

Saints and Masses this Week Tuesday 5 May – Easter wk5, Wednesday 6 May – Easter wk5, Thursday 7 May – Easter wk5, Friday 8 May – Easter wk5, Saturday 9 May – Easter wk5, Sunday 10 May – Easter wk6

Catholic Care Collection 2-3 May This year the appeal focuses on homelessness. Faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those most in need. The compassionate support of our parish helps to open doors to safety, dignity and hope. Together, we can ensure no one faces their darkest moment alone.

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.

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

3 May	CatholicCare	– Sunday Appeal
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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.

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.

Parish Working With Children Check (WWCC) Thank you to all who have provided copies of their card. If you still need to update your card or obtain one, please see Fr Ashkar and he will do what needs to be done and no cost to you. If you have a WWCC card through another organisation, you do not need to get another, just allow us to get the details for our files.



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 10am at St Mary's	M Winnell	E Devanney
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
C Spykers	S Anderson	C Spykers	S Royals S Liddell
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
D Ring	G Quillinan	SATURDAY C. Spykers W. Spykers	SUNDAY C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$512

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 3/5-9/5: John Hunt, Joan Schneider, Mick Sanderson, Gwen Jarvis, Hendrikus Kanters, Eileen Fennell, Eileen Anderson, Helen Kopanica, Cassie Spagnolo, Amy Loorham.

ILLNESSES: We pray for: Anne King, 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.

9/10 MAY 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Sat: M Winnell	Sun: T Bolton
LECTORS	Sat: D Mercovich	Sun: A Allison S Anderson
MASS PREPARATION	Sat: J Bottaro	Sun: C Crowe
COUNTERS: C Mansbridge	C Spykers	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 32)

ANTIPHON: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Or

Alleluia.

RESPONSE: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

LECTOR: Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

LECTOR: For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

LECTOR: The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

NEXT WEEK (6th Sunday of Easter, Year A) Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 65; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

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Don't stumble but believe



3 May 2026 5th Sunday Easter Year A

What's all this about living stones and stumbling stones and cornerstones in the second reading (from the First Letter of St Peter)? Let's take a deep dive.

The entire passage takes up some deep themes in the Old Testament prophet, Isaiah. There's hardly a word of St Peter in these few verses that is not echoing him. (Even Psalm 118, which he quotes in the business about the cornerstone, is spliced with a line from Isaiah 8.) So, we need to ponder Isaiah, especially chapters 24 and 8, where the key quotations come from.

The prophet's writing in the 700's BC, a time of great stress for God's people. Isaiah's message is about the impending destruction of much of Israel through the empire of Assyria. The "flood" of destruction will rise "to the neck," leaving Jerusalem standing among the ruins. In the midst of it, God, he says, is laying a stone in Zion—he's going to rebuild out of this diminished remnant that's left; he's going to reboot the covenant, restart the plan to make Israel the epicenter of his conquest of evil, reunification of humanity, defeat of death, and renewal of all things, thereby accomplishing his original, deep purpose for creation.

St Peter sees Isaiah's word as a pattern for his own writing to the churches in Asia Minor. He says that this reboot is finally being accomplished by Jesus (the cornerstone) through the Church (the spiritual house, holy priesthood, chosen race...). But the real shock

is how Isaiah and St. Peter say it is realised: by suffering, trial, temptation, defeat, by fidelity through the worst of it. The rejected stone becomes the cornerstone. That's the Jesus way that Isaiah anticipated. Don't stumble over it, he warns, but believe.

Like Jesus, the apostles ate, drank, and breathed the Old Testament. Isaiah, the Psalms, Genesis, Exodus, and so on shaped their imaginations, hopes, fears, and intentions so deeply that the divine word became inseparable from their outlook, words, and actions. In this way they forged their creases in the world in concert with God's deep purposes.

The task St Peter gives us in this letter is to keep faith, to run along these apostolic creases, making them the track down which our lives run. In this way we are built up together into that spiritual house as the living stones he's talking about. Meditating on his words (and digging down into their Old Testament roots) will give us a much deeper awareness of what is at stake in our faith, what it is we are hoping for, and how to understand the trials and temptations always threatening to derail our path.

Fidelity to that hope despite its apparent failure—perceiving it, through God's faithfulness, as strangely and wonderfully the first moment of victory—is what he means in this passage by faith.

W Chris Hackett
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