

St Mary's Parish

We proudly acknowledge the
Boonwurrung People of the
Kulin Nation as the Traditional
Owners and Custodians of
this land.

*A community where we bring
together our gifts and talents*

1st February, 2026



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Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall

0400 524 363

Email:

greg.trythall@cam.org.au

Parish Office Staff

Pastoral Associate & Parish Secretary

Monique Julian

9397 6066

Tuesday 9:00am – 3.00pm

Thursday 9:00am – 3.00pm

Friday 9:00am – 2.00pm
0450 789 951

Wednesday Parish Secretary

Kylie Skinner

9:30am–1:30pm

Safeguarding Officer

Frank Schobben

0427 416 184

St. Mary's School

Principal Anthony Hockey

Normal Mass Times

Consult bulletin inside for
any changes.

Saturday at 6:00pm

Sunday at 8:30am and
10:30am

Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Reconciliation

Saturday 10:00am

Silent Adoration in Church

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Wednesday

Baptism Preparation Night

Third Thursday monthly

7.00pm at Parish Centre.

Baptism must be booked

prior to attending

Preparation Night.

Baptisms 12:30pm Sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah. 2:3; 3:12-13

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. 1:26-31

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Rejoice and be glad; your reward will be great in heaven.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful,

for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart,

for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are

persecuted for the sake of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Tuesday 3rd February	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 4th February	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church. 7.00pm Parish Finance Team meeting at the Presbytery.
Thursday 5th February	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 6.30pm Parish Council meeting at the presbytery.
Friday 6th February	9.15am Opening School Mass at St Mary's Church. 11.30am Senior's Mass at St Mary's Church. Followed by luncheon in the Parish Centre. ALL WELCOME.

Dear Parishioners,

First Reading: Zephaniah is later than Isaiah Chapters 1-39 and the political background has changed. In place of Assyria, Egypt and the nomadic Scythians pose a new threat. The East was like a seething cauldron. During the time of Assyrian ascendancy many elements false to Jewish religion had been adopted. Zephaniah as prophet of God attacked these abuses with threats of divine judgment. Central to the reading is the concept of a righteous remnant which will escape God's wrath. This remnant will consist not of the oppressive rich, but of the poor, the humble and the lowly.

Second Reading:

Paul deals in the reading with God's way of using weak things of the world to achieve his ends. The passage concludes with reference to the true wisdom – knowledge of God in Christ.

The Gospel:

Very briefly, the Beatitudes, ten in number and forming a new decalogue (ten commandments) reverse all the world's values regarding what constitutes happiness.

LENT:

I am trying to prepare for an effective Lent for all of us. I know the New Year has only just past, but Lent is in only two and a half weeks' time. Accordingly, there are a few things to take note concerning the Season of Lent. This year instead of just one booklet from the Wollongong diocese for our use, I have arranged for us to have two choices. First choice is from Wollongong but second choice is at least equally good and valid from the Brisbane archdiocese as a very good theologian shares his views. I used to play cricket with him for Strathmore CYMS in my latter teens! He eventually went on to become archbishop of Brisbane – Mark Coleridge. At an earlier time he was called to be speech writer for the Pope. Next to the books put out on back table in two weeks' time there will be a box marked \$5.

Part of Lent is a factor called 'penance'. Consequently, I thought I would give some background truths, knowledge and hopefully reasonable insights.

What is the purpose of Penance? The first thing we are doing when we undertake penance is acknowledging that we are sinners. The second thing we are doing is expressing the desire to change our lives. The whole object of penance is to reform a sinful way of life.

Penance is an exercise in saying 'no' to ourselves. Its purpose is to acquaint ourselves with our better side, and to convince ourselves that we can do better. It signifies that we want to reform our lives. It means taking a step in the right direction.

When people are pruning a fruit tree, they are not doing it to punish the tree, but to enable it to produce more and better fruit. So our penances have as their goal to lead us to a new and better life.

It is a lot easier to undertake penances, even severe ones, than to change a sinful attitude, or eradicate a sinful habit. For our penance to bear fruit it must result in a sincere effort to change our lives.

Lent provides us with a window of opportunity to look at ourselves to see how we can become better followers of Jesus Christ.

