



Dear parishioner,

As we gather at the close of another week, may this newsletter be a gentle reminder of God's steady presence in our lives. Each day brings its own joys and challenges, yet within our parish community we find a place of welcome, encouragement, and faith. Here we share the stories, events, and moments that help us grow closer to Christ and to one another. May what you read here strengthen your spirit, deepen your hope, and remind you that you are part of a community that walks together in faith and love.



Last week we honoured Saint Monica and her son, Saint Augustine — two saints whose lives are beautifully intertwined and whose witness continues to shape our Church. Monica is remembered for her steadfast faith, her perseverance in prayer, and her deep hope for her son's conversion. Augustine, once restless and searching, became one of the greatest theologians in Christian history, offering insights that still guide our understanding of God, grace and the human heart. Their story reminds us that God works patiently and powerfully through each one of us, through love, and through prayer. Monica's unwavering trust helped lead Augustine to Christ, and together they show us that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy and that persistent prayer can transform lives.



In the last couple of weeks, I have been sharing a deeper understanding to different parts of the mass. Before the Eucharistic Prayer begins, the priest and people enter into a short but profound exchange that prepares us to give thanks to God. This brief exchange is ancient — dating back to the earliest Christian communities — and it marks the moment when the Church moves from listening to the Word to entering the great prayer of thanksgiving. Eucharist means 'Thanksgiving'. It reminds us that the Eucharist is not the priest praying alone, but the whole community lifting its heart to God together. In these few lines, we are united in purpose, in faith, and in gratitude as we prepare to encounter Christ in the Eucharist.

"The Lord be with you." The priest extends his hands, invoking God's presence upon the community. The people respond,

"And with your spirit," acknowledging the unique grace given to the priest through ordination — the Spirit who empowers him to lead the Church in prayer. "

"Lift up your hearts." The priest invites everyone to raise their hearts to God. This is more than a poetic phrase; it is a call to turn our attention away from distractions and toward the mystery we are about to enter. The people reply,

"We lift them up to the Lord," expressing their readiness to focus fully on God.

"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." Here the priest calls the community to its central task in the Eucharist: thanksgiving.

The people respond, **"It is right and just,"** affirming that giving thanks is not only appropriate but the deepest duty of the Christian life.



Finally, in the coming week we will be farewelling three past parishioners: Robert O'Brien, Leanne Warner and Dora Colasacco. Leanne was a deeply loved member of our community, first at St Agnes and later at Sacred Heart, where her three boys attended primary school. She and her family were involved in the Family Groups from their very beginning, offering friendship, welcome and joy to all. Leanne carried a strong and courageous faith, advocating for the unborn and holding a special devotion to Mary MacKillop. Her warmth, humour and radiant smile made her a treasured friend, and she delighted in life's simple pleasures — a lip-burning hot chocolate or a chilled glass of bubbles. Loved by all who knew her, Leanne will be deeply missed.

Great to see you all this weekend.

God bless, Fr Martin.

WE PRAY FOR...

ILLNESS:

Rosa Nistico, Elizabeth Kiernikowski, Maria Reilly, Mick Zuccala, Nancy Camera, Lucy Finnegan, Ebony McDonald, Teresa Styne, Oliver & James Mendis, Mary Ryan, Sunny & Hunter Drew, Joseph Galekovic, Clive O'Connor, Rita Spinella, Kerstin Thomas, Marie Northey, Martin Patane, Shane Cowie, Anna Slawek, Melita Lambiris, Malcom Keys, Carmel Finley, M.S., Barry Martin, Vera Molloy, Claire Lawrence, Tom Fischer, Joan Tranter, Stella Noal, Peter Teasdale, Paul Kennedy, Vlad, Antonio Salas, Prue Turner, Anna

ANNIVERSARIES:

Peg Smith,
Marie Pierez
Bri Bleazby,
Mollie Acott
Meg Stuart,
Moya Casey,
Janet Mary Lanigan
Bridget O'Connor
Terence Joseph Dunlop,
Raymond & Hilda Dias
Peg Bartlett,
Christini Quadros

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Robert Henry O'Brien
Dora Ilde Cesira Colasacco
Leanne Warner

Parish Office Closure from Tue, 25 Aug, until Thu 24 Sep while the parish office staff are on leave.

During this time, please contact us by email. Our emails will be monitored daily, and we will respond as soon as possible.

