

Saints and Masses this Week

Tuesday 19 May – Easter wk7, Wednesday 20

May – Easter wk7, Thursday 21 May – Easter wk7, Friday 22 May – Easter wk7,

Saturday 23 May – Votive BVM, Sunday 24 May – PENTECOST

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.

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.

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.

Volunteers Please for 2026 As we prepare to celebrate National Volunteer Week (18–24 May), 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. Without you, much of the work done around here do simply wouldn't be possible.

2026 Collection/Observance Details

7 June	Propagation of Faith	Catholic Missions
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Pray for Persecuted Christians in Nigeria Christians in Nigeria continue to suffer greatly for their faith, yet many persevere with deep trust in Christ and devotion to Our Lady. *Aid to the Church in Need* invites you to join with John, a Catholic farmer in Nigeria, in praying a decade of the Rosary this week for persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their faith.

St. Francis of Assisi ♪ SHOWCASE ♪ For the **Franciscan Jubilee Year**, COG Theatre is seeking more performers, technicians and administrators to help host a musical showcase celebrating the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Auditions, interviews and workshops to follow on 7 June. Contact cogtheatregroup@gmail.com OR 0413 398 528 to get involved!

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, SEYMOUR****ST JOSEPH'S, TALLAROOK**

PO BOX 100, VIC 3661

PHONE: 9412 8406 MOBILE: 0455 123 509

EMAIL: seymour@cam.org.auWebsite: <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	M Flynn
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
M Winnell	M Flynn	M Winnell	R Basco H Basco
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
A & V Hall	M Muscovich	SATURDAY C. Spykers W. Spykers	SUNDAY C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$520

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

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 17/5-23/5: Joe Borowiki, Joyce & Jimmy Jonens, Jean Hansen, Isobel Kierce

ILLNESSES: We pray for: Anne King, Sonia Willett, Rimon Ashkar, 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.

23/24 MAY 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Sat: M Winnell

Sun: J Devanney

LECTORS

Sat: C Smith

Sun: S Hamilton O Hamilton

MASS PREPARATION

Sat: C Smith

Sun: E Devanney

COUNTERS: C Smith S Doyle

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 46)

ANTIPHON: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

RESPONSE: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Or

Alleluia.

LECTOR: All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **R.**

LECTOR: God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

LECTOR: God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

NEXT WEEK (Pentecost Sunday, Year A) Acts 2:1-11; Ps 103; 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

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Aligning our own vision with Christ



17 May 2026 Ascension Year A

I once watched Andrew Manchini, an Australian who appeared on the TEDx Talk at Hobart High School when he discussed the significance of aligning one's corporate vision with one's personal vision.

He explains that effective vision statements will guide our decision-making, strategy, and alignment in business. He connects this concept to storytelling and encourages people to create their own vision statements to live impactful and meaningful lives.

As I reflect on this week's gospel, I was taken to that particular TEDx Talk. Jesus invited his disciples to see if they had a vision in their lives. He invited them not just to participate in Jesus' vision but to create their own vision, and to align it with his vision to make disciples of all nations.

Having a personal vision is important. A personal vision is crucial because it provides clarity, direction, and motivation to align actions with the long-term goals, meanings, and values. If we align our vision statement with Christ's vision, and together act on our vision statement effectively, everything in our communities and institutions becomes aligned, leading to a more cohesive and purpose-driven environment that reflects our shared values and goals.

Our vision helps inform the decisions we are making every day. We all know that it is

not enough for us to take Christ to heart. We are called to action. We have to be another Christ for others. This is why we are called to be clear in our vision of life, align it with Christ, and share it with others. In moments when we say the creed or express our prayers to Christ, we actually accept Christ in our lives, his love, values, hopes, dreams, and expectations.

When Jesus said to the disciples to go and baptise people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Jesus actually asked his disciples to share with people worldwide. And he wants his disciples to share with the world that he never comes alone, but as one of the Trinity. This perfect communal relationship of the Son with the Father and the Spirit is visionary and empowering for him and for his disciples to spread the good news of the kingdom of God.

As we celebrate the ascension of Jesus, we remember that he remains with us in the Spirit. It is in this spirit of Jesus that we are called to make the world a flourishing community centered in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We pray that we may always find ways to align our vision and mission in life with the vision and mission of Christ, a vision that is Trinitarian and community-oriented. In whatever we do, may we remember Jesus, and he will show us the right way. Amen.

Sam Kono CSsR

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