



Parish Priest: Fr Shabin Kaniampuram IVDei
 Parish Secretary: Fran Adamopoulos (Tue-Thu 9am-2pm)
 Financial Administrator: Margaret Harrington (Mon/Fri 9-2pm)

Assistant Priest: Fr Tuong Nguyen
 Pastoral Worker: Pauline Egan
 Email: adminANT@cam.org.au

Supporting Priests: Fr Brendan Hayes
 Email: financeANT@cam.org.au

ST MARY'S THORNBURY
 1 Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury 3071
 Principal: Mary Kearney | Ph: 9484 5333

ST JOSEPH'S NORTHCOTE
 140 Westbourne Grove, Northcote 3070
 Principal: Mary Kearney | Ph: 9481 7166

Mission Prayer: Loving God, guide us as we build a joyful and inclusive community. May your Holy Spirit lead and inspire us to be the Good News of Jesus Christ by serving others and caring for all. Amen.

PARISH OF HOLY SPIRIT & ST ANTHONY'S
 45 Railway Pl, Alphington VIC 3078

Principals: Noelene Hussey, Acting Principal for Term 1,
 Holy Spirit Primary School,
 197 Clarendon Street, Thornbury East | Ph: 9480 0391
 James Casey, St Anthony's Primary School,
 Tania Bennett, Acting Principal

Partnership Parish Office Address

45 Railway Place Alphington
 P.O.Box 85 Fairfield 3078
Office Number: 9484 2907
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm
Email: adminANT@cam.org.au
www.melbcatholic.org/s/hosan



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Reconciliation Times

10.30am Saturdays — St Mary's
 4.30pm Saturdays — Holy Spirit
 5.00pm Saturdays — St Joseph's

MASS TIMES

St Mary's Thornbury

Sunday: 10:00am English/Italian
 5:30pm
Weekday: Wednesday, 9:15am
 English/Italian

St Joseph's Northcote

Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 11:00am
Weekday: Tuesday, 9:15am

Holy Spirit Thornbury East

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:30am
Weekday: Thursday, 9:15am
 English/Italian

St Anthony's Alphington

Sunday: 10:30am, English/Italian
Weekday: Friday, 9:15am

FEAST DAYS IN THE WEEK

Recently Deceased

Grazia Versace, Margaret Tighe,
 Melyah Tarry Taouk, Domenica Ferraro

Anniversaries

Mary Marcon (1 Month),
 Len Fitzpatrick, Laila Azrak Fakhry,
 Nadra Maroun Geagea, Harry Susanto,
 Tony Jamil Najjar,
 Henri Lahoud Raffoul Rahme and
 Jamal Youssef Sukkar.

To update parish details, please visit our
 official parish website:
www.melbcatholic.org/s/hosan



First Sunday in Lent —Year A

21—22 Feb 2026

Trust Under Test

Both scripture and the lives of the saints suggest that those called by God often experience a time of testing—a “desert” period where they confront their own limitations and learn deep dependence on God. This mirrors Jesus’ experience following his baptism, as well as Israel’s time in the wilderness. Deuteronomy, chapters 6–8. During their forty-year wandering in the desert the people could expect God to give them food (the manna), protection from enemies, and eventual entrance into the Promised Land. But they were not to put God to the test by trying to force the divine hand.

*In Matthew’s account of the temptations, Jesus is urged to force God’s hand in matters of food, safety, and power, echoing the struggles of Israel. By rejecting these temptations with a word from Scripture, Jesus commits himself to a path of unwavering trust, obedience, and selfless love, showing that **true faith** means **relying on God** rather than **seeking control**. (Sharing the Treasure, Brendan Byrne SJ)*

Lenten Activities In our Mission Parishes



Weekly Lenten Reflection Groups using the Compassio Lenten Program from the Wollongong Archdiocese.

Thursday Group: Started Thursday 19 February – 10:30 am at Holy Spirit Church.

Wednesday Group: Begins next week, on Wednesday 25 February, 7:30pm at John & Anne’s Home. To register, contact John via Parish office.

