

**St. Mary MacKillop
Church
Keilor Downs**



**St. Paul's
Church
Kealba**

PARISH OF ST MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

MASS TIMES

St Paul's
Wednesday 9.30am
Thursday 9.30am

Saturday 5:00 pm
(Latin)
6:30 pm
Sunday 8:00am
(Maltese)
10:00am

Reconciliation
Saturday 6pm

St Mary MacKillop
Monday 9.30am
Tuesday 9.30am
7.00pm—8.00pm Holy
Hour
Friday 9.30am

Saturday 5.00pm
Sunday 9:00am
11:00am
5:30pm

Reconciliation
Saturday 4.30pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Year A — 4th & 5th April 2026



Easter Sunday 2026, calls the faithful to rejoice in the radiant mystery of the Resurrection, when Christ shattered the darkness of the tomb and opened for all the way to eternal life.

On this sacred day, the Church lifts her voice in praise, proclaiming the victory of the Risen Lord and the renewal of creation through His saving love.

As the community gathers at the altar, hearts are invited into deeper conversion, renewed hope, and the peace that flows from Christ's triumph over sin and death.

Entrance Antiphon:

I have risen: I am with you once more; you placed your hand on me to keep me safe. How great is the depth of your wisdom, alleluia!

1st Reading:

Acts 10:34,37-43
Psalms 117:1-2,16-17,22-23

Responsorial Psalm:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

2nd Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel:

John 20:1-9

Before Communion:

Lord, with Easter joy we offer you the sacrifice by which your Church is reborn and nourished through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon:

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, alleluia.

After Communion:

Father of love, watch over your Church and bring us to the glory of the resurrection promised by this Easter sacrament.



This Week in the Parish....

Tuesday, 7th April
7.00pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament—St. Mary MacKillop

Wednesday, 8th April
6.00pm—Legion of Mary Prayer Group—Parish Meeting room
7.30pm—St. Paul's Prayer Group

Thursday, 9th April
10.30am—St. Mary of the Assumption Prayer Group
6.00pm—Perpetual Succour Novena Group—St. Mary MacKillop



MARY MACKILLOP READERS ROSTER

Weekend 11th & 12th April
5.00pm—Mark Sammut
9.00am—David Gebbo
11.00am—Thy Trinh
5.30pm—Mary Portelli

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



EVERY TUESDAY

7:00pm—8:00pm

St Mary MacKillop Church

"Will you not stay with me, one hour with me?"

Parish Priest: Rev. Monsignor Charles Portelli

Assistant Priest: Rev. Vinh Do

St Mary MacKillop Church & Parish Office (both Churches):
152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Victoria 3038

St Paul's Church & Presbytery:
230 Sunshine Avenue, Kealba, Victoria 3021

Office Hours: Mon—Fri 9am—1.30pm

Email: mgrcep@stma.com.au | Vinh.Do@cam.org.au | reception@stma.com.au

Office Staff: Melinda Xerri **Phone:** 9364 0440

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/keilordowns

*St Mary of the Assumption Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing & human dignity of children, young people and Adults.
We take our moral & legal obligations seriously and are committed to zero tolerance of all forms of abuse.*

Easter: A Message of Hope for the World



As the world celebrates Easter, we are reminded of the power of hope and renewal that this season brings.

Beyond the traditions of vibrant eggs, blooming flowers, and joyful gatherings, Easter carries a deeper message—one of profound significance for every person, no matter where they find themselves in life.

Easter marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a moment that symbolizes victory over death, darkness, and despair. For Christians around the world, this event offers a message that resonates far beyond religious walls—it speaks to the very human need for hope in times of uncertainty. In a world where challenges seem endless, from global crises to personal struggles, the story of Easter reassures us that change is possible, and that light can break through the darkest of times.

Easter is a celebration of new beginnings. Just as spring breathes life back into the earth, Easter reminds us that even after the harshest winters, there is always the possibility of rebirth. The Resurrection of Christ serves as a powerful metaphor for the transformative potential within each of us. It encourages us to reflect on our own lives—our relationships, our communities, and our personal journeys—and to ask, "What can be renewed in me?"

Whether it's letting go of past hurts, committing to personal growth, or extending compassion to others, Easter reminds us that we are never too far gone to begin again. It's a season that invites us to envision a better future, not just for ourselves, but for the world around us.

In every corner of the globe, people face challenges—whether economic struggles, social divisions, or health crises. Yet, Easter offers a reminder that even in the midst of the most difficult trials, there is hope. The Resurrection wasn't just about returning to life—it was about overcoming the deepest despair and making the impossible possible.

This message is timeless. As individuals, families, and communities, we can find the strength to persevere because we are never alone in our struggles. Easter calls us to embrace hope, not as an abstract idea, but as a living force that empowers us to keep moving forward, even when the road seems long and uncertain.

