



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Fourth Sunday of LENT Year A, 14-15 March, 2026

Harmony Week - Everyone Belongs

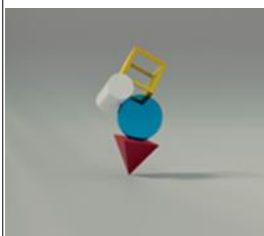
(News from Safeguarding Unit)

This year Australia celebrates Harmony Week from the 16-22 March. This is a wonderful time to celebrate the rich diversity of cultures that make up our Catholic community, and share the message that everyone belongs. Harmony Week coincides with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Harmony Week is a celebration of our diverse identity, promoting inclusiveness, respect, and belonging for everyone, from First Nations people to our newest community members. It highlights that despite our diverse backgrounds, we are bonded by shared Australian values such as freedom, fairness, and equal opportunity.

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week as traditionally, it signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

As Pope Francis reminded us in his encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship).



"The image of a polyhedron can represent a society where differences coexist, complementing, enriching and reciprocally illuminating one another, even amid disagreements and reservations. Each of us can learn something from others."

(Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, n 215).

In the same way that Harmony Week affirms belonging for everyone irrespective of their background, Galatians 3:28 declares, "So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free men, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus," dismantling the social and cultural barriers that separate people and reminding us that every person has inherent dignity and value.

A prayer by Pope Leo XIV

Jesus, Lord of our history,
Faithful companion and living presence,
You who never tire of coming to meet us,
Here we are, in need of your peace.
We live in times of fear and division.
Sometimes we act as if we were alone,
Building walls that separate us from one another,
Forgetting that we are brothers and sisters.
Send us your Spirit, Lord, To rekindle within us
The desire to understand one another, to listen,
To live together with respect and compassion.
Give us the courage to seek paths of dialogue,
To respond to conflict with gestures of fraternity,
To open our hearts to others
without fear of differences.
Make us builders of bridges,
Able to overcome borders and ideologies,
Able to see others through the eyes of the heart,
Recognizing in every person an inviolable dignity.
Help us create spaces where hope can flourish,"
Where diversity is not a threat
But a richness that makes us more human.
Amen.

(Catholic News Agency 5 August 2025)



Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

**Reconciliation
Saturdays**
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

**St Paul Apostle North
Primary School**
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

**St Paul Apostle South
Primary School**
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

**St John's
Regional College**
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Fifth Sunday of LENT Year A, 2026

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the first book of Prophet Ezekiel
Thus says the Lord God: "I am going to open your graves,
and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will
bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that
I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up
from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within
you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil;
then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will
act, says the Lord."
The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord,
my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please
God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since
the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have
the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in
you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life
because of righteousness. If the Spirit of God who raised Je-
sus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from
the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his
Spirit that dwells in you
The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord
Whoever believes in me will never die
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

The sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love
is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not
lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of
God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus
loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard
that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place
where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us
go to Judea again." When Jesus arrived, he found that Laza-
rus had already been in the tomb four days.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met
him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord,
if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But
even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of
him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Mar-
tha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrec-
tion on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection
and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die,
will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will nev-
er die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I
believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one
coming into the world."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with
her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deep-
ly moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to
him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews
said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said,
"Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have
kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was
a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take
away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to
him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been
dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if
you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took
away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I
thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear
me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing
here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he
had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come
out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with
strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to
them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and
had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel, the Good News of the Lord

Reflection

"Where am I blind in my life, and what areas of darkness do I need the light of Christ to enter this Lent?"

"Do I see myself and others through the eyes of faith, or only by external appearances?"

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

St Paul Apostle safeguarding policies can be found on our website at

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> or in hardcopy in the Sacristy



FR. LUKE

The Passionists Community of Endeavour Hills welcomes back Fr. Luke. Luke has been living in Donvale for the last 2 years, but has now return to our community. he will continue his ministry with the Passionists Youth Retreat Team and engaged in further studies. His ministry means he will be absent from the community on a regular basis. It is for this reason that Luke is not on the parish team so **please ensure that all parish enquiries are directed to the parish team.** That said; Luke will engaged in some parish activities and he will be present at our major feasts and on some weekends.

We welcome Luke back and look forward to his presence amongst us once again.

2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Our grade 4 children (and older) have finally completed their assignment in learning more about the meaning of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will receive their Sacrament of Reconciliation for the First time on Tuesday, 17 March at 7pm in the Church. We ask all of those children and one or both parents to arrive by 6.45pm so that we can start promptly at 7pm.