Compassio Lenten Booklets available for private reflection in the church foyer. - \$5.



Stations of the Cross During Lent (Via Crucis):

English: Tuesdays 8.45 am—St Joseph’s Northcote

In Italiano presso: Mercoledì 8.30 am—St Mary’s, Thornbury

Giovedì 8.30 am—Holy Spirit, Thornbury East

Venerdì 10.00 am—St Anthony’s, Alphington.

Project Compassion 2026: Please collect your project compassion box from the back of the church. The funds raised will help provide children like Sisilia, a 13-year-old from remote Tanzania, with safe, clean water close to home, giving them more time to study and pursue their dreams. **Donate** via website: caritas.org.au/project-compassion/sisilia-story/ | or call: 1800 024 413

Second Rite of Reconciliation for our combined parishes will be held—
 Tuesday 31 March St Anthony’s—7:30 pm

For information on Lenten observances, please refer to our [Parish website](#) or the article [Lent: A guide for the perplexed](#), from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

First Reading *Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7*

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17*

R *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

L Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

L My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

L A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

L Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**



Second Reading *Romans 5:12-19*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 4:4*

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel of Matthew *Matthew 4:1-11*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

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



Readings Next Week—2nd Sun of Lent Year A—27 Feb 2026

1st Rdg: Genesis 12:1-4

2nd Rdg: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Prima lettura Gen 2,7-9; 3,1-7**Dal libro della Genesi**

Il Signore Dio plasmò l'uomo con polvere del suolo e soffiò nelle sue narici un alito di vita e l'uomo divenne un essere vivente.

Poi il Signore Dio piantò un giardino in Eden, a oriente, e vi collocò l'uomo che aveva plasmato. Il Signore Dio fece germogliare dal suolo ogni sorta di alberi graditi alla vista e buoni da mangiare, e l'albero della vita in mezzo al giardino e l'albero della conoscenza del bene e del male.

Il serpente era il più astuto di tutti gli animali selvatici che Dio aveva fatto e disse alla donna: «È vero che Dio ha detto: "Non dovete mangiare di alcun albero del giardino"?». Rispose la donna al serpente: «Dei frutti degli alberi del giardino noi possiamo mangiare, ma del frutto dell'albero che sta in mezzo al giardino Dio ha detto: "Non dovete mangiarne e non lo dovete toccare, altrimenti morirete"». Ma il serpente disse alla donna: «Non morirete affatto! Anzi, Dio sa che il giorno in cui voi ne mangiaste si aprirebbero i vostri occhi e sareste come Dio, conoscendo il bene e il male».

Allora la donna vide che l'albero era buono da mangiare, gradevole agli occhi e desiderabile per acquistare saggezza; prese del suo frutto e ne mangiò, poi ne diede anche al marito, che era con lei, e anch'egli ne mangiò. Allora si aprirono gli occhi di tutti e due e conobbero di essere nudi; intrecciarono foglie di fico e se ne fecero cinture.

Parola di Dio

Tutti: Rendiamo grazie a Dio.

Salmo responsoriale Sal 50

Rit. _Perdonaci, Signore: abbiamo peccato.

L. Pietà di me, o Dio, nel tuo amore; nella tua grande misericordia cancella la mia iniquità.

Lavami tutto dalla mia colpa, dal mio peccato rendimi puro. **Rit.**

L. Sì, le mie iniquità io le riconosco, il mio peccato mi sta sempre dinanzi. Contro di te, contro te solo ho peccato, quello che è male ai tuoi occhi, io l'ho fatto. **Rit.**

L. Crea in me, o Dio, un cuore puro, rinnova in me uno spirito saldo. Non scacciarmi dalla tua presenza e non privarmi del tuo santo spirito. **Rit.**

L. Rendimi la gioia della tua salvezza, sostienimi con uno spirito generoso. Signore, apri le mie labbra e la mia bocca proclami la tua lode. **Rit.**