You are also welcome to call the Parish Office and leave a voicemail with your name and a brief message. We will return your call as soon as we can. For emergencies, please choose option 3.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 85:3,5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy (R.)
4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. (R)

SACRAMENTS 2026



FIRST RECONCILIATION

TERM 4

Tues 10,17 & 24 Nov 5:30 pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Semester 1: 2027

CONFIRMATION

Thu 3 Sept to 19 Nov 5 pm

Information & bookings at
sandringham@cam.org.au



The Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels Matthew 16:27

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Psalm 30:20

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

**PLEASE TAKE
ME HOME
FOR FURTHER
REFLECTION.**

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil

5 pm St Mary's

59 Holyrood St, Hampton

Sunday Morning

9 am Sunday - Sacred Heart

13 Fernhill Rd, Sandringham

10:30 am Immaculate Heart

441 Bluff Rd, Hampton East

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 9:15 am Immaculate Heart

Tue 9:15am Sacred Heart

Wed 9:15am Sacred Heart

Thur 9:15am St Mary's

CONFESSION TIMES

Sat. 4:45 pm St Mary's

Sun. 8:45 am Sacred Heart

PRAYER & ADORATION

All are welcome!

Rosary & Prayers

Sun, 10 am Immaculate Heart

Mon, 8:50 & 9:50 am Immaculate Heart

Tue, 8:45 am Sacred Heart **New Time!!**

Wed, 8:20 am Sacred Heart

Thu, 8:45 am St Mary's **New Time!!**

Adoration

Wed, 8:45-9:10am Sacred Heart

EMERGENCIES

For anointing of the sick please
call 7036 9381 and dial 3

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST: FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

That in cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.



PARISH CELEBRATION – FEAST OF ST FRANCIS

Sunday 4th October 2026 2pm

Your invitation to our Parish Celebration has been included in this week's online parish newsletter. Hard copies are also available at the back of the churches. Please return your completed RSVP (hard copy) to the RSVP box at the church. If you have any queries, please contact:

St Mary's: Jennifer Withecomb, Michele Connell, Angelina Robinson

Immaculate Heart: Angelina Robinson, Cheryl Juelg, Rick Thomas

Sacred Heart: Sue Thorp, Heather McGrath, Mark Shannon

BITE SIZE THOUGHTS BY GREG SUNTER

Historical Context. Whoever loses his life for my sake...

At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel – 'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.

TURN UNWANTED FOREIGN CURRENCY INTO A GIFT!

Have foreign coins or banknotes from past holidays? Donate them as part of our Parish Spring Clean!

Current banknotes will be exchanged for Australian Dollars and donated to our Scholarship Appeal in Remexio, Timor-Leste. Coins & obsolete currency will be donated through Travel Money Oz to UNICEF.



Collection boxes will be in each church foyer and will be collected weekly or give directly to your local contact. For more information, speak to your parish contact (see poster) or visit: www.travelmoneyoz.com/donate-foreign-coin

SYNODALITY IS DEMANDING

Walking together takes patience, time, and effort. But the Gospel has never promised an easy path—only a fruitful one

PARISH DINNER – SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

Join us for our next Parish Dinner on Sat. 5 September, after 5pm Mass

📍 Hampton RSL – Holyrood Street

Everyone is very welcome!

Come along for a relaxed evening, good food, good company and plenty of conversation.

We'd love to see you there, so come and enjoy a lovely evening together as a parish community. Just bring yourself and your appetite! 😊

Community
Cuppa

Sundays After 9:00 am Mass, Sacred Heart.
Sundays After 10:30 am Mass, Immaculate Heart.
Wednesdays After 9:15 am Mass, Sacred Heart.

Monthly Dinner

1st Saturday of the month after 5 pm Mass.
Contact Michele: 0427 508 003.

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH COLLECTIONS

Please note that at our Masses there are two collections:

- The First collection is for priest and retired priests
- The Second collection helps support the day-to-day expenses of the parish.

If you would prefer to give by card, tap machines are available in the foyers of the churches.

DIRECT DEBIT

Parish of The Holy Spirit & St Francis

BSB: 083 347

Acc. Num: 646745079

Presbytery Account

BSB: 083 347

Acc. Num: 646741705

ON LINE DONATIONS

at our [website](#) or using your phone to read our QR code



Thank you for your generosity to help us continue our ministry.

Donations to SH Social Justice Group

Sacred Heart Parish SJG East
Timor Project
BSB: 083347
Acc: 250540755

or through Return-It Vic!

Parishioners returning bottles and cans at refund points operated by CDS Vic East can now donate their refund directly to the Parish Social Justice Group by using the Parish Donation Partner ID C2000075764



Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Tanti martin.tanti@cam.org.au

Parish Secretary: Maria Jesus de Santisteban

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sandringham@cam.org.au Tel.7036 9381

Tue to Fri - 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

www.melbcatholic.org/holyspiritstfrancis