

Saints and Masses this Week Tuesday 30 June – Ord time wk13, Wednesday 1 July – Ord time wk13, Thursday 2 July – Ord time wk13, Friday 3 July – St Thomas the Apostle, Saturday 4 July – Votive BVM3, Sunday 5 July – Sunday Ord time 14A.

2026 Collection/Observance Details		
28 June	Peter's Pence	For Holy Father charities
5 July	Aboriginal & Torres Strait	OBSERVANCE
12 July	Marriage and Family	OBSERVANCE

First Thursday Anointing Mass 9:30am Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

First Thursday Baptism Preparation 7:30pm at the presbytery. No bookings required; one session that lasts about an hour; attendance is essential for documentation and before tentative or actual booking.

First Friday Exposition and Adoration Exposition, silent prayer following the First Friday Mass. Exposition and prayers at 6pm.

First Saturday Devotions 9:30am Following Saturday morning mass we will hold First Saturday devotions praying for the entire parish and its members.

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	9am at St Mary's	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	
SAT VIGIL	6pm at St Mary's	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SUNDAY	8:30am Tallarook	M Winnell	J Devanney
	10am at St Mary's		
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
C Spykers	E Devanney	C Spykers	S Hamilton O Hamilton
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
D Ring	G Quillinan	SATURDAY C. Spykers W. Spykers	SUNDAY C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$423.50

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 28/6-4/7: Joan Lindner, Anton Pejkoic, Michael King, Tony Gray, Carolyn Sanderson, Gertrude Spaniak, Elsie Andersen, Maurice Suffredini, Pat O'Brien, Bernie Gray, Jamie McCormack, James Irvine, John Wemyss.

ILLNESSES: We pray for: Josie Gruneklee, 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.

4/5 JUL 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS Sat: M Winnell Sun: M Flynn
LECTORS Sat: D Mercovich Sun: S Royals S Liddell
MASS PREPARATION Sat: J Bottaro Sun: R Smart
COUNTERS: C Mansbridge C Spykers

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 88)

ANTIPHON: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

LECTOR: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

LECTOR: Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R.**

LECTOR: For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

Or

O Father, I pray for them: that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you have sent me, says the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16; Romans 6:3-4, 8-11; Matthew 10:37-42

NEXT WEEK (14th Sunday of Year A) Zech 9:9-10; Ps 144; Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30

Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan

ACPA Conference

The annual Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA) conference and Awards Dinner will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand from August 26 to 28. Those who work for Catholic organisations in the media/communications field are welcome. Membership and conference enquiries at:

acpa.asn.au/



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A life of sacrificial love



28 June 2026 13th Sunday Year A

More than being just a moral teacher or guide, Jesus came to establish a complete transformation of what it means to be human and to live a fully human life.

When St Paul proclaims that we are now "dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus," he highlights how Jesus' submission to and defeat of death has changed the whole human situation. Jesus was the perfect and obedient representative of all humanity. Through our faith that he is who he says he is, the eternal communion with the Father that belongs by nature to Jesus as the incarnate Son belongs to us through participation in him.

As St Paul explains, "When we were baptised, we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life." This new life in Christ is one in which sin and death no longer have dominion in the human experience. Paul exhorts us: "You too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin and alive for God in Christ Jesus."

In his instructions to the Twelve in today's gospel, Jesus teaches, "Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it." Part of 'losing our lives' for Jesus means extending the self-giving, compassionate and merciful love we have received from him to others, especially the poor.

And 'losing our lives' can mean suffering. As Christians, we must be prepared to accept

suffering, not out of a masochistic sense that suffering is good or that we deserve it, but as a response made in love to give up anything and everything that impedes or undermines the life and love to which Christ calls us.

As Jesus teaches in today's gospel, this can sometimes mean prioritising him and the demands of discipleship over the demands of family. Consider St Francis of Assisi as an example. St Francis, in defiance of his enraged father, left his affluent home and the life his family had planned for him to live a life of radical poverty, humility, and dedication to serving the poor, in imitation of the life, poverty, and love of Jesus. St Francis is renowned as Il Poverello (Italian for "the little poor man" or "the little poor one"), and as a "little Christ."

'Losing our lives' for Jesus does not necessarily mean we will be called to Jesus' level of self-sacrifice or that of the Christian martyrs. Still, our hearts need to be oriented towards this calling and open to its demands, painful and costly though that may sometimes be. But Jesus is very clear in calling us – indeed challenging us – to live the life of freedom and self-giving love for which we were created.

Challenging and demanding though it is, each and every one of us is called to be a "little Christ."

Joseph Doyle
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