

Parish Office Hours:
Mon—Fri 9:30am-2:30pm
Telephone: 9401 6367
email:
hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest:
Fr Jude Pirotta mssp

Assistant Priest:
Fr John Taliana mssp

Assisting Priest:
Fr Brendan Byrne sj

Parish Council President:
Geraldyn McCarthy

Parish Secretaries:
Red Lusterio
Tita Manalo

Thanksgiving:
Maria Saldana

Parish Bookkeeper:
Angel Hartanto
Wed & Fri 9:30-2:30

Sacramental Co-Ord
Other Schools:
Maribel Maniquiz
hopperscrossingnorth.sacraments@cam.org.au

Youth Ministry Co-ord:
Red Lusterio 0409 184 299

St James Primary School:
Telephone: 9749 1000
Principal: Andrea Richards
principal@sjhen.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Primary School:
Telephone: 9749 9900
Principal: Michelle Gillett
principal@sfsataneit.catholic.edu.au

St Clare's Primary School:
Telephone: 9371 8400
Principal: Ben Fahey
principal@sctruganina.catholic.edu.au

St Teresa Primary School:
Telephone: 8000 6700
Principal: Robyn Kelly
principal@stkarnetnorth.catholic.edu.au

Thomas Carr College:
Telephone: 8734 2444
Principal: Rose Connolly
tcc@thomascarr.vic.edu.au

Weekday Masses:
Tues—Sat 9:00am

1st Friday Monthly:
Mass at 7:30pm
Adoration at 8:00-9:00pm

Reconciliation (Confession):
Saturday: 9:30am-10:00am
5:00-5:30pm

Sacrament of Baptism:
Contact John Fisher
0438 793 630
hopperscrossingnorth.baptism@cam.org.au

Weddings:
By appointment only
9401 6367



ST JAMES PARISH BULLETIN

336 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing North, 3029
Under the Pastoral Care of the Paulist Missionaries
www.melbcatholic.org/s/hopperscrossingnorth

We acknowledge the living culture of the Bunurong people, the traditional custodians of the land we stand on, upon which we celebrate our Eucharist and live out our faith.
St James Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

5th Sunday of Easter 03 May 2026

VOLUNTEERING AT ST JAMES PARISH

As we continue through this Easter season, you may wish to explore becoming a volunteer at St James. Take the first step & attend the Volunteer Induction on either of these two sessions (they are repeat sessions):

All new volunteers at St James need to attend a **Volunteer Induction Meeting** to prepare themselves in maintaining a meaningful and safe environment for all to encounter Christ.

Sat 23 May
2:00pm-3:30pm

Tues 26 May
7pm-8:30pm

Please call the Parish Office to register for one of these sessions on 9401 6367 during Office Hours (Mon-Fri, 9:30am-2:30pm) so we are able to prepare for these meetings.

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE AND STALL

Our Mother's Day Raffle and Stall fundraisers are back again this year with all proceeds going towards the church extensions.

Mother's Day Raffle:

- Three great prizes – total value over \$1000.
- Tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20 available after all weekend masses.
- Tickets will also be on sale at the Parish Office during Office Hours, Mon-Fri 9:30am–2:30pm.
- Prizes will be displayed in the Church Narthex.
- Winners will be drawn next week on Mother's Day (Sun 10 May) after 10:30am Mass.

Mother's Day Stall:

The Mother's Day Stall will be held in the Church Narthex after each weekend mass until Sun 10 May 10:30am Mass.

A vast variety of gifts will be available for mums of all ages. Come and buy mum a gift and please support this fundraiser.

CATHOLICCARE APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. This year, the Appeal aims to give hope and support to people experiencing homelessness. Your compassion ensures individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives.

Your generosity helps open the door to safety, dignity and hope. You can donate using the appeal envelope, online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

Weekend Masses: Sat 6:00pm, Sun 8:30am, 10:30am and 5:00pm

STAGE 3 CONSTRUCTION

We are excited to see the construction for the Stage 3 of the Master Plan for the Parish Buildings, well underway. It is due to be completed by October this year! Be aware of the construction next to the church and support us in making our repayments on the loans for our new Community Centre!



South West Corner View



South East Corner View

SUPPORTING ST JAMES PARISH

We encourage you to continue supporting our parish through online payment. Thanksgiving contributions or Church Extension donations can be made directly to the Parish Bank Account through an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT).

Account Name: Archdiocese of Melbourne
Catholic Development Fund
- St James the Apostle
Parish

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 646 205 822

For Thanksgiving, please use your Thanksgiving Envelope number and your surname so we can attribute your donation correctly. Eg: If your Thanksgiving number is 123, and your surname is Smith, then use the reference "123-Smith".

For Church Extension, please use as reference your surname and -ChExt. Eg: Smith-ChExt.

For Credit Card/Direct Debit contributions, please contact the Parish Office for more information.

