

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*

22nd February, 2026



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016

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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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT — YEAR A

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Genesis. 2:7-9, 3:1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Be Merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. 5:12-19.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW: 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit
into the desert to be tempted by
the devil. He fasted for forty days
and forty nights and afterwards
was hungry. The tempter
approached

and said to him, "If you are the
Son of God, command that these
stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written:

**'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'**

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the
parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw
yourself down. For it is written:

**'He will command his angels concerning you
and with their hands they will support you,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.'**

Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your
God, to the test.'" Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain,
and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and
he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself
and worship me." At this Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is
written:

**'The Lord, your God, shall you worship
and him alone shall you serve.'**

Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.



Tuesday 24th February	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 25th February	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church.
Thursday 26th February	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Friday 27th February	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners,

At this stage I have four adults looking at Catholicism: one recent Year 12 student from Williamstown High, two sisters in their thirties and a doctor. If you are interested in Catholicism and or to increase your knowledge for your children, we are starting new group on this Friday 27th February at 7pm and every two weeks after. These sessions will not go past 8pm.

We take in areas such as social justice, the dignity of life, Christian moral living, Church history, sacraments, the Saints, the Church as Community, the Church's Calendar Year, the Mass, Prayer life, the Bible and so forth.

If interested in finding out more please email me on greg.trythall@cam.org.au or mobile 0400524363

LENT:

The story of Adam and Eve in the first book of the bible, is a sophisticated story. The main question to ask from it, is what does it mean? The story is concerned with the concept of sin and its origins.

The story tells us that human beings were created by God. Furthermore, they were created good, and not evil. God gave them the freedom to choose. In so doing God made it possible for them to be moral, that is, to freely choose to do what is right. Without the freedom to choose they would be no better than the animals that live not by choice but by instinct.

All our achievements, all our discoveries, all our wars, all the heights to which we have risen, and the depths to which we have sunk, have been about using or abusing the freedom of choice which God gave us.

Unfortunately, Adam and Eve abused their freedom. They chose to say 'no' to God. Thus, sin was introduced into the world. And the essence of sin is disobedience to God!

In spiritual terms we talk about Jesus being the new Adam. By his obedience to God, he restores for us the gifts lost by the disobedience of the first Adam. In the desert as in today's gospel, he is faced with the same choice that Adam and Eve faced: to do his own will or to do the will of God. Unlike Adam and Eve, he chose to do God's will rather than his own.

We may think it was easy for Jesus. It wasn't easy for him. He triumphed over Satan through prayer, fasting, and obedience to the will of God.

Like Adam and Eve, we are constantly drawn to forbidden fruit. Every day we are faced with choices: to do good or to do evil. It is clear that we have in us a strain of self-centredness and shortsightedness that causes us to make the wrong choices. When we make wrong choices, we can tend to blame others. Adam blamed Eve; Eve blamed the serpent!

The fact that Jesus won an important victory in the desert didn't mean the war was over. There would be other attacks. Every choice in life must be remade perhaps many times. However, every right choice makes the next right choice easier. If we do the right thing often enough, eventually it becomes second nature to us. That is one reason for Lent as we need to toughen ourselves. Lent through Christ' help not only helps us to toughen ourselves to keep making mostly rightly choices, but helps us to celebrate Easter as someone who has been and always will be on our side.

Yours 'in Christ'.

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS LENT at 6:30pm on Fridays:

27th February at Newport, Newcastle Street.

6th March at Williamstown, Cecil Street.

13th March at Spotswood, Hick Street.

20th March at Williamstown, Cecil Street.

27th March at Newport, Newcastle Street.

ISRAELI GOVERNEMENT CLEARS CARITAS TO CONTINUE WORKING IN GAZA

Caritas Australia has welcomed news that the Israeli Government has confirmed that Caritas Jerusalem, as a local charity, is not subject to reregistration guidelines that would ban it from operating in Gaza. Caritas Internationalis, the global Caritas network, has also affirmed its commitment to continue standing alongside members serving vulnerable communities in the Holy Land.

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.

CONGREGATION PLEASE LEARN FOR LENT

MYSTERY OF FAITH:

We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your resurrection
until you come again.



Green Team

Recycling Tubs - Recycling of small household items:

- On Sunday 22nd February and the 1st March (first and second Sundays of Lent), there will be an opportunity for recycling of items which cannot be disposed of in the yellow household bin. E.g. outdated mobile phones, batteries, packaging for medication (must be empty), light globes, CDs. **No large items please. The recycling tubs will be at the back of the church.** The Green Team will arrange for immediate removal and recycling.
- The Victorian government website below has a list of money saving tips for households to save energy and reduce power bills.
www.energy.vic.gov.au/households/save-energy-and-money

Rosters for this Week 21st & 22nd February 2026

Counting Team 1	Robyn Jones, Kimberley Jones, Paul Francis
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Larry Rigoni 8.30am Doreen Mitchell, Evol Farrelly 10.30am Alison Silke, Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Daniel Corcoran 8.30am Chris Maine, Jan Maine 10.30am Cindy Kotevski, Charlize Kotevski
Welcomers	6.00pm Imma Marguglio 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Joe Covelli

Rosters for next Week 28th February & 1st March 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 Christal Augustin 10.30am Kevin Perera
Welcomers	6.00pm Simon Pinzone 8.30am Jenny O'Sullivan 10.30am Herb Zimmer

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Tino Lechich and Harmine Abela who passed away recently and Marijan Peros, Margaret Harris, Mark Torjussen, Theresa Mifsud, Antonio Acquaro, Philip Webb, Lisa Di Donato, Stephen Kelly, John Paul Camilleri, Luigina Frlan, Mario Frlan, Ignazio Kucich, Elaine Jones, June Dibbs, Marie Anderson, John Brennock, Rosario Guastalegname, Rita Sargasso, Robert Morton, Kate Dawes, Marie Farrelly, Joso Djuric, Steven Drozdek, Frank Galli, Veronica Knight, Peter Black, Robert Barry, Rita Holdworth, Brian Williams, Joseph Maguire, John O'Grady, Ivy Shields, Alan Urban, Lena Cassar, Frank Woodruff, Mary McLinden, Mary Dyson, Michael Frawley, Agnes McDonagh, Joyce Zammit, Kay Green, Peggy Price, Laura Palumbo, Brian Begley, Sheila Easdon, Barry Dixon, Fr. Noel Oliver, Angelina Meilak and Natalino Meilak whose anniversaries are at this time.

LONG GOSPELS IN LENT NEED A FEW DIFFERENT READERS:

The long gospels of Lent such as 3rd Sunday in Lent, March 8th (Samaritan woman at the well); 4th Sunday in Lent, March 15th (man born blind); March 22nd (rising of Lazarus from the dead); 29th March (long passion Sunday readings) **need a number of different voices**, male and female. I do not have the time to ring around for every Mass every Sunday – so **please put your names down** for the various Masses as listed on back table. Thanks in anticipation. I will then get the long readings to you before that particular Sunday and your own part in it. **Fr Greg**