

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

22 March 2026

readings

Next Week

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Entrance: Mt 21:1-11

Is 50:4-7

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Phil 2:6-11

Mt 26:14-27:66

in a nutshell

The resurrection and the life. The raising of Lazarus from the dead was a wonderful event. His sisters were overjoyed and many people came to believe in Jesus. But something more wonderful happened in Jesus' own death and resurrection. While Lazarus was restored to his former life, the death of Jesus produces a life that will last forever, a life that we receive in baptism. Let us pray for all who are to be baptised this easter.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially Fr Pat Purcell, Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, And For those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

Remember to bring your palms for Palm Sunday for blessing. If you can bring extra to share, thanks!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

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

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

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.

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

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.)

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

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

St Thomas a Becket, Yarra Junction

Sunday Mass

Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am
First Friday—11:30am

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:10pm- 6:40pm
Mount Evelyn: Saturday
11:30am-12:30pm

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

St Josephs

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarra

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday
mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Parish Meetings: April 8
6:00 p.m. Wednesday

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Your financial support can be made via:

- Cash using the stewardship envelopes—call the office for information on how to become a contributor
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Sacred Heart Church**: 670642723, Presbytery: 649237379
- Use the QR Code on this page
- The website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarvalley> and choose where you are donating: church, presbytery, maintenance.



Parish Notices

Palms for Palm Sunday

Time to start thinking about palms for the weekend of March 28/29. Bring them with you to Masses that weekend for blessing. If you can bring extra to share with other parishioners that would be appreciated.

Mass at Mount Evelyn for the Annunciation, Wednesday, 25 March

There will be Mass offered at 11:30 on Wednesday 25 March to celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord at St Mary's Mount Evelyn.

Sacramental Commitment Masses

This weekend the parish welcomes the children with their families, who will be undertaking Sacraments this year. Keep them in your prayers.

Synod Corner—Where does the word “Synod” come from?

The word *Synod* comes from the Greek *syn-hodos*, meaning “walking together on the road.” This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration: It is good to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament, to feel the gaze of Jesus upon us. (Pope Francis)

Confession: When I came into the Church, of course I knew Confession would be a part of my life, but I did not anticipate how indispensable it would become. There is just no feeling on earth like knowing my sin is completely dealt with—once and for all on the Cross, and every time I examine my conscience and submit to Christ's reconciling grace. If any Catholics have strayed away from Confession, please take it from this “convert” that it is much more than a requirement. Confession is a precious balm to every soul that longs for God's healing. (Andrew Petiprin)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction: Thursday 6:00pm. Mount Evelyn: Tuesday 5:10pm, Friday 8:10am. Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’” JOHN 11:40

Many of us say that we believe in God. We attend Sunday Mass and participate in parish events. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe? Do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really do see that God is providing for our needs. Living a grateful and generous life allows us to see God's active presence in our daily lives and we become “partakers of the divine nature.”

Project Compassion—Fifth Sunday of Lent

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code **Or online at:** www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Stations of the Cross During Lent 6pm (Mount Evelyn)

We will be praying the Stations of the Cross at St Mary's every Friday during Lent. Please come and pray this traditional devotion following the path of our Lord to Calvary. Jesus said to St Faustina: There is more merit to one hour of meditation on My sorrowful Passion than there is to a whole year of flagellation that draws blood; the contemplation of My painful wounds is of great profit to you, and it brings Me great joy. Mount Evelyn: 6:00 pm.



Lenten Bible Study: Images of Hope (Mount Evelyn)

Come and join us for a Lenten Bible Study on Wednesdays in Lent concluding Wednesday, 25 March. Bring your Bible!

Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection

This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres in the Holy Land rely on assistance from this collection. Envelopes are available this weekend to be returned at Good Friday ceremonies or Easter Masses.

Interested in Spiritual Direction?

The Catholic Encyclopaedia defines Spiritual direction as an interpersonal relationship in which one person, a director, accompanies another on the journey of faith. Its form is a conversation around the events and concerns of the directee's life and prayer that focuses on the leading of the Spirit and the directee's openness, awareness and response to the mystery of God's presence and action in his or her life.

Volunteers for Spiritual Direction needed

My name is Mary Ryan, I am studying at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Croydon, which is part of the University of Divinity. I am doing a Spiritual Direction course and need volunteers to help me perfect my skills as a Spiritual Director. This would entail an 1 hour session, once a month free of charge to have a conversation. Anyone interested in helping can contact me on 0437101274. Thank you.

Easter Schedule — (Both Parishes)

Holy Thursday

NO 9am Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper: Yarra Junction 6pm, Mt Evelyn 8pm

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross: Yarra Junction 10:30, Mt Evelyn 9am

Passion of the Lord: Mt Evelyn 3pm

Confessions following Stations and Passion

Easter Vigil

Yarra Junction 6pm, Mt Evelyn 8:30pm

Saturday Confessions Mt Evelyn 11:30am-12:30pm

Easter Sunday

Yarra Junction 8:30am, Mt Evelyn 10:30am & 5pm

Readings Reflection

[At Lazarus' Tomb](#)

As we draw near to the end of Lent, today's Gospel clearly has Jesus' passion and death in view.

