes of
Melton & Melton South
invites you to join

the Simbang Gabi

St. Catherine of Siena Church
108 Bulmans Road, Melton West, Vic 3337
December 15-23 2025 at 8pm

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish
67-75 Exford Road, Melton South, Vic 3338
December 16-24 2025 at 5am

Christmas Carols before mass, food and drinks to follow

PARISH OFFERTORY GIVING
November Update
Pledged: \$ 5,132.50
Actual: \$4,185.42
The next set of
Parish Offertory Giving Envelopes
are now available in the Gathering Area of
St Catherine of Siena church.
Please collect your envelopes.

Thank You

2026 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR
Now available at the Piety Store
Gathering Area at \$10

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.
In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, the safety and wellbeing of all persons is of highest priority.

PARISH OFFERTORY GIVING
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)

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

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm	
DECEMBER 2025	
Monday, 15th	Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church (15-23/12) 8 pm Start 9-days Christmas Novena Masses
Wednesday, 17th	Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church 9.15 am End of Year Whole School Mass
Thursday, 18th	Mass: St Dominic's Church 9.15 am
Friday, 19th	Mass: St Dominic's Church 9.15 am
Wednesday, 24th	NO 9:15am Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church
Thursday, 25th	NO 9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 26th	NO 9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Wednesday, 31st	NO 9:15am Mass: St Catherine of Siena Church
JANUARY 2026	
Thursday, 1st	NO 9:15am Mass: St Dominic's Church
Friday, 2nd	Mass: St Dominic's Church 9:15am

Christmas 2025 Mass Times
St Catherine of Siena Church, West Melton

Dec 15-23	Christmas Novena Masses	8 pm
Dec 24	Christmas Vigil Family Mass	6 pm
	Christmas Vigil Mass	8 pm
	Late Evening Mass (no midnight Mass)	10 pm
Dec 25	Christmas Day Mass	10am
	Christmas Day African Mass	2 pm

Christmas Carols will begin 30 minutes before Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day Masses

New Year's Day Mass (Jan 1, 2026) 11am

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
St Catherine of Siena Church

Knights of the Southern Cross—JP Mitchell Fund
Short Term Financial Assistance for people in need in the Parish
for Application Form contact +61448398344 or email lcamenzu@gmail.com or simplesimon1607@hotmail.com / +61400771812

St Anthony of Padua Melton South
WANT TO WIN A CAR for \$25? Last Chance

1st Prize : MG ZS value \$28,799
2nd Prize : Travel Voucher value \$3,000
3rd Prize : Apple Mac Book value \$1,699
4th Prize : Apple iPhone 16 value \$1,39
5th Prize : Apple Watch value \$649

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.