Easter is also a call to live out the message of hope through acts of love and service. The Resurrection story encourages us to follow Christ's example of kindness, generosity, and compassion. It urges us to reach out to those in need, to uplift the downtrodden, and to build bridges of understanding in a world often divided.

In a time when division and misunderstanding can feel overwhelming, the message of Easter calls us to seek unity, not through superficial means, but through genuine care for one another. It challenges us to love without boundaries, forgive without limits, and to live with purpose and grace.

As we reflect on Easter this year, let it remind us that hope is not just a personal pursuit, but a collective journey. The Resurrection offers us a vision of a world made new—a world where pain and suffering are not the end of the story, but rather the beginning of a transformation that includes everyone.

So, this Easter, let us take heart in the message of resurrection. Let it inspire us to believe in the possibility of change, to hold on to hope in our darkest hours, and to share that hope with others. Because in the end, the message of Easter is not just about what happened long ago; it's about what can happen today and every day if we live with faith, hope, and love in our hearts.

Wishing you all a blessed and hopeful Easter season.

Monsignor Charles Portelli and Father Vinh Do

EASTER SUNDAY

ST. JOSEPH'S MEN'S GROUP

The Next Men's Group will be on Sunday, 12th April, 6.30pm Cuppa, 7-8.30pm Meeting, in the Parish Meeting Room at St. Mary MacKillop. LENTEN PROGRAM IS "METANOIA". Topic: JESUS PRAYS New members welcome.
Enquiries: Pierre 0423 527 285, or Alister 0423 917 785.

New Parish Website – Now Live

We are excited to share that St Mary of the Assumption Parish Keilor Downs has a fresh new website: www.melbcatholic.org/s/keilordowns

What's new:

- Weekly parish newsletter available online
- Daily Mass readings
- Easier to navigate and find information

ST. PAUL'S PRAYER GROUP

Prayer, Praise & Growth in Faith
Wednesday evenings
7.30pm - 9pm.
St Paul's Church.
All welcome to come!
More info -
Michael 0434 601 811

Perpetual Adoration in Marian Chapel

Would you like to visit the Lord and spend some time in prayer? The Marian Chapel can be now accessed for prayer and adoration at your own time.
It is available from 6am till 10pm,

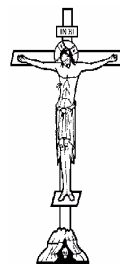
In Remembrance...

Recently Deceased:

Olivia Camilleri
Luisa La Fontaine
Giuseppe Scano

Anniversaries:

Joseph & Josephine Portelli,
Michael Xerri,
John & Maria Xerri,
Giovanni & Felice Pagliaro,
Giovanna Ruberto, Michael Sleigh,
Sebastiano Salamone, Nicholas Fonseca,
Neil Alvares, Merle & Bosco Rodrigues,
Ruth Tirkey, Alaster Adams, Beryl & Leonard Morris, Lillian & Robert Adams, Rudolph Pereira, Vice Mrkonjic, Luka Iva,
Ante Mara Gabelica, Draga Kojunjdic,
John & Leticia Wanigaratne, Marcus Miral,
James Bastian, Valda Siggins,
Auton Fernandopulle.



We pray for all those who are sick. John

MOTHER OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR NOVENA—THE NOVENA GROUP PRAYS TO OUR DEAR MOTHER TO CURE AND HELP THOSE WITH INAPPROPRIATE ADDICTIONS.

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Commencing from Thursday 12th of March 2026 and for the following 9 weeks, the Mother of Perpetual Succour Novena Group will be praying to our Dear Mother to help and cure those with inappropriate addictions — ALCOHOLISM, GAMBLING, PORNOGRAPHY, DRUGS and SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

As you are aware, the Virgin Mother is also our help who intercedes with her son Jesus on our behalf in times of trials and tribulations. We will continue praying for other intentions as well. The Novena Group prays together every Thursday at 6.00pm.

We invite you to join our Novena Group in pleading to Our Mother of Perpetual Help to receive our prayers. We welcome you to join us. Please contact June Caruana on

HYMNS

Entrance:

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing,
Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly King,
Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave,
Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured,
Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise him, now his might confess,
Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Spirit blest. Alleluia!

Responsorial Psalm:

This is the day the Lord has made,
Let us rejoice and be glad.

Sequence of Easter

O flock of Christ, your homage bring
To Christ the lamb, your glorious king.
His Easter praise in triumph sing!

Refrain:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Peace has come down from God on high.
The king of peace in death did lie.
To save the sheep the lamb did die.

Never on earth was stranger sight;
Life fought with death in darkest night,
Yet lives to reign in endless light.

Refrain

What saw you, Mary, on your way?
I saw the tomb where Life once lay,
Whose glory shone this Easter Day!

Angels their joyful tidings spread!
Grave clothes I saw where none lay dead,
The cloth that once had veiled his head!