That's why John gives us the detail about Lazarus' sister, Mary—that she is the one who anointed the Lord for burial (see John 12:3, 7). His disciples warn against returning to Judea; Thomas even predicts they will “die with Him” if they go back.

When Lazarus is raised, John notices the tombstone being taken away, as well as Lazarus' burial cloths and head covering—all details he later notices with Jesus' empty tomb (see John 20:1, 6, 7).

Like the blind man in last week's readings, Lazarus represents all humanity. He stands for “dead men”—for all those Jesus loves and wants to liberate from the bands of sin and death.

John even recalls the blind man in his account today (see John 11:37). Like the man's birth in blindness, Lazarus' death is used by Jesus to reveal “the glory of God” (see John 9:3). And again like last week, Jesus' words and deeds give sight to those who believe (see John 11:40).

If we believe, we will see—that Jesus loves each of us as He loved Lazarus, that He calls us out of death and into new life.

By His Resurrection Jesus has fulfilled Ezekiel's promise in today's First Reading. He has opened the graves that we may rise, put His Spirit in us that we may live. This is the Spirit that Paul writes of in today's Epistle. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will give life to we who were once dead in sin.

Faith is the key. If we believe as Martha does in today's Gospel—that Jesus is the resurrection and the life—even if we die, we will live.

“I have promised and I will do it,” the Father assures us in the First Reading. We must trust in His word, as we sing in today's Psalm—that with Him is forgiveness and salvation.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

I confess to Almighty God

What do we mean by making a “good confession”?

When a man or woman commits any of the sins that men commit by breaking faith with the Lord, and that person is guilty, he shall confess his sin which he has committed; and he shall make full restitution for his wrong. (Num 5:6-7)

Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. (Jas 5:16)

To make a good confession is to receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation with the proper dispositions: a full admission of sins, true contrition, a firm resolution to avoid sin in the future, and the satisfactory completion of penance.

Contrition — which includes true “sorrow of the soul” and hatred of the sin committed as well as a firm resolve to refrain from all sin — is required for a good confession. As with all Sacraments, grace is given by virtue of the celebration of the Sacrament, but our acceptance and ability to benefit from that sacramental grace is dependent upon our disposition. Contrition can be perfect (resulting from a pure love of God) or imperfect (resulting largely from fear of sin’s consequences); both forms dispose us well to receive forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament of Penance.

In summary, a good confession requires a complete and humble accounting of our serious sins, contrition, resolution, and true satisfaction through penance, including restitution for wrongs committed wherever possible.

The best tool for recalling our sins and fostering proper contrition is an examination of conscience, whereby we review our acts, thoughts, and attitudes since our previous confession to determine where we have failed in virtue. It is often helpful to meditate on the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Sermon on the Mount, or on any of the many examinations of conscience that have been composed in the form of a series of probing questions. [*Examinations of conscience are available in the foyer of the church*]

Mortal sins should be confessed as soon as possible, but regular confession even of venial sins is highly encouraged by the Church as an aid in helping to form our consciences correctly and to combat concupiscence. The grace of frequent reception of the Sacrament strengthens us against sin and temptation.

The penance assigned by the confessor — usually prayers, spiritual reading, charitable acts, or acts of self-denial — as well as restitution (e.g., the return of items stolen or repair of injured reputations and relationships) must be completed satisfactorily in order to complete a good confession.

From the Didache Bible

1440 Sin is before all else an offense against God, a rupture of communion with him. At the same time it damages communion with the Church. For this reason conversion entails both God’s forgiveness and reconciliation with the Church, which are expressed and accomplished liturgically by the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

1441 Only God forgives sins. Since he is the Son of God, Jesus says of himself, “The Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” and exercises this divine power: “Your sins are forgiven.” Further, by virtue of his divine authority he gives this power to men to exercise in his name.

1444 In imparting to his apostles his own power to forgive sins the Lord also gives them the authority to reconcile sinners with the Church. This ecclesial dimension of their task is expressed most notably in Christ’s solemn words to Simon Peter: “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” “The office of binding and loosing which was given to Peter was also assigned to the college of the apostles united to its head.”

1446 Christ instituted the sacrament of Penance for all sinful members of his Church: above all for those who, since Baptism, have fallen into grave sin, and have thus lost their baptismal grace and wounded ecclesial communion. It is to them that the sacrament of Penance offers a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification. The Fathers of the Church present this sacrament as “the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace.” (Tertullian)

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Church is incapable of forgiving any sin without Christ, and Christ is unwilling to forgive any sin without the Church. The Church cannot forgive the sin of one who has not repented, who has not been touched by Christ; Christ will not forgive the sin of one who despises the Church.

From a sermon by Blessed Isaac of Stella, Abbot (c. 1100–c. 1178)