

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

10th May, 2026



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016

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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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER — YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles: 8:5-8, 14-17

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the First letter of Peter: 3:15-18

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14.15-21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

*If you love me,
keep my
commandments.*



Tuesday 12th May	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 13th May	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church.
Thursday 14th May	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 15th May	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

In case you were not here last week I will briefly go through the common Talk given by members of the **Partnership Steering Committee** last weekend at all Masses in Williamstown, Newport and Spotswood and if necessary add a few seemingly necessary comments of my own.

The Steering Committee was formed to guide the proposed “parishes in partnership” of the parishes of St Mary's Williamstown and St Joseph's – Newport & Spotswood. Following advice from both our Parish Councils the following personnel were chosen: Stephen Littleton, Karen Colla, Joe Covelli for St Mary's and Marlene Monahan, Paul Sharkey and Tony Nicholson from St Joseph's.

Following from previous material disseminated our **partnership steering committee want your feedback** by either speaking with one of those on the committee as above after Mass, or with any member of the committee at a time more convenient to you, emailing the parish, heading the email “Partnership Feedback” or dropping something in either the parish mail box or through the slit next to the presbytery door. These comments, questions, insights and so forth should ideally come under **5 KEY QUESTIONS FOR YOU:**

(all presented in Talk last weekend)

QUESTION 1 – WHAT IS A PARISH PARTNERSHIP

- “JOURNEYING TOGETHER” reflecting a commitment to collaboration and shared decision making.
- At a Parish level that means working together under the one parish priest – sharing resources, knowledge and gifts to best live the mission of the church.
- We are proposing a partnership – not an amalgamation.
- In the latter (not our case) when parishes are amalgamated, they go a step further ie they become a new parish under CANON (Church) LAW – sharing all assets and finances.

Any queries – any questions – any feedback.

QUESTION 2 – WHY PARTNER NOW?

Parish partnerships are an initiative of the Archdiocese of Melbourne to drive reform across the 200 parishes of the archdiocese – this is a process that is well underway with numerous partnerships already formed. Very few parishes have not come under a partnership (or amalgamation) process unless the very large ones of our archdiocese.

The two prime reasons for all partnerships are

- A. Shortage of priests across the diocese and
- B. An acknowledgment that partnering provides the best opportunity to “do mission better”.

Part of the timing of our partnership discussion was driven by my retirement on my 80th birthday on June 29th 2027. For some time now the Archdiocese has been advising me that St Mary's would not have a stand alone replacement Parish Priest for just Williamstown alone. Rather our two parishes will share a priest – currently Fr Samuel Kapani is Parish Priest of St Joseph's at this time and so under normal circumstances he will be the Parish Priest of both St Mary's and St Joseph's.

Any queries – any questions – any feedback?

QUESTION 3 – THE PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE

The Partnership Steering Committee (8 members which includes the 2 priests) was established by Fr Samuel and Fr Greg on advice from their respective Parish Pastoral Councils. The lay members chosen by their Parish Councils bring a wide experience as 2 were Principals of schools, one was Director of the Catholic Education System for Adelaide archdiocese, one was head of the Brotherhood of St Laurence, one is head of his own company running parish stewardship campaigns, one besides beforehand running his own vet clinic is now on the board of RSPCA Victoria – that gives you a little background to them.

Any queries – any questions – any feedback?

QUESTION 4 – OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our “Partnering for Mission” document identifies 7 Principles to guide our deliberations. I will identify them but not elaborate as I do not have the time or the space to do so.

- A SHARED VISION.
- EQUAL PARTNERS.
- DISTINCTIVE CHURCH COMMUNITIES.
- ACCESS TO THE SACRAMENTS AND PASTORAL CARE REMAINS A PRIORITY.
- RESPONSIBLE AND EFFICIENT STEWARDSHIP.
- COMMUNICATION AND THE ENGAGEMENT OF PARISHIONERS.
- PARTNERSHIP NOT AMALGAMATION.

Any queries – any questions – any feedback.

QUESTION 5 – A STAGED APPROACH

Understanding that we now have 14 months to plan (before my retirement) the partnership steering committee has decided on 3 stages:

STAGE 1 Setting the scene and understanding the issues – this we are doing through the discussions within the partnership committee but mainly through your feedback to the committee.

STAGE 2 Identifying and evaluating the options for partnership.

STAGE 3 Implementing agreed initiatives.

Any queries – any questions – any feedback?

The Steering Committee will be considering feedback from the round of consultations at both parishes at our **next meeting on May 27th**, and intend to provide updates in the months ahead.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PARISH:

Following on from last year’s successful annual general meeting we hope to have as many parishioners as possible to our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY MAY 31st** at 11:30am in St Mary’s Church – straight after 10:30am Mass – all parishioners’ welcome.