Refrain

Christ is my hope, who rose for me!
Soon will you all his glory see!
Christ bids you go to Galilee!

Christ has indeed arisen then
As Lord of life, to reign again!
On us have mercy, Lord! Amen. Refrain

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
You are the Christ everlasting.
Born for us all of a virgin.

You have conquered death, opened
heaven to all believers.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Sprinkling of Holy Water:

Refrain:

Church of God, chosen people,
Sing your praise to God.
He has called you out of darkness into
his marvellous light.

Come, people of God, with joyful song,
Praise God the Father of all.
Baptized in Christ, reborn in him,
Our hearts are filled with joy.
He cleanses our sin,
Renewing our lives. Refrain

The church is built with living stones
With Christ as corner stone.
In him we trust who makes us one,
Uniting us in love.
We build on the rock
Of faith in Christ. Refrain

As heirs of Christ, redeemed by love
we wait for his return;
A priestly people off'ring praise to God,
The source of hope.
For Jesus is Lord,
our Saviour and God. Refrain

Cont...

Cont...

As water springing from the rock
Once brought God's people life,
The living water giv'n by Christ
Creates our lives anew.
So come, you who thirst
To springs of new life. Refrain

We gather here to worship God,
Our Eucharist to share.
We give him thanks and celebrate
The myst'ry of his love
The Word is made flesh and given for us.
Refrain.

Offertory:

Jesus is risen! Let us sing!
Praise to the everlasting King!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise him in song, ye Seraphim!
Praise him with joy, ye Cherubim!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days,
Let us together sing his praise!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Raise joyful voices to the sky!
Sing out, ye heavens, in reply:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

To God the Father let us sing!
To God the Son, our risen King!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
And equally let us adore
The Holy Spirit evermore!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Communion:

1. The day of resurrection!

Earth, spread the news abroad;
the Paschal feast of gladness,
the Paschal feast of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth to heaven's height,
our Saviour Christ has brought us,
the glorious Lord of Light.

Our hearts be free from evil,
that we may see aright
the Saviour resurrected
in his eternal light;
and hear his message plainly,
delivered calm and clear:
"Rejoice with me in triumph,
Be glad and do not fear."

His love is everlasting;
His mercies never cease;
The resurrected Saviour,
will all our joys increase.
He'll keep us in his favour,
Supplying holy grace,
To all his pilgrim people
Who seek his heav'nly place.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful!
And earth her song begin!
The whole world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things in creation
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that has no end.

2. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross as Saviour,
For the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
Now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken,
Christ from death to life is born,
Glorious life, and life immortal,
On this resurrection morn:
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer
By His mighty enterprise,
We with Him to life eternal
By His resurrection rise.

3. Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb
upon His throne
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all
music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died
for thee
And hail Him as thy chosen King through
all eternity.

Crown Him the Son of God, before the
worlds began,
And ye who tread where He hath trod,
crown Him the Son of Man
Who every grief hath known that wrings
the human breast
And takes and bears them for His own,
that all in Him may rest.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed
over the grave
And rose victorious in the strife for those
He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and
rose on high
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives
that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of Heav'n, enthroned
in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n the
wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns, as thrones
before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns for
He is king of all.

Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose
power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round His
pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend, their
fragrance ever sweet.

Recessional:

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen
Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his Name.

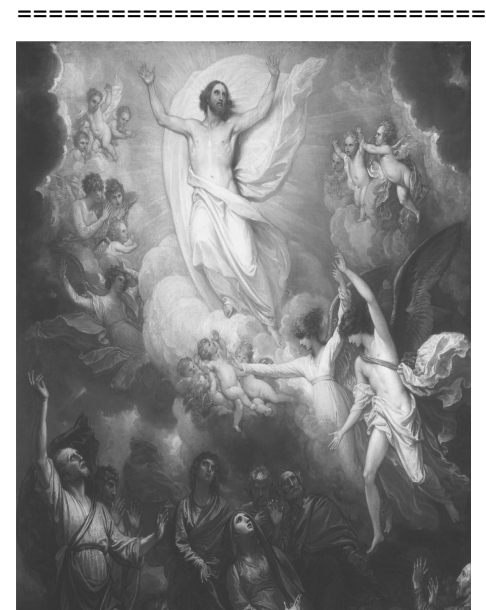
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen.

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever.

God has proclaimed his gracious gift;
Life eternal for all who believe.

Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.



CHILDREN OF FATIMA YOUTH GROUP

When: Second Friday of every month

Age group: Year 5 – Year 9

Join us each gathering from 5pm – 7pm
for:

- *Prayer & reflection
- *Fun games and activities
- *Snacks and food supplied

AT: St Paul's Catholic Church 230–240
Sunshine Ave, Kealba, VIC 3021

Email for enquiries:

childrenoffatima.stma@gmail.com