

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*

5th April, 2026



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016

Telephone: 9397 6066

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www.melbcatholic.org/s/williamstown

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

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD EASTER SUNDAY—YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the Acts 10: 34, 37-43

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians 3: 1-4

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;

let us feast with joy in the Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned home.



Tuesday 7th April	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 8th April	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church. 7.00pm – 7:45pm Lectors/Readers Gathering in Church.
Thursday 9th April	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 10th April	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 7pm – 8pm Continuation of Faith Formation sessions at St Mary's Presbytery.

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:

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

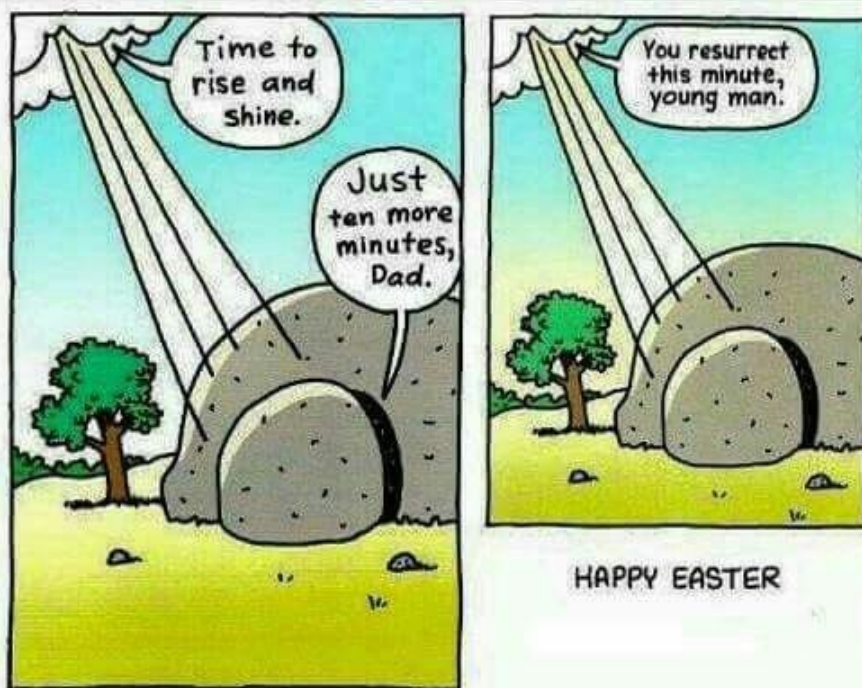
CONFIRMATION: 17th August, 24th August and 31st August 2026 - 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. Confirmation Masses TBC but likely the first week September.

READERS/ LECTORS:

Could all our present Lectors on rosters please meet for 45 minutes on Wednesday April 8th at 7pm in St Mary's Church. We need to tweak a few things, provide some background and correct some ways of doing things for the future so that the Word of God is proclaimed in the best possible manner. If that evening does not suit for some, then another meeting will be arranged for those particular Readers/ Lectors. Thanks, in anticipation. (Fr Greg)

JOIN US FOR A CUPPA

Please join us in the Parish Centre for Morning Tea following the
8.30am Sunday Mass. All welcome



Dear Parishioners,

Within the Christian Initiation of Adults in the Catholic Church, one of the final stages is the **Rite of Election**. In this rite the Church hears the testimony of the godparents and catechists (or priests like me) . Then they usually are judged by those who have known them over the months, as worthy to go on to the Easter sacraments. One can do the Rite of Election within one's normal parish community – which I normally do over the years – or go on to the Cathedral with the Archbishop as main celebrant. Up to 900 adult people become Catholic Christians each Easter in the Melbourne Archdiocese. At the Cathedral alone on February 22nd this year there was a record number of around 550 adults who wished to receive the sacraments of initiation (baptism, eucharist, confirmation) . It is the largest number ever recorded for the archdiocese and reflects a 57 % increase from 2025. This year they were welcomed into St Patrick's Cathedral – to their spiritual home – the mother church of Melbourne. Although not usually normal here at St Mary's there will be no catechumens for baptism this Easter. However, I have at this stage five adults who have recently started a journey with me every second Friday night from 7 – 8 pm from 18 years to 40 including also a 16 year who wishes to be baptised in the not too distant future.

