

Saints and Masses this Week Tuesday 21 April – Easter wk3, Wednesday 22 April – Easter wk3, Thursday 23 April – Easter wk3, Friday 24 April – Easter wk3, Saturday 25 April – ANZAC DAY, Sunday 26 April – Easter wk4

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.

Diocesan Synod Update In this Easter season, we are invited to continue growing as a Church that listens, learns, and walks together. The *Synodal Way* calls each of us—clergy, religious, and lay—to participate actively in discernment and dialogue, guided by the Holy Spirit. In the coming weeks, we will focus on deepening our commitment to: **Listening with an open heart** to the experiences, hopes, and concerns of others. **Engaging in meaningful conversation**, grounded in respect, humility, and prayer. **Strengthening our sense of communion**, recognising Christ at the centre of our shared mission. **Discerning pathways forward**, so that our parish and wider Church can respond more faithfully to the needs of our time. Reflection question: How can we deepen our understanding of synodality in our parish life? If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod please email: Synod2026@cam.org.au

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. Symbols of Anzac Day are: Rosemary, from it growing wild on the Gallipoli Peninsula, the Last Post as a tribute to the dead, Reveille the call to duty, the Ode, from the poem 'For the Fallen' to honour the dead, the period of silence, as an act of respect and time of reflection over war, death, honour and gratitude for those who laid down their lives for others.

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. Remote Sellers Liquor Licence 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.

2026 Collection/Observance Details

26 April	Good Shepherd Sunday	OBSERVANCE
3 May	CatholicCare	– Sunday Appeal



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	M Flynn
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
M Winnell	E Devanney	M Winnell	S Hamilton O Hamilton
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
A & V Hall	M Muscovich	SATURDAY C. Spykers W. Spykers	SUNDAY C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$594.50

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 19/4-25/4: Fr Pat McCormick, Anna Stasiak, Nick Sulinski, Michael Duncombe, Nancy Martin, George Deeprise, Catherine Deeprise, Joan Schneider, Alf Combi, Paul Comte, Jim Melbourne, Fr Patrick O'Gorman, Trevor Moloney, Ann Stanbrook, James Gribbin.

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.

25/26 APR 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Sat: M Winnell

Sun: J Devanney

LECTORS

Sat: C Smith

Sun: M Flynn C Crowe

MASS PREPARATION

Sat: C Smith

Sun: R Smart

COUNTERS: C Smith S Doyle

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 15)

ANTIPHON: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

(Or)

Alleluia.

RESPONSE: Lord, you will show us the path of life.

LECTOR: Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: "You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize." **R.**

LECTOR: I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

LECTOR: And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

LECTOR: You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

NEXT WEEK (4th Sunday of Easter, Year A) Acts 2:14, 36-41; Ps 22; 1 Peter 2:20-25; Jn 10:1-10

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God's love shines brightly



19 April 2026 3rd Sunday Easter Year A

Let's take a few moments to imagine ourselves living in Jesus' time: knowing him, following him, loving him. There was something unimaginably wonderful about being in his presence, listening to his teaching and learning from him. No one was excluded from his company and conversation. Everyone was welcome, even those who had previously been shunned or excluded or abandoned by the community, such as the tax collectors, the sick or disabled, or the no-hopers. It was so very good to be with him.

Jesus somehow opened up a new way of seeing the world, of relating to others and, most surprisingly of all, of relating to God. Through him, his followers came to understand that God was not to be feared but to be loved. God was not one who kept a record of all our sins and failings, ready to punish us and exact retribution. Rather, God loves us with steadfast love and boundless mercy, never forsaking us, and inviting us to enter into an ever deeper relationship with him.

But it all came to a devastating end when this innocent and profoundly good man, Jesus, was arrested, sentenced to death for no good reason, tortured and crucified. Crucifixion was such a horrible way to die, slow and painful, a horrid and humiliating spectacle.

Imagine then how those two disciples felt as they headed away from Jerusalem, where that ghastly death had been inflicted. They were frightened. After all, might they, as his followers, now be arrested and

executed? And they were sad and confused. How could it all have come to such a terrible end? His death felt like the death of the light, the life and the love – the death of everything – that he had opened up for them.

It is to two disciples in that very state of sadness, fear and confusion that Jesus appears, though they don't recognise him. He walks with them, and they talk about it all as they walk. It is when they stop for the night and have a meal together that, in the breaking of the bread, they recognise him at last. It is the Lord! Imagine that! Imagine their joy and how their hearts burned to be in his presence again. Wouldn't they want him to stay and never to leave them again?

That's the story of the two disciples on the way from Jerusalem to Emmaus after the crucifixion. It's one of several stories of the appearances of Jesus to various disciples after his resurrection. It is their testimony, passed on through the centuries, which inspires and instructs us about Jesus and his teachings about God and the meaning of life that he opened up and revealed for the whole world.

While we didn't live then and know Jesus as those first disciples did, we are also invited to enter into as deep and loving relationship with him. Let our hearts burn too.

Anne Hunt

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