PHOTO COLLAGE—SUBMISSIONS FULL

The Parish wishes to honour the great work mothers do in their families and community with a Photo Collage to be shown at all masses on Mother's Day Weekend (09/10 May).

Thank you to all those that have sent a photo for the Collage. We have **now reached the maximum number of photos** we can include in the Collage. Regrettably, we cannot include more submissions this year.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT HOSTED BY MSSPS

The Paulist Missionaries are organising a Prayerful Spiritual Retreat at St Paul's Retreat Centre in Wantirna South, starting with dinner on **Friday 26 June** ending after lunch on **Sunday 28 June**. Price: \$356.00 for a single room and \$310.00 for a shared room. To book please write to missions@mssp.org.au or call 0455 912.

LECTIO DIVINA

Experience the Word of God through Lectio Divina. Fr Mario is offering an online zoom meeting on Mondays at 7pm-8pm:

ID: 923 5286 3013

Passcode: lectio

Please bring the Gospel of the following weekend with you.

ANNUAL PARISH MASS COUNT

The first four weekends of May (starting from this weekend) have been selected for the Annual Parish Mass Count, where we will be counting all attendees at all weekend Masses.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT

We are seeking the Expressions of Interest from current Special Ministers of Communion who would be open to be trained and join a roster of providing Communion to the residents of Sunset Views Aged Care on Fridays from 11am-11:30am. If you are a current Special Minister of Communion and would like more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9401 6367, Mon-Fri, 9:30am-2:30pm or email us at hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au, this week.

ST JAMES PARISH FETE—SAVE THE DATE

This year's **Parish Fete will be held on Sat 17 Oct**. Please mark the date in your diary and keep our preparations in your prayers.

CAR PARK SAFETY AND COURTESY

Please note that a number of people have expressed concern over traffic exiting the car park from the Entry-Only Gate. Please use the Exit-Only Gate to avoid potential accidents and to allow a quicker flow out of the carpark for all.

ST JAMES CONNECT MINISTRY

The Connect Ministry was formed to provide a safe and fun environment for **Primary School aged children** to learn about the Catholic faith. Children are encouraged to build friendships with each other and grow in our faith through a variety of activities.

Meeting fortnightly from 3:30pm-4:40pm on Sundays at St James. Their next meeting is this weekend on **Sun 03 May**. For more info, contact the Parish Office at 9401 6367, or register using the form on the Parish website.

ST JAMES YOUTH—HIGH SCHOOL AGED



St James Youth is the Parish Youth Ministry, connecting those in **yrs 7-12** with other teenagers in our Parish and helping us experience more; more friends, more faith, more activities, more fun and more of God in action in our lives!

Experience St James Youth by coming to Youth Mass on Sundays at 5pm, with activities until 8pm! For more info call 0409 184 299 or email HoppersCrossingNorth.Youth@cam.org.au.

YP'S—MONTHLY FAITH SHARING—20 MAY

The Young Paulists would like to invite young adults (18-35) to gather for our Monthly Faith Sharing Evening on **Wed 20 May at 7pm**.

We'll gather for dinner in the Paulist Centre, have the space to socialise with other young adults open to exploring what our faith journey holds.

Please RSVP by **Mon 18 May** to Russell on 0420 383 689.

WORTHY WOMEN MINISTRY

The Worthy Women Ministry is committed to assisting women aged 18+ in discovering their purpose and value in Jesus Christ. By using scripture, discussions, life experiences, and events throughout the year, the Worthy Women strives to equip women with the knowledge and understanding necessary to gain confidence and share their knowledge with others in their lives.

The Worthy Women will next meet on Thurs 07 May at 7pm in the Paulist Centre with Guest Speaker Sr Theresa Dao, on the topic of Living Full of Grace with Mary & Joseph. All adult women are welcome to attend.

ST PETER'S SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

St Peter's is hosting the School of Discipleship which will start on Sun 17 May. Please see poster in Narthex for more details.

PARISH SYNOD CORNER



Synodality and priests

For priests, synodality is not an added burden but a way of exercising ministry in communion. When priests foster listening and participation, parishes become more alive, missionary, and joyful. The priest presides at the Eucharist, but the whole community contributes to the Church's mission.

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Eucharistic Congresses began in the 1880s to promote reverence for Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, uniting Catholics in prayer and worship. They serve as vibrant, revitalising, faith-filled expressions of love for Jesus in the Eucharist, and the congress will be coming to Sydney in 2028. Stay tuned for more information of how you can prepare with St James Parish!

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY—MON 04 MAY

The Bible Study Group invites you to join us as we explore the Bible with an Introduction to Romans on this Mon 04 May, 7pm-8:15pm.

