

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

8th February, 2026



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016

Telephone: 9397 6066

Email: williamstown@cam.org.au

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 58:7-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

SECOND READING:

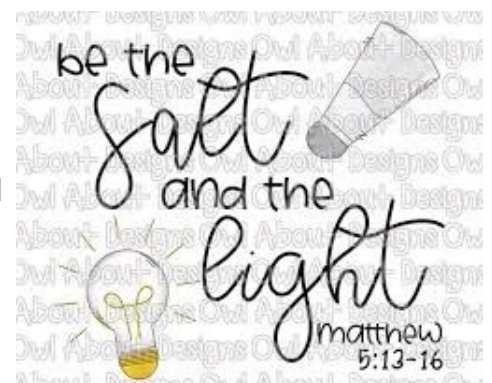
A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. 2:1-5

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW: 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.



Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Tuesday 10th February	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 11th February	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church.
Thursday 12th February	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church.
Friday 13th February	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church.
Saturday 14th February	7.00pm - 8:30pm Youth Group gathering in the Parish Centre. 13 – 18 years.

Dear Parishioners,

Thanks to Anthony O'Keefe for his presentation on Timor Leste last week. It showed how your money helped those three young men to get through both their first and second years in the seminary. Their poverty as sons of poor farmers from the hills is matched by our richness in comparison. A nice framed photo of the three young men is on the back table as thankfully arranged by Anthony in the first place. A 2-minute video presentation of the young seminarians was shown last Saturday night. This weekend we have the chance to show that short but worthwhile video also at the 10:30am Mass. Due mainly to the former Indonesian occupation young people in Timor -Leste face challenges that cut deep into the heart of the nation: poor quality education, high unemployment, and a growing struggle to hold onto hope for a better life. You as parishioners have helped in Timor- Leste to bring hope through the education of future priests. Hopefully we can continue to help these same young men through the next 4 - 5years. But also, we need to know of the somewhat greater worldwide help we can assist in through the work of Project Compassion in Lent once again this year. Below are four of the series of how Caritas Australia helps through Project Compassion.

GAZA: During the start of Lent we will hear Ahmad's powerful story and the latest updates on how Caritas Australia is supporting families on the ground.

TANZANIA: We will hear the story of young Sisilia 13 who has helped her village peers understand the importance of hygiene especially through Caritas help in making available the possibility of clean water taps.

BANGLADESH:

In Bangladesh, Monoranjon, with Caritas Australia's support, is learning climate-smart farming methods in a region where floods, droughts and salty soil make it hard to grow food.

FIJI: Fiji is known for its beautiful beaches, but many families face a serious health crisis. Poor diets cause sickness and amputations that could be prevented. With Caritas Australia's support, Manaini is learning to grow healthy food, share traditional meals, and build a brighter, healthier future for her community.

First Reading: Isaiah ch 58. The Jews had returned from exile in Babylon and the Temple was rebuilt by 516 B.C. After the first flush of religious excitement, the life went out of religious observance.

Second Reading: The Corinthians were Greeks and as such were a people with a distinguished contribution to philosophy (Aristotle, Plato etc). But Paul declares that he did not preach to them in philosophic terms; in fact he avoided human wisdom and presented Christ crucified to them.

The Gospel: Matthew alone makes salt and light the symbols of the disciples life.

LENT:

I am trying to help prepare for an effective Lent for all of us. Lent is only in ten days' time. One help can be the reflection books from Wollongong diocese. These I will put out next week as they give a variety of viewpoints and material. The other one is from the Brisbane archdiocese as a good alternative. The latter is more from a sound theologian and contains great insights for reflection. This is one way of helping your Lent come alive but there are many alternatives for your consideration, with your own reflection in particular.

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.

A SYNOD FOR MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESE:

Several other dioceses have already had Synods or General Assemblies in the last two years, as recommended just a few years ago within the Australian Church and its gatherings as fostered by our previous Pope Francis. Thankfully, we are now to have one. A Synod is a gathering of God's people – bishops, priests and representatives – who come together and discern together about matters regarding faith, governance, and pastoral care. This process involves prayer, dialogue, and consultation, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of the Church's mission in the contemporary world.

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 7th January & 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

Rosters for next Week 14th & 15th February 2026

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull 8.30am Peter Kirwan, Maryanne Wenzel 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Marcia Schobben 8.30am Himali Peter 10.30am Joe Covelli
Welcomers	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Teofila Hunt 10.30am Di Collins

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 Norma Kennedy, Robert Watts, Veronica Dillon, George Marzic, Kerry Danaher, Rosaria Mangion, Hilary Coles, Sr. Patricia Coolahan rsj, Michele Cafagna, Anna Pungitore, Karen Ann Dey, Margaret Eastmure, Pat Doherty, Luisa Kucic, Lyn Trojkovic, Anne Baker, Kath Dorgan, Elizabeth Brent, Antonio Darmanin, Marie Morgan, Franceschina Mifsud, Natalina Costa, Ilone Szabados, Erminia Abigniente, Valerie Watt, Tarryn Crawley, Mate Delija, Mavis Nichols, Stephanie Taliana, Dorothy Baker, Peter Hayes, Drago Trojkovic, John Foley, Emily Hudson, Hugh Auld, Peter Soussa, Joe Ellis, Lena Cassar, Michael Nicholaci, Valda Wills, Sr. Nell Russell, Sr. Kathleen Nolan, Norma Hynes, Philip Webb, Lisa Di Donato and Stephen Kelly, whose anniversaries are at this time.

