

Saints and Masses this Week Tuesday 23 June – Ord time wk12, Wednesday 24 June – Nativity John the Baptist, Thursday 25 June – Ord time wk12, Friday 26 June – Ord time wk12, Saturday 27 June – Votive BVM2, Sunday 28 June – Sunday Ord time 13A.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal During the month of June parishioners are asked to bring in non-perishable items for distribution to those in need. These items may be left in front of the Sacred Heart statue at the front of the church.

2026 Collection/Observance Details		
ALL June	Winter Appeal	St Vincent de Paul
28 June	Peter's Pence	For Holy Father charities
5 July	Aboriginal & Torres Strait	OBSERVANCE
12 July	Marriage and Family	OBSERVANCE

Pledge to Pray The Vocations Office invites you to 'pledge a prayer' for vocations at www.pledgetoprayer.com.au this is a site dedicated to encouraging prayer for vocations in Australia. Prayer cards can be found next to the Sunday bulletin stand.

St Mary's Parish Fundraising Initiative The Jack Riley Gift Box comes with two 750 ml bottles of Prosecco from a local boutique winery, a waxed-cotton wine cooler bag, a gift card, and a booklet about Jack Riley's life. Each box costs \$55, with \$30 from every sale supporting St Mary's Parish. To order, please email John Bacash at info@jackriley.com or call 0411 615 202. Or buy the gift box without the Prosecco for \$30 – for those who want to put their own selection of wine in the box for gifting, Remote Sellers Liquor License 36309169. To pay, use BSB 083 004 and Account 850804443. We offer free delivery in Seymour, or you can arrange to pick up your order from the back of the church. Bank statements will confirm all transactions.

Volunteers Please for 2026 As we celebrated National Volunteer Week recently, it is timely to recognise the essential role volunteers play. We need help to make it easier for everyone. Give it a go! You could become a reader, commentator, a setup and/or clean up helper, a choir member, a church cleaner, a collection helper or counter, even someone who will tidy pews after masses. Speak to any of those you seeing already doing something and they will guide you. Our Bingo team needs more volunteers to help about once every six weeks; see Sue Anderson (organist). Without you, much of the work done around here do simply wouldn't be possible.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, SEYMOUR
ST JOSEPH'S, TALLAROOK

PO BOX 100, VIC 3661

PHONE: 9412 8406 MOBILE: 0455 123 509

EMAIL: seymour@cam.org.au

Website: <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/seymour>

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Eugene Ashkar

Parish Secretary: Lorraine Nagle (Thurs)

MASS TIMES		ROSTERS THIS WEEK	
TUES – SAT SAT VIGIL SUNDAY	9am at St Mary's	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	
	6pm at St Mary's	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	8:30am Tallarook	M Winnell	E Devanney
	10am at St Mary's		
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
C Smith	M Flynn	C Smith	R Basco H Basco
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
C Smith	S Doyle	SATURDAY C. Spykers W. Spykers	SUNDAY C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$608

RECENTLY DECEASED We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 21/6-27/6: Shirley Deane, Lewis Nagle, Jennifer-Anne Ennis, Maria DeBono

ILLNESSES: We pray for: Anne King, Sonia Willett, John McMahon, Peter Matthews, Colin Cooper, Jeremy Stokes, Pete Dillon, and all who are suffering from the Corona Virus and all those unwell at the present time, who receive support from our prayers.

27/28 JUN 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Sat: M Winnell	Sun: J Devanney
LECTORS	Sat: C Spykers	Sun: S Hamilton O Hamilton
MASS PREPARATION	Sat: C Spykers	Sun: E Devanney
COUNTERS:	D Ring	G Quillinan

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 68)

ANTIPHON: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

RESPONSE: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

LECTOR: It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**

LECTOR: This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**

LECTOR: The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

Or

I am the Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5: 12-15; Mat 10: 26-33.

NEXT WEEK (13th Sunday Year A) 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16; Ps 88; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10: 37-42.

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Be not afraid



21 June 2026 12th Sunday Year A

In this week's gospel, Jesus is teaching his disciples about their mission. He warns them of the persecutions and trials they will face. Just as he, Jesus, faced opposition and rejection; so, will they. So too did the prophets, including Jeremiah, of whom we read in today's first reading.

Jesus urges his disciples, soon to be his missionaries, to take up their mission to proclaim the good news of the gospel. No matter the opposition and suffering they might face, he exhorts them: "Do not be afraid." But, knowing that they will suffer on account of their faith in him, he offers them consolation. He reassures them that they are precious in God's eyes: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows."

Moreover, he promises them that "Everyone who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven." We too, his disciples today, will face difficulties and challenges, perhaps derision, rejection and suffering, because of our faith in Jesus.

There will be times of discomfort or perhaps embarrassment, when others deride or disparage us for our faith.

But, like the disciples then, we are to live our Christian faith confidently and fearlessly, working for justice and for peace, standing up for the least among us, doing what we can to help build

a better world, unafraid to profess our faith and to demonstrate it in action.

As an Australian politician once noted, life wasn't meant to be easy. Living our faith, following our Lord Jesus with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength was never going to be easy. Our faith makes demands of us!

Let us examine our consciences in light of the gospel. Do we keep very private our commitment as Christians, keeping it out of view of neighbours, work colleagues, even friends? Do we shy away from professing our faith in Jesus, keeping it hidden? Do we speak up when values or opinions which are alien to our faith are promoted in our hearing? Do we let fear of disparagement or rejection stop us from saying what we believe to be true or from doing what we know to be right?

For most of us, it is not in a public forum, but rather in ordinary day to day interactions and conversations that situations arise to challenge us to speak of our faith and the values that inform our opinions and choices.

It is also what we do and how we conduct ourselves that professes what we believe.

Let it always be with courtesy and respect for others. As the Apostle Peter teaches us: "Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience" (1 Pet 3:15-16).

Anne Hunt

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