SCAFFOLDING: You will notice scaffolding around the presbytery. As a stitch in time saves nine there is the intention to repaint half of the presbytery at this time. Some of the woodwork and windowsills for instance are needing urgent attention while much of the rest of the outside exterior of the place is in good order. If we have any money left at the end of the year we can contemplate doing the other half of the presbytery. It is not the painter or the paint that is costing us the real money, it is the scaffolding costs these days. We need some good weather!

OLIVE TREE: Our massive Olive tree in front of Church seems to get bigger and bigger every year. There are now hundreds of ripe olives on it. Could someone pick those olives and use them for their families. Otherwise for the next month we will be squashing olives under our feet!

ROSARY: Often May is when many people say the Rosary. Maybe a family could at least say a decade some time before or after the evening meal – maybe! The Rosary is said to have started its initial success from the preaching of the Dominican, St Dominic around 1200 AD. More on this next week.

Yours ‘in Christ’ Fr Greg greg.trythall@cam.org.au 0400 524 363

WORKING BEE AROUND CHURCH GARDENS

SATURDAY May 16th 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.

Rosters for this Week 9th & 10th May 2026

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Beata Sicat 8.30am Karen Colla, Gerard Colla 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Jenny O'Sullivan 10.30am Kevin Perera
Welcomers	6.00pm Maylene Clayton 8.30am Teofila Hunt 10.30am Di Collins

Rosters for next Week 16th & 17th May 2026

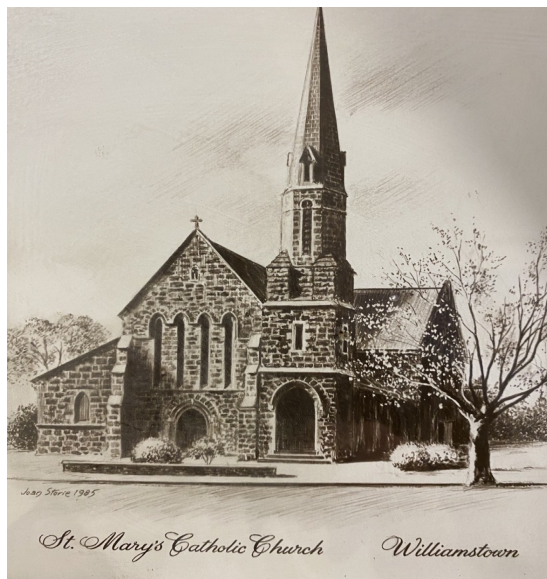
Counting Team 3	Ian Veal, Frances Moloney, Susan Jamieson, Larry Rigoni
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am John O'Keefe, Ivonne Cram 10.30am Alison Silke, Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Marcia Schobben 8.30am Anthony Verhoef 10.30am Bryan Perera
Welcomers	6.00pm Imma Marguglio 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Herb Zimmer

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Frank Trieu who passed away recently and Maria Sagona, Kay Magee, Clement Charles Peterson, Dr. Tony Huang, Andre Mande, Katica Bozanic, Desanka Repanic, Racheline Soccio, Maria Hoszylyk, Nicola Nardo, James Wills, Kathy Bednarek, Margaret Wills, Patrick O'Sullivan, Jack Taylor, Gordon Grainger, Vern Lawrence, Him McLaren, Patrick Quirk, Collin Maher, Ignazio Kucich, Frank Labb, Mary Geddes, Maria Napoli, Mary Lewer, Chris Carter, Charlie Axelson, John Bancell, Marion Brumby, Charles Brincat, Tony McKie, Chloe Avery, Margaret Black, Albert Bailly, Eileen Cooney, David Rowan, Des Brophy, Joan Shumway, James McAleese, Leo Doran, Arthur McKean, June Ellis, Catherine Doyle, Lenore Hay, John Bartolo, George Lewis, Matthew Costello, Alicia and Jan Oruba, Kathryn and Joseph Bojanowski, Rosaria, Alberto, Celestina, Emanuele, Giuseppe, Carmelo, Margherita, Felice, Ersilia, Natalino and George Mangion, Agostino, Margherita, Pasquale, Pietro, Rita, Francesca, Benedetto, Ignazio and Giuseppina Saragozza, Mario Camilleri, Maria Meloni, Natalino and Angela Meilak, Blondina and Lawrence Sammut, Michael Meilak, Susan Minton, Cath Willmott, Pam Neely and Joan Spiteri, whose anniversaries are at this time.



This week I received a photo of this sketch which was sent to me by 95 year old, Clem Cafarella, a former Parish Priest of Altona. It hangs in the foyer of the Priest's Retirement Home, Clifton Hill. Fr. Greg