We will keep all of these children in our prayer that they will grow in faith as their journey moves on.

Reminder!!

Please also remember that if your child is in grade 6 and wishes to take part in the **2026 Sacrament of Confirmation**. You must hand in the registration form **BY THURSDAY, 1st APRIL 2026**. Even though the program will not commence until term three, we need to finalise the numbers by the 1st of April.

Also note that your child must have received both the sacrament of Reconciliation and the sacrament of First Communion in order to join the Sacrament of Confirmation program.

BINGO

Our Next parish Bingo is on **FRIDAY 20 March** at 7.30pm in the annexe. You can come on your own or in a group. For more information please contact Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441

GARDENING

In preparation for Holy Week, we are scheduling a **WORKING BEE** on **SATURDAY, 28 MARCH from 8.30am to 11am**. As the area of the Church is very big, we are asking for more volunteers to help us this time in order to cover the entire garden. Please come and help us. You do not have to stay for the entire 2 1/2 hrs, even if you only stay for 1 hour, it will be a huge help for us. Please come with your garden tools

STATION OF THE CROSS

We are continuing to have Station of the Cross during this Lent. It's held on **FRIDAY EVENINGS** at 7pm in the Church.

YOUTH FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Traditionally our Good Friday Station of the Cross is lead by our Young Adult group (18 to 25 Years). If you are in this age bracket, interested in getting involved and helping them, please contact parish office (97003781) for more details on it. At this stage our practice will be around Saturday, 28 March at 10am.

Should you unable to attend this practice, you are still welcome to join in. Final run through will be on Good Friday at 8am.



PIETY STALL

If you are after something for Easter, or even some materials during this Lent, consider paying a visit to our Piety Stall. They have new items on display that might just be what you are looking for

NEWSLETTER

Please note that the Microsoft is blocking emails sent from all parishes to hotmail, outlook and live accounts. This is the reason why our emails (including newsletter emails) have not reached you. Just as an update on this issue; if you have explicitly opted in to receive newsletters this service will recommence. If you have not opted in you will get a one-time email invite in the coming weeks (email will come from the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese) You can continue to access our newsletter via our website and in hardcopy form each week.

COME AWAY DAY on **WEDNESDAY MARCH 25th**

The Come Away Day program is a long - time retreat and reflection ministry at Holy Cross (207 Serpells Rd, Templestowe). This is the first Come Away Day for 2026. Starts (registration) is at 9.30am (BYO Lunch)

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF)

Is a financial Institution which assists to fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes (one of them being our parish), hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund saving account. Please visit the CDF website at w.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au. to learn more. CDF will visit our parish **THIS SUNDAY, 15th March, 2026** after all Masses, during our regular cuppa time and they will be happy to help you with some of your inquiry.

Readings:

Fourth Sunday of LENT Year A

1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-4

www.universalis.com

Fifth Sunday of LENT Year A

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Mary Antoun, Maryse Ferdinands, John Kelly, Doug McGuinness, Anne McCallister, Giuseppina Matera, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Tyrone Waller, Cecile Potier, Fr. Michael Willemsen, Sebastian Nowakowski, Maria Terezia Szabo, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Ronald Harris, Betty Scanlan, Monica Mary Sleeman, Robert Stellato, Mareka (Mareta) Dunlop, Jacinta Martyn, Kamal Markos, Fr. Paul Mercieca CP, Salvino Mifsud, Paul Deed, Annu Miquitta, Pedru Misquitta, William Samson, Alister Bosser, deceased family members of Ximenes, Sousa, Klau, Moniz **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

2026 HOLY WEEK MASSES

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND 28-29 March Masses as per usual

HOLY THURSDAY April 2nd Mass at 7pm
Solemn Prayer 8pm to Midnight
(No reconciliation on this evening)

GOOD FRIDAY April 3rd
- Station of the Cross at 10am
- Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
Services are at 3pm and 5.30pm

EASTER VIGIL April 4th Mass at 7.30pm
(no reconciliation on this day)

EASTER SUNDAY April 5th
Dawn Mass at 5.30am *(followed by breakfast)*
And 9am and 11am *(no evening Mass)*

EASTER MONDAY April 6th Mass at 9am

HOLY WEEK RECONCILIATION TIMES

LENTEN COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION (Second Rite)
Monday, 23 March at 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY RECONCILIATION 11am to 12pm

Please note that the above rosters are subject to the completion
of the required SAFEGUARDING documents and training