**Seconda lettura** Rm 5,12.17-19**Dalla lettera di san Paolo apostolo ai Romani**

Fratelli, come a causa di un solo uomo il peccato è entrato nel mondo e, con il peccato, la morte, così in tutti gli uomini si è propagata la morte, poiché tutti hanno peccato. Infatti se per la caduta di uno solo la morte ha regnato a causa di quel solo uomo, molto di più quelli che ricevono l'abbondanza della grazia e del dono della giustizia regneranno nella vita per mezzo del solo Gesù Cristo. Come dunque per la caduta di uno solo si è riversata su tutti gli uomini la condanna, così anche per l'opera giusta di uno solo si riversa su tutti gli uomini la giustificazione, che dà vita. Infatti, come per la disobbedienza di un solo uomo tutti sono stati costituiti peccatori, così anche per l'obbedienza di uno solo tutti saranno costituiti giusti.

Parola di Dio

Tutti: Rendiamo grazie a Dio.

Canto al Vangelo Mt 4,4b

Lode a te, o Cristo, re di eterna gloria!

Non di solo pane vivrà l'uomo, ma di ogni parola che esce dalla bocca di Dio.

Lode a te, o Cristo, re di eterna gloria!

Vangelo Mt 4,1-11**Dal Vangelo secondo Matteo**

In quel tempo, Gesù fu condotto dallo Spirito nel deserto, per essere tentato dal diavolo. Dopo aver digiunato quaranta giorni e quaranta notti, alla fine ebbe fame. Il tentatore gli si avvicinò e gli disse:

«Se tu sei Figlio di Dio, di' che queste pietre diventino pane». Ma egli rispose: «Sta scritto: "Non di solo pane vivrà l'uomo, ma di ogni parola che esce dalla bocca di Dio"».

Allora il diavolo lo portò nella città santa, lo pose sul punto più alto del tempio e gli disse: «Se tu sei Figlio di Dio, gettati giù; sta scritto infatti: "Ai suoi angeli darà ordini a tuo riguardo ed essi ti porteranno sulle loro mani perché il tuo piede non inciampi in una pietra"». Gesù gli rispose:

«Sta scritto anche: "Non metterai alla prova il Signore Dio tuo"».

Di nuovo il diavolo lo portò sopra un monte altissimo e gli mostrò tutti i regni del mondo e la loro gloria e gli disse:

«Tutte queste cose io ti darò se, gettandoti ai miei piedi, mi adorerai». Allora Gesù gli rispose: «Vattene, satana! Sta scritto infatti: "Il Signore, Dio tuo, adorerai: a lui solo renderai culto"».

Allora il diavolo lo lasciò, ed ecco degli angeli gli si avvicinarono e lo servivano.

Parola del Signore

Tutti: Lode a Te O Cristo.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Names will remain for 2 weeks, then a new request is required.

Tony Ghribeh, Tina Marangoni, Evely Grace (1 wk old), Rita Ljubetic, Julie Spitere, Mary English, Kelly Jennings.

HOUSE VISITATIONS

Do you or someone you know require any of the following:

- Annual House Visits
- Visits to the Sick
- Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office on 9484 2907 to arrange a time with Fr Shabin or Fr Tuong.

SICK OR HOUSEBOUND / MALATI O CONFINATI A CASA

Se conoscete persone che sono malate o confinate a casa e vorrebbero ricevere visite o la comunione a casa siete pregati di mettervi in contatto Parish Office **9484 2907**

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Christian Meditation on Thursdays at 10:30am at Holy Spirit Parish. ALL WELCOME.

BAPTISMS: By Appointment Only

- 1st Sunday of the month—St Mary's
- 2nd Sunday of the month—Holy Spirit
- 3rd Sunday of the month—St Anthony's
- 4th Sunday of the month—St Joseph's

Please call the Parish Office 9484 2907 or go to our website at

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/hosan>

SENIORS

After the Thursday 9:15am Mass at Holy Spirit Parish Hall.

- Dopo messa Bingo e carte nella sala, si offre caffè e biscotti. Tutti benvenuti.