Zoom ID: 826 5359 2389, Password: Bible

PARISH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Confirmation Candidates from our four Parish Primary Schools; St James Primary, St Francis Primary, St Clare's Primary and St Teresa Primary, will be presented to the Parish Community over the weekends of 23/24 May and 30/31 May. We ask Parishioners to keep these children in your prayers as they prepare for this next milestone in their faith journey.

PRAYER LIST

Let us pray and support those in our community who are sick. We especially pray for Fabian Koprivanac, Ashunta Noronha, Victoria Roman, Nery Avillano, Susie, Kenny Zitu, Nimala and Anna, Idonus Akudbillah, Anna and all who are ill.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

Please pray for our loved ones whom we remember especially Wenny Saliman Hartanto, Marites Cruz, Gladis Vidot and Antonia Custodio who died recently, Joyce de Rozario, Rama Devi, Ann Pirota, Emy Saffarese, Natu Portelli, Wayne Muller, Michael Scavo, Gabina Patacsil, Carmela Vella, Dionisio Gailanan, Adithi and all deceased kids, Nauma Faamausili, Connie Micallef and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time.

CAMINO EXPERIENCE—TESTIMONY BY LIZ, A PARISHIONER

There are many times in life when we aren't sure if we can do this, but then we do. No logic, no experience, just trust in God and go ahead. It was my moment when I decided to do the Camino.

Hello, my name is Liz Reynolds, and I recently walked the Camino from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela during Holy Week (26th March - 4th April), a journey that, for me, was never just about distance but about trust in God.

At the age of 19, I survived a train accident that changed my life. It left me with multiple spinal surgeries, chronic pain, and ongoing health challenges. Even today, my body carries that story. So when the idea of walking over 100 kilometres across Spain came up, it wasn't just ambitious, it felt almost impossible.

The Camino came into my life through a simple conversation with my friend Zelia. Something stirred within me. It wasn't logic. It wasn't readiness. It was a quiet yes.

On Sept 8, Mother's Mary's birthday, I was in the emergency room in unbearable pain, and was later diagnosed with severe spinal stenosis requiring urgent surgery. I was told recovery in time for the Camino in March would not be possible.

In that moment, I had a choice - to retreat or to trust. I chose to trust.

Not because I was strong, but because I believed that if this journey was meant for me, God would make a way. So I began rehabilitation. Slowly. Painfully. Uncertainly.

And even as I booked my tickets, I carried a quiet surrender in my heart that whatever happened, I would place it in God's hands.

After 30 hours of travel, I stood in Sarria, at the beginning of the final stretch of the Camino.

Each day, we walked through forests, villages, and winding paths marked only by yellow arrows. There were moments when my body felt like it could not go any further, climbing hills, descending uneven terrain, carrying fatigue I could not always explain. And yet, in those very moments, I felt something stronger than pain.

There was a quiet presence walking with me. In the stillness, in the rhythm of my steps, in the kindness of strangers, and in the stories of fellow pilgrims. I met people who had walked through illness, grief, loss, and uncertainty. I saw how God meets us in our brokenness and carries us forward.

The Camino is not just a path. It is a place of encounter.

One of the most humbling realisations for me was that I was not alone in my struggle. I met people who had walked the Camino after cancer treatments, others who had lost loved ones, and some who carried invisible wounds much heavier than mine. And yet, each of us kept walking, not because it was easy, but because we were being called.

Step by step, prayer by prayer.

When I finally arrived in Santiago de Compostela, standing before the Cathedral of St James, I felt something I cannot fully put into words.

Not just for completing the journey, but for being transformed by it.

I arrived with pain, uncertainty, and questions. I left with peace, strength, and a deeper relationship with God.

What made this journey even more meaningful was learning from Fr Jude about the connection between our parish and the shrine of St James in Santiago de Compostela. Knowing this gave my journey a deeper sense of purpose. It felt as though I was carrying a part of our parish with me as I walked. To walk this path was to become part of something much bigger than myself.

This journey reminded me that faith is not the absence of doubt or difficulty. It is the decision to keep going, even when the path is unclear.

There will always be voices, sometimes even our own, that tell us we are not ready, not strong enough, or not capable. But faith whispers something different.

There is a verse that stayed with me throughout this journey:

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

I did not walk the Camino alone. God walked it with me.

And if there is one thing I carry back with me, it is this:

Faith truly can move mountains. I am living proof of that .



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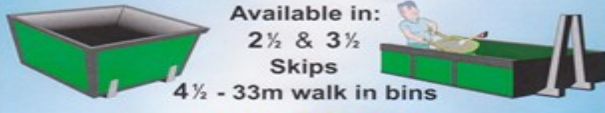
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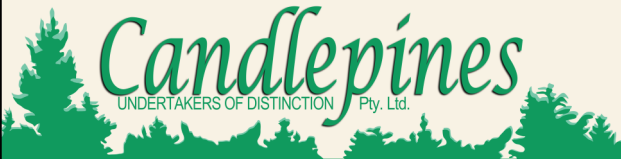
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