

Saints and Masses this Week **Tuesday** 24 March – Lent wk5,
Wednesday 25 March – ANNUNCIATION, **Thursday** 26 March Lent wk5, **Friday**
 27 March – Lent wk5, **Saturday** 28 March – Lent wk5, **Sunday** 29 March – PALM
 SUNDAY

LENTEN NOTICES

PALM SUNDAY	29 MARCH
Stations of the Cross	Every Friday 6:00pm
Project Compassion Collection Boxes	18 February to 5 April
Tuesday of Holy Week Mass of the Oils in St Patrick's Cathedral	NO MASS IN SEYMOUR TUESDAY 31 MARCH
AS THE FIRST THURSDAY OF APRIL IS HOLY THURSDAY AND OTHER MASSES MAY NOT BE	SAID, THE ANOINTING MASS WILL BE ON THE WEDNESDAY
Normal First Thursday, First Friday and First Saturday devotions	WILL NOT BE TAKING PLACE DUE TO HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE
Anointing Mass 9:30am	Wednesday 1 April
Good Friday and Holy Land Collection	3 April 3.00pm
Easter Sunday	5 April

Holy Thursday	Reconciliation	5:00pm & 7:30pm
2 April	Mass of the Last Supper	6:00pm
	Vigil Watch in Chapel	7:00-10:00
Good Friday	Stations, Divine Mercy, Chaplet of Tears	9:00am
3 April	Reconciliation	Following
	Passion Ceremony	3:00pm
	Reconciliation	Following
	Divine Mercy Novena	Following
Holy Saturday	Divine Mercy Novena	9:00am
4 April	Reconciliation	following
	Vigil Mass with Fire	7:00pm

St Patrick's Cathedral Renewal This year the Archbishop formally shared a significant vision: *Light into the City* — the 5–10-year plan to renew St Patrick's Cathedral and reimagine its precinct as the spiritual heart of Melbourne. Over the coming months, he will share updates on the staged restoration and precinct planning, along with ways to remain engaged with this once-in-a-generation renewal. Regular information and updates will be available at: www.lightintothecity.org.au



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, SEYMOUR

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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	
A & V Hall	M Muscovich	SATURDAY C. Spykers W. Spykers	SUNDAY C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$401

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 22/3- 28/3: Roy Thompson, Marie Dominguez, Philomena Irvine, Margaret Seymour, Marie Peckham

ILLNESSES: We pray for: 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.

28/29 MAR 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

LECTORS

MASS PREPARATION

COUNTERS: C Smith S Doyle

Sat: M Winnell

Sat: C Spykers

Sat: C Spykers

Sun: J Devanney

Sun: A Allison S Anderson

Sun: C Crowe

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 129)

ANTIPHON: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

RESPONSE: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

LECTOR: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R.**

LECTOR: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R.**

LECTOR: My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **R.**

LECTOR: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

NEXT WEEK (Passion Sunday, Yr A) Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

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Jesus is the true messiah



22 March 2026 5th Sunday Lent Year A

What an extraordinary Lenten journey it's been! Five weeks ago, we began with the temptation of Jesus. We heard that Jesus was subjected to tests and trials, just as we are, yet without sinning. The following week, the gospel called for a decision. After his transfiguration, and with the assurance of being God's beloved Son, Jesus faced a difficult choice to journey to Jerusalem. Over the next two weeks, we encountered two unique faith stories.

For the Samaritan woman, faith called her to be an apostle to her village, and for the man blind from birth, faith resulted in him being driven out of his community. Today, we contemplate the reality of death, and Jesus' promise that "whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

The dramatic story of Lazarus' resurrection, is Jesus' last sign and miracle before his own passion and death. In a way, Lazarus' death and resurrection, points to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Both events show that Jesus is the true Messiah. However, while Lazarus was raised to a renewed earthly life, Jesus was raised forever.

Martha and Mary show the vulnerability of faith in the midst of heartache. They have faith, but they demand Jesus' physical presence, which gives rise to a sense of hopelessness when Jesus doesn't arrive in time to prevent Lazarus' death: "If you had been here my brother would not have died." But the promise given is that God's gift of eternal life breaks opens the constraints of mortal life. Jesus says to Lazarus, "Unbind him. Let him go free."

Death is never the end of the road.

'Hopelessness' doesn't exist in the vocabulary of those who believe in the resurrection that Jesus promised. Jesus embraced hopelessness and became hope for the world. Fear loses its control over those who believe in the resurrection. Just as Jesus took away the stone from Lazarus' tomb, he takes away the stones of despair in our lives. Our disappointments, failures, frustrations and losses become the seedbeds of hope and new life.

To Martha, and to us, Jesus poignantly asks: "Do you believe this?" We must never underestimate the power of this question. It's asked of us every time we bury a loved one, and it's central in preparing for our own death. Martha's response to Jesus' question, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ the Son of God," is an extraordinary act of faith in Jesus before his resurrection.

Jesus shows that there is a life beyond the grave, even as our mortal bodies await resurrection at the end of time. While physical life will cease, the God-life (eternal life) that has been given to us through Jesus will never cease. Jesus made eternal life possible for all of us through the gift of his life, and it's already at work in our lives.

David J Hore CSSR
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