After Mass, bingo and cards in the hall, with coffee and biscuits offered. All Welcome.

Last Friday of the month

St Joseph's Seniors Mass every last Friday of the Month at 10:30am in the church.

Parrocchiani anziani di San Giuseppe sono invitati a partecipare alla Santa Messa ultimo Venerdì del mese alle 10:30am.

Mass of Anointing of the Sick

9:15am Mass of Anointing of the Sick will take place on the first Friday of the month at St Anthony's Alphington.

"Telephone Prayer meeting"

When: Every Tuesday at 11:30am
Dial: 07- 5660 6012 (call from home)
Access code: 722762 #
Cost: Cost of a local call. Open to all.

Catholic Religious Education Classes for children attending government schools in preparation for the Sacraments

Please call the Parish Office 9484 2907 or go to our website at

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/hosan>
Safeguarding Children, Young

People and Vulnerable People Committee

Contact Person via the Parish Office:
Moses El-Fahkri

Parish Notices

Congratulations to St Joseph's parishioner **Brendan Podbury** who has been elected State President of the St Vincent De Paul Society. In announcing Brendan's election, outgoing President Michael Quinn said: Brendan brings two decades of experience as both a member and as an employee, offering unique insights into how we can all best support each other to achieve our shared mission.

This Sunday, 22 February, our **RCIA catechumens: Jake Payne, Max Mudge, Kyle Gilbert, Caitlin Bouwer and Candidate: Lucy Schembri** with their godparents and sponsors will be attending the Rite of Election to be held at 3pm, St Patrick's Cathedral. This event marks the start of the final preparations for the catechumens and candidates towards receiving the Sacrament of initiation. We pray for Jake, Max, Kyle, Caitlin, Lucy and all candidates who soon will joyfully be welcomed into our family of faith.

Friday 27 February—Seniors Mass 10:30 am at **St Joseph's Northcote, Anointing Mass** followed by Morning Tea in the church. All Welcome. Tutti Benvenuti.

ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL TWILIGHT FAIR

FRI 27th FEBRUARY | 3:30PM To 8:30PM | 52 Austin St, Alphington



Our **cake stall** is always hugely popular and we welcome contributions from parishioners. If you would like to bake a cake, slice, biscuits, cupcakes or muffins to donate please take a kit from the back of the church. Each kit contains a plate, doily, plastic bag and ingredient label. Donations can be brought to the school on the morning of the fair. We appreciate your support and hope to see you at the fair.



Session 5: What does it mean to have a soul? We are eternal beings, destined to be joined eternally with God. The Zoom meeting is on Tuesday, February 24, at **7:00 PM**. Meeting ID: 848 1143 9966. Email Parish Office to request Zoom meeting link.

The **Face-to-Face** Discussion of the same topic will be held at **St Anthony's** Alphington Parish **Meeting Room** on Sunday, **1 March**, at **12:00 PM**.

Next Weekend—1 Mar Join us for a cuppa after Mass Youth Mass on Sunday 1 March at 5:30pm at St. Mary's—

Pastoral Leadership Team report, February 2026:

Our combined Pastoral Leadership Team met on 11 February to discuss key matters for our four communities, including:

- plans for Lent and Holy Week
 - upcoming events for our 2026 Parish Year of Faith Community
 - safeguarding updates and recent training attended by team members
- Our next meeting is on 25 March. Please pray that the Holy Spirit continues to guide our work.
- Naomi Brammer Chair PPLT*

The parish Earth Care group invites parishioners to join **Clean Up Australia Day** at Darebin Parklands on Sunday **1 March, 9–11 am**.



Asylum Seeker Support Group Alphington, Fairfield, Northcote & Thornbury Presents ... A Taste of India—Fundraising Dinner for Asylum Seekers | 21 March 2026, 7-11pm | Holy Spirit Hall, 197 Clarendon St, Thornbury East | Tickets \$ 75 available via Humanitix: <https://events.humanitix.com/indiadinner> | Enquiries: 9484 2907