

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

22nd December, 2024



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016

Telephone: 9397 6066

Email: williamstown@cam.org.au

www.melbcatholic.org/s/williamstown

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.

Baptisms 12:30pm Sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Micah. 5:1-4

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews. 10:5-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

I am the servant of the Lord:
let it be done to me according to your word.

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-44

During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy."



Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve	6.00pm Christmas Eve Children's Pageant & Mass. 8:30pm Christmas Carols 9:00pm Mass
Wednesday 25th December	9:30am Mass at St Mary's Church
Friday 27th December	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

As the four weeks of Advent end and Christmas comes closer, it's time to stop and reflect on another year gone by. The Christmas trees are out and the tinsel, fairy lights and glitter in many of our streets brighten up the scene, while the natural beauty of summer flowers, provide a highlight if we stop to look and wonder at nature and the world around us.

It is also time to acknowledge and thank those who have contributed to parish life this year in many diverse ways. After 14 years here the real sense of engagement of so many has made me feel very blessed to not only live here in Williamstown but also to thrive here. Thus, I am even more fully aware of the many groups within our parish who all in their own ways contribute to building a vital and vibrant parish community, aimed at service and inclusion.

Then there are our Catholic secondary schools in the area. They provide a great service to God's kingdom. I was privileged last week to be the main celebrant at the End of Year Staff Mass of the 220 teaching staff and the 80 support staff for Emmanuel. They have always made me feel welcome. Also thanks to our thriving St Mary's School teachers, support staff, students and families especially through our year long liturgies and sacramental celebrations.

Our primary focus, however, is the one who comes among us as one of us, in the person of Jesus, whose message of love, peace and good will, echoes down through the ages, and is to be reflected in the way we live our lives as his followers.

Hoping you can join us for one of our Christmas Masses at St Mary's this year.

Wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas with family and friends, and a happy, healthy and safe New Year for 2025.

Fr Greg Trythall, Parish Priest – greg.trythall@cam.org.au

SAFEGUARDING — REMINDER

National Police Check / Code of Conduct declaration

As we are preparing for a Safeguarding Audit in 2025 we need to ensure that certain parish volunteers have obtained a National Police Check due to the necessities of that specific role. We also need to ensure **all volunteers** have completed and returned the Code of Conduct Declaration.

If you have not returned the required documents for your role can you please do so at your earliest convenience.

Should you need assistance in completing either of these please don't hesitate to contact Frank Schobben on 0427 416 184 or the Parish Office.

Heart of Life 2025 Program

Heart of Life is an apostolic work of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Australia, committed to contemplative spiritual and pastoral formation through its programs, seminars, people and resources. On the back table of the church there are some information brochures available for the 2025 Program.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

6.00PM Children's Mass and Christmas Pageant

8.30pm Carols

9.00pm Mass



CHRISTMAS DAY WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER

9.30am Mass

“ASK MARY”

New parishioners may notice a little box on the back table. It usually exists there to seek sensible suggestions for improvement in the parishes essential mission to God and parishioners. Then those suggestions are discussed at our monthly Parish Council Meeting.

A suggestion a parishioner put forward recently was to list a few of the main items that were to be discussed at both the Parish Council and the Parish Finance Team as agenda items and put them on the previous week's bulletin. Hopefully, without needing to provide full agendas we should be able to facilitate a few of the those more major items for our Parish bulletins in 2025.

CRACK IN CHURCH

This week we had an engineer investigate the rising damp in the foyer and the crack high up on right hand side of Church. It has been decided to investigate the crack further by removing a section of the plaster and the painting. Then if remortaring needs doing so be it. There is a good chance the foyer will be replastered and repainted in the early months of 2025.

TAP AND GO

Another suggestion put rather to the Parish Finance Team was that we go with “tap and go”! You will notice in most of the major churches there is a “tap and go” facility at back of their church such as at St Patrick's Cathedral. It gives an opportunity for those who do not regularly contribute to parish finances or who infrequently go to church to generously “tap” a contribution of \$5, \$20 or \$50 to the Parish. We will try it and see how it goes for a year and then reevaluate it.

New Vacuums

As a result of our renewal campaign we have now been able to purchase two new vacuum cleaners, one for the church and one for the Parish Centre. The church one is an industrial back pack which means we can easily clean the carpet among the pews. The old vacuum cleaner will be used for spot cleaning around the church when necessary.

Rosters for this Week 21st & 22nd December 2024

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Larry Rigoni 8.30am Evol Farrelly, Eilin Taylor 10.30am Maylene Clayton
Mass Readers	6.00pm Evol Farrelly 8.30am Peter Kirwan 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Welcomers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Teofila Hunt 10.30am Joe Covelli

Rosters for next Week 28th & 29th December 2024

Counting Team 3	Ian Veal, Fran Moloney, Tony Cutroni, Larry Rigoni, Susan Jamieson
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Beata Sicat 8.30am Gerard Colla, Ivonne Cram 10.30am Di Collins, Alison Silke
Mass Readers	6.00pm Marcia Schobben 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Joe Covelli

Rosters for Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve 24th December 2024

Ministers

6.00pm Di Collins, Peter Kirwan
9.00pm Larry Rigoni

Mass Readers

6.00pm Not required
9.00pm Joe Covelli

Christmas Day 25th December 2024

Ministers

9.30am Jeanette Thompson

Mass Readers

9.30am Olga Reginato

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Sarah Rodgers, Assunta Delgrosso, Yemme Reddy,
Anne-Marie Pelikinakis, Tita Lopres, Lazarus Wilson, Danuta Kurkowski, Ben Johnson.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Reinaldo Maia, (Margaret) Anna Cumming, Sue Gherdovich, John Grieve, Mary Ebinger, Vera Makaling, Jarrod Bevan, Ethan Watson-Young, Sr. Leila Fitzgerald, Dermot Harkin, Cecilia Penn, Vivian Boyle, Dorothy O'Brien, John Borojevic, Vera Spurling, Rose Cini, John Hynes, Ezio Fabbro, Adriana & Antonietta Azzopardi, Maria Falzon, Bill Morrish, Neil Kelly, Brian Hamment, Milan Maglica, James Ritchie, Cyril Wilkinson, Ignatius D'Soussa, Brendan Waach, and Bruna Lorient whose anniversaries are at this time.