

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

29th March, 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

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A



FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 50.4-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 2.6-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 26.14 - 27.66.

Jesus was arraigned before the procurator, who questioned him: "Are you the king of the Jews?" He did not answer him on a single count, much to the procurator's surprise. Now on the occasion of a festival the procurator was accustomed to release one prisoner, whom the crowd would designate. They had at the time a notorious prisoner named Barabbas.

Since they were already assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do you wish me to release for you, Barabbas or Jesus, the so called Messiah?"Meanwhile, the chief priests and elders convinced the crowds that that they should ask for Barabbas and have Jesus put to death. So when the procurator asked them, "Which one do you wish me to release for you?" "Barabbas."When they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among them by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Above his head they had put the charge against him in writing: "THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS." Two insurgents were crucified along with him, one at his right and one at his left.....Once again Jesus cried out in a loud voice, and then gave up his spirit.



Tuesday 31st March	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church.
Wednesday 1st April	9.15am Mass at St Mary's Church. 2:30pm – 3:30pm Silent Hour of Adoration in Church.
Thursday 2nd April Holy Thursday	7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Mary's Church.
Friday 3rd April Good Friday	10:00am Stations of the Cross at St Mary's Church 3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at St Mary's Church. • The Liturgy of the Word. • Adoration of the Cross. • Holy Communion.
Saturday 4th April Holy Saturday	7.00pm Easter Vigil in the Holy Night at St Mary's Church
Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday	8.30am Resurrection Mass at St Mary's Church. 10:30am Resurrection Mass at St Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners,

Holy Week gives us an opportunity to accompany Jesus on his final journey. On that journey, he suffered betrayal, torture, crucifixion, and death. As we listen today to an account of the Passion of Jesus Christ according to Matthew, we are reminded of the sheer cowardice of the followers of Jesus who abandoned Jesus in his hour of greatest need. We are reminded of the wickedness too, of the religious leaders who plotted his death, and of the great cruelty of the soldiers who carried out his execution.

We need to be reminded of these things, because we have a kinship with them in our own sins. But that is not the purpose of the Passion Readings – the emphasis is more on Jesus, the central character of the story. What we are remembering is the fidelity, the courage and the sheer goodness of Jesus. Against the darkness of the cross on Mount Calvary, his goodness shines more brightly. The day of his death is not called 'Bad Friday' but 'Good Friday'. What makes it good is the love of Jesus. As he even said: "Greater love have no man than to lay down his life for his friends". It is that love of Jesus that we are remembering this week. The suffering of Jesus is an invitation to love. It says it in the most powerful way possible what Jesus so often said in his lifetime: "Love one another, just as I have loved you."

The suffering of Jesus is a revelation about love. It tells us that love sometimes entails suffering. Jesus stressed this in his lifetime, saying: "If anyone wants to come after me, he (or she) must forget himself, carry his cross, and follow me". In our era of painkillers and instant gratification, we expect everything to be pain free. Consider a few examples. It is painful to try to rekindle a relationship that has begun to cool. It is painful to try to keep the lines of communication open with someone who doesn't listen to what we say. It is painful to try to deal with someone who is demanding to the point of being unreasonable. For some people it is even hard to get out of bed to face the realities and responsibilities of everyday life – in doing so for the good of others we carry our own crosses.

TWO REFLECTION BOOKLETS FOR THE LENT.

The fact that all our 100 reflection booklets for Lent have been sold again this year to our parishioners, is a sign not only that you are taking Lent seriously but that these booklets have been mainly helpful to you. I had intended to mostly take up the Brisbane booklet from retired bishop, Mark Coleridge's insights, but certain circumstances led me to look at the Woolongong material more again. As the brilliant painting, by Caravaggio, is on the front and back covers, it is so worthwhile to read the explanations of it by Mons Graham Schmitzer on pages 57-59 for this weekend. Schmitzer is correct that Caravaggio had a terrible temper and in many instances was a violent man, yet I believe he is a prime case of the need for Purgatory! The latter I believe to be well founded as it gives us hope in God's mercy. But it also I believe quite rightly does not let us off the hook as if our sins did not matter. We are both responsible for our own bad actions but also should be applauded for the good we have done or accomplished in our lifetimes. We know Caravaggio did bad things, especially when his temper got the better of him, but I would like to believe that he has accomplished incredible good from his unbelievably beautiful paintings, some of which would surely be the best from anyone in the whole of the history of art. Surely God would take this into account. God gave Caravaggio a wonderful gift and he used it to lift us up to higher mysteries.

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

COMMUNION FROM THE CHALICE:

Within the next month or two I am hoping that we can reintroduce Communion from the Chalice. If you receive Jesus from either the host or the chalice it is still Jesus, but the ideal we believe from Jesus' command was to "take and eat, take and drink". The session for the Western suburbs will be held at St James the Apostle Church at 336 Derrimut Road, Hoppers Crossing North on Friday April 17th from 6pm—9pm. There is a fair bit of input on the night on eucharistic theology and the practical side of administering holy communion from the Cup. If you are able to attend, please contact Fr Greg so he can put in the nomination form for the evening.

What is a Synod:

A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly. "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"

The archbishop has announced a Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod for December this year.

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.



ACRATH EASTER CHOCOLATE

Would you like to ensure that your chocolate consumption over Easter is slavery free? ACRATH's **Choose Chocolate Free from Labour Exploitation** campaign offers helpful information, including a 3 min film clip telling the harsh story of one child in the Cote d'Ivoire.

Posters on the back tables have a QR code you can scan for more information about this campaign as well as resources and statistics. Alternatively go to www.acrath.org.au



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

Rosters for this Week 28th & 29th March 2026

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Larry Rigoni 8.30am Doreen Mitchell, Evol Farrelly 10.30am Eugene Yi
Mass Readers	6.00pm Emma Pinzone 8.30am Anthony Verhoef 10.30am Cecilia Balson
Welcomers	6.00pm Simon Pinzone 8.30am Teofila Hunt 10.30am Joe Covelli

Rosters for next 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	6.00pm Beata Sicut 8.30am Karen Colla, Gerard Colla 10.30am Maria Laudato
Mass Readers	7.00pm Volunteers Needed 8.30am Volunteers Needed 10.30am Volunteers Needed
Welcomers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Chantel Castelino

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Ken Jones, Beverley Shields, Domenico & Maria Ulcigrai, Caterina & Lino Lugnani, Trish Charles, Dolores Farrugia, Dorothy Murphy, Frank Zahra, Margarita Renzi, Rosaria Laudato, Lachlan Sagona, Giovanni Raunik, Peter Wentworth, Brendan Rooney, Kevin Hynes, Francis Spira, John Bartolo, Marcelle Michaud, Sr. Mary Byrne, Win Kelly, Jim Houlahan, Antonio Fernandes, Kevin Creaney, Terrence Duffy, Carmel Johnson, Cynthia Frawley, Harry Orr, Norma Ranson, Des Driscoll, Noreen Hunter, Geoff Hopkins, Kevin Grace, Giuseppe Nardo, William Spurling, William Dorgan, Lou Hindle, Charles Little, Fran Mannix, Michael McGrath, Kevin Walsh, Ted Literski, Margaret Mangion, Len Owens, Gordon Barnes, Edward Maguire, Mary Zahra, Gertrude Embach, Andrew Murphy, Robert Telfer, Win Hogan, Les Williams, Severina Ordinario, John Smith, Giovanni Radoicovic, Robert James Burke, Chahady Yacoub, Samia Yacoub, Piore Soussan and Nancy McCrae; 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

Time: 7.30am – 8.30am **Cost:** \$10 per person