Likewise in the **Brisbane archdiocese** there are 454 people, almost twice as many as last year's 241, who will be baptised. **Many of these being younger adults**. Therefore, it brings up the question of why young adults are choosing to become Catholic. For instance, in the Brisbane archdiocese a young adult, Ivy Anderson stated that she went to friends churches from different denominations, and while she enjoyed her time with friends, "something wasn't sitting right with me", she said. " I had been searching for a church, that was a slow process, I prayed for guidance and I asked God to lead me where he wanted me to go". Formerly agnostic, Ms Anderson and her mum embarked on a journey that would change them. "We sat in for Mass one morning and I just felt an absolute reverence that I had never seen in a service before. " So even though I didn't know when to sit or stand or what to say, I really felt at home, "she said. Over the next weeks, she started researching and was surprised to learn that everything she thought she knew about the Catholic faith was either completely wrong or completely opposite. "I've really enjoyed discovering Catholicism layer by layer, and it seems to get more beautiful as the puzzle pieces fall into place." Ms Anderson said that since she decided to embrace the faith, her father had noticed how it had changed her life. "He asked me if he could join me in coming to Mass and I got really teared up. I have a feeling that he'll be doing RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) next year," she said. **As I type this, I am sure that there are some in our congregation this weekend who are still searching and who are here with a friend**. As we are early on with a new group of half a dozen people if you wanted to contact me first about what it entails I am more than happy to convey when we meet and if you wish to join us – 0400524363. So far our new group has just touched on a few earlier areas such as who is Jesus Christ, the Trinity and the Bible. Next Friday we will be dealing with " Revelation" – how God reveals Himself.

PARTNERING FOR MISSION:

Most of our parishioners would have learnt from our earlier communications that the parishes of St Mary's Williamstown and St Joseph's (Spotswood and Newport), encouraged by the Archdiocese, have taken the decision to explore options for working more closely in some form of collaborative partnership. When I retire on my 80th birthday in June next year the intention is to have one Parish Priest share both parishes. This is not news to most of you but maybe news to some of you. With all this in mind the Steering Committees of both parishes will be within the month putting out a document for helping us explore future possibilities. Nothing is set in concrete, and a gathering will be announced for some of our main committees to meet each other such as the Parish Councils and the Parish Finance Teams. This gathering will be facilitated by members of the archdiocese concerned with partnerships or amalgamations. Some parishes are entering into an amalgamation scheme at this time but we are not as we are focussing rather on a genuine partnership with our brothers and sisters just north of us in Newport and Spotswood as we have so much in common.

PROJECT COMPASSION:

Thanks for all those who have donated to the Project Compassion appeal this year. I hope you enjoyed those wonderful short videos during Lent. Please bring your Project Compassion back next week if not already done so.

Yours 'in Christ'

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

Rosters for this Week 4th & 5th April March 2026 (Easter Weekend Masses)

Counting Team 4	Leanne Spiteri, Greg Morgan, Herb Zimmer, Steven Sagona, Eugene Yi
Ministers of the Eucharist	7.00pm Josie Penna, Evol Farrelly 8.30am Karen Colla, Gerard Colla 10.30am Maria Laudato, Di Collins
Mass Readers	7.00pm Mareena Peter, Himali Peter, Stephen Littleton, Josie Penna 8.30am Christal Augustin, Monika McKellar 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Welcomers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Chantel Castelino

Rosters for next Week 11th & 12th April

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am John O'Keffe, Ivonne Cram 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Chris Main, Jan Maine 10.30am Mareena Peter
Welcomers	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Jenny O'Sullivan 10.30am Di Collins

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Yeme Reddy, Sarah Rodgers, Charlie Galea, David Hume, Finn Pennisi

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Gisela Maria Reeves, Cecilia Buckley, Spiro Zahra, Nella Siragusa, Isa Frances Mannes, Innocenza Pecora, Angelina Pace, Marie Ann Richardson, John Clarke, Tony Falzon, Kurt Goetz, Rosaria Laudato, Jeff Cockerell, Emily McVeigh, Gordon O'Keefe, Frederick Hernan, Chris McKenzie, Thomas Mullens, Vera Newbury, Adrian Van Osta, John Galvin, Regis Hynes, Mary Sexton, Paul Vaisanen, Philip Hoban, Vincenzo Taliana, Benito Cilea, George Jones, Mary Bennett, Michael McGrath, Norah Maher, Hack Geoghegan, Calogero Durante, Giuseppina Petar, Francesco Antonio Mesiti, Carlo Falzon, Anthony Falzon, Graeme Skinner, Shirley Barclay and Frank Hynes; whose anniversaries are at this time.

A Community Initiative - Qigong Shibashi Tai Chi Exercises

A new initiative at St Joseph's by The Sea, 16 Esplanade, Williamstown.
An introduction to Tai Chi exercises through form, posture and breathing.
With these three together, we have Qigong Shibashi exercises.
Come and experience, starting Term 2. Just turn up.
Casual attendance welcome.

Day: Every Wednesday beginning 22nd April 2026