LOOKING AT CATHOLICISM:

I have five adults between 18 and 45 years who are looking seriously at becoming Catholics sometime in the future: one for the Easter Vigil this year. If you are here with a Catholic friend maybe this is the year to make the phone call! If you want any further information to clarify anything, please be in touch. My details are always on front of parish newsletter.

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY: I was pleased to see recently that three United States cardinals have urged the creation of a “genuinely moral foreign policy for our nation” as the US faces “the most profound and searing debate about the moral foundation for America’s actions in the world since the end of the Cold War”. In their statement, the cardinals pointed to “events in Venezuela, Ukraine and Greenland” that “have raised basic questions about the use of military force and the meaning of peace.”

Yours ‘in Christ’.

Fr Greg greg.trythall@cam.org.au -0400 524 363

SACRAMENT PROGRAM AT ST MARY’S

For children who do not attend St Mary’s school and are in the Parish area who would like to receive their Sacraments in 2026 please contact Monique Julian: monique.julian@cam.org.au to request an enrolment form. Dates for 2026 are:

RECONCILIATION: 16th February, 23rd February and 2nd March 2026 - 7.00pm in the Parish Centre. Reconciliations to be held 3rd-7th March

FIRST COMMUNION: 27th April, 4th May and 11th May 2026 - 7.00pm in the Parish Centre. Communion Masses on the weekend of 16th and 17th May

CONFIRMATION: 17th August, 24th August and 31st August 2026 - 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. Confirmation Masses TBC but likely the first week September.

WORKING BEE AROUND CHURCH GARDENS

SATURDAY 21st February, 2026—9.00AM—11.00AM

Come along and help clean up our beautiful church gardens, even if it is only for an hour or two. If you could bring your own equipment, it would be greatly appreciated.

COMBINED PARISHES YOUTH GATHERING

Our next Combined Parishes Youth Gathering will be held on Saturday 7th February from 7:00pm—8:30pm, at St Mary’s Parish Centre, 116 Cecil Street Williamstown.

We invite all Youth aged 13-18 years to come and join us for a fun evening with food/snacks, faith topic discussion, and games.

Green Team news: St. Mary's herb garden.

The herbs in the garden are now ready to be picked. All parishioners are welcome to take what they need for home use rather than needing to buy the herbs. You will find rosemary, basil, sorrell, chives and thyme growing there and the plants are all labelled.

The entry to the garden is located to the right of the Memorial Wall behind the parish centre. Please walk only on the stepping stones. to avoid creating mud or walking on the plants.

Rosters for this Week 31st January & 1st February 2026

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am John O'Keefe, Ivonne Cram 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Emma Pinzone 8.30am Jenny O'Sullivan 10.30am Mareena Peter
Welcomers	6.00pm Simon Pinzone 8.30am Maryanne Wenzel 10.30am Joe Covelli

Rosters for next Week 7th & 8th February 2026

Counting Team 4	Leanne Spiteri, Greg Morgan, Herb Zimmer, Steven Sagona, Eugene Yi
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Eilin Taylor, Stephen, Littleton 10.30am Maria Laudato, Maylene Clayton
Mass Readers	6.00pm Josie Penna 8.30am Anthony Verhoef 10.30am Eilin Taylor
Welcomers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Mary Frisby 10.30am Chantel Castelino

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Finn Pennisi, Dominic Piccolo, Yeme Reddy, Sarah Rodgers,
Charlie Galea, Annelore Goetz, David Hume

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Giuseppe D'Angelo, Franca Ficcarra, Fr. John Woodcock, Fr. John Spillane, George Marzic, Adriano and Antonia Azzopardi, Rosa Cini, Michele, Rosa and Luciano Azzopardi, Rosaria Mangion, Marie Read, Mons. Attilio Delise, Mons. Pietro Fonda, Helena Meehan, Francis Spina, Concetta Merlino, John and Reno Bartolo, Paul, Frances, John, Charlie and Mathew Zahra, Kevin Broadfoot, Ljubica Vuksevic, Helena Meehan, Kathleen Liston, Sr. Marie Kennedy, Alan Grace, Kevin Clarke, Peter Hamment, Arch Rennie, Mary Dalton, Jennifer Phillips, William Murphy, Angelina and Natalino Meilak, Lawrence and Blondina Sammut, Michael Meilak, Carmela Sammut, Nunzio Ficcarra, Peter and Vera Rice, Lisa Di Donato and Joan Spiteri, whose anniversaries are at this time.

