

Saints and Masses this Week **Tuesday** 14 April – Easter wk2, **Wednesday** 15 April – Easter wk2, **Thursday** 16 April – Easter wk2, **Friday** 17 April – Easter wk2, **Saturday** 18 April – Easter wk2, **Sunday** 19 April – Easter wk3

Project Compassion Collection Boxes *Thank you to all who have given so generously over this season of Lent. Please continue to pray for those who will receive your donations.*

Pious Goods Stall We have lots of pious goods and instruments of devotion to help you or someone you love to grow in holiness. Great opportunity to give a gift of faith and encouragement.

Divine Mercy Sunday *Today, Jesus promised to “Open the Floodgates of Mercy” to all who are in need of his great mercy. Have confidence therefore, that what was promised will be delivered.*

Special Collections Thanks Many thanks to all who contributed to the Good Friday Collection for Holy Places which raised \$932.00, also, it was wonderful to see such generosity to the Project Compassion Boxes which has a current balance of \$1275.00. This is a sign of the great generosity of those within this parish. Thank you again!

ANZAC DAY IN SEYMOUR 5:45am Assembly at Crawford Street for march to service at Seymour Memorial Hospital gates. Gunfire breakfast at RSL Station Street. 9:45am March from Total Sports carpark for service at Cenotaph Anzac Avenue. Of special memory this year are the service men and women who served in Afghanistan, the 47 who lost their lives serving with honour for the freedom and liberty of those subjected to the terror of a militant regime. We pray also for those soldiers who suffered trauma through injury or having to witness the brutality of such a regime. May God bless all who serve and heal those who suffer as a consequence of war.

Safeguarding The Archdiocese of Melbourne holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God and have an intrinsic right to dignity, respect and security from all forms of harm. We are all being asked to be attentive and protective of those around us.

2026 Collection/Observeance Details		
26 April	Good Shepherd Sunday	OBSERVANCE
3 May	CatholicCare	– Sunday Appeal

Road Closure High Street *Between round-a-bout and school 13-15th*



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.melbatholic.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 10am at St Mary's	M Winnell	T Bolton
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
J Bettaro	M Flynn	D Mercovich	R Basco H Basco
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
C Mansbridge	C Spykers	SATURDAY C. Spykers W. Spykers	SUNDAY C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$477.00

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 12/4-18/4: Monica Duncombe, Gwen Dillon, Beryl Spataro.

ILLNESSES: We pray for: Anne King, Brian Woods, Margaret Jennings, Sonia Willett, Rimon & Ellen Ashkar, John McMahon, Peter Matthews, Peter Gough, Colin Cooper, Milly Brock, 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.

18/19 APR 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Sat: M Winnell	Sun: M Flynn
LECTORS	Sat: M Winnell	Sun: S Hamilton O Hamilton
MASS PREPARATION	Sat: M Winnell	Sun: E Devanney
COUNTERS: A & V Hall	M Muscovich	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Like newborn infants you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

(Or)

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 117)

ANTIPHON: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

RESPONSE: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

LECTOR: Let the sons of Israel say: "His love has no end." Let the sons of Aaron say: "His love has no end." Let those who fear the Lord say: "His love has no end." **R.**

LECTOR: I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. **R.**

LECTOR: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

NEXT WEEK (3rd Sunday of Easter, Year A) Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 15; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

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Jesus' promise to us



12 April 2026 2nd Sunday Easter Year A

Everything depends on the Resurrection, which is why there is no other Feast in the Church's calendar which is celebrated with such solemnity. Each day of the Octave is treated as another Easter Day.

In the early Church, the Octave Day provided the new converts from the previous weekend with the occasion to join the community for the celebration of the Eucharist, still in their white baptismal robes. Hence, the old title 'Sunday in White' (Dominica in Albis). You can picture the kind of community they were joining when you hear it described in the Acts of the Apostles: how they shared everything in common and met in one another's homes for the Breaking of Bread, the Eucharist.

Down through the centuries there have been many attempts to reignite the fervour and commitment of those early Christian communities. The different religious congregations of men and women, as well as some remarkable lay movements provide plentiful examples. It is fascinating to note how often they in turn needed renewing and calling back to the original vision of their founders and their 'primitive' rules.

As we reflect on the difficulties we face to live simply in our more complicated and ever-increasingly technological world, it might be consoling to realise that for all the first fervour of the early communities, the apostles themselves took time to adjust and understand what Christ was asking of them. At the Last Supper He had tried to prepare them for his own passion and death, as well as for the sufferings they would have to endure.

It is not unreasonable to conclude that when Thomas questioned the Lord about where he was going and how to get there, he was speaking for the rest of the apostles and, indeed, for all of us. As we see in this week's gospel passage Thomas was not with the others when Christ appeared on Easter night and refused to accept their testimony. Hence, he is always labelled the 'Doubting Thomas' and the significance of what happened a week later when the Lord appeared again and invited him to see for himself the scars on his body.

If we were to return to the Last Supper and that moment when Thomas questioned Jesus, we would see he was not the only one with questions. Philip asked Jesus to show them his Father and "then they would be satisfied." How often do we think to ourselves: why doesn't the Lord make it clearer for us?

Faith is God's gift and we need to be humble enough to receive it. When we do, then despite all the doubts and anxieties that beset us, we begin to see the power of Christ's love shining through, recognising that it does overcome all the evil and death itself. We trust that he has gone to prepare a place for us and we begin to recognise those moments when he is quietly reminding us of his promise to be with us always.

Timothy J Buckley CSSR

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