

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*

4th February, 2024



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016

Telephone: 9397 6066

Email: williamstown@cam.org.au

Web: www.stmaryswilliamstown.org.au

Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall

0400 524 363

Email:

greg.trythall@cam.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian

0450 789 951

Monday, Tuesday

Parish Staff

Sharon Vassallo

Tuesday 8:30am – 4.00pm

Thursday 8:30am – 4.00pm

Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm

Kylie Skinner-Wednesday

8.30am–3.30pm

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 B

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Job. 7:1-4, 6-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Praise the Lord, who heals the broken hearted.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. 9:16-19, 22-23

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Christ bore our sickness, and endured our suffering.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.



Tuesday 6th February	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church
Wednesday 7th February	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church
Thursday 8th February	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church
Friday 9th February	9.15am Communion Service at St Mary's Church

Dear Parishioners,

We welcome back everyone who had taken time off at Christmas, to visit relatives and friends and take a well-earned break from the hectic pace of life. Although some priests have a slower pace of life, I usually find January quite busy with several weddings, funerals and a whole pile of baptisms mounting up. I have had my finger in a few pies that also take up my time in January such as being the main organiser as secretary of the Melbourne Clergy Golf Tournament and the much headier work as the Chair of the Australian Catholic Clergy Remuneration Assistance Fund for the last seven years. Our committee raises money from priests in Australia to send to priests who live in outback areas such as Broome diocese and have very little means of receiving a reasonable stipend. As it has been full on, I am hoping to **take time off during this week to refresh** myself for what should be another good but challenging year.

PETITION FOR GAZA:

There are a lot of very worried people in our Parish as well as many representatives of their countries in the United Nations on the continued atrocities in Gaza. Even the International Court of Justice in the last week was not too complementary of Israel's present stand. The International Court of Justice ordered Israel to take six provisional measures to prevent acts of genocide.

From my personal perspective to say it is an 'overkill' is to put it mildly by the present stance of the Israel government. I have no doubt many of their more sensible citizens are expressing strong



anger and disappointment with how brutal the retaliation has been on the Palestine people including the many women and children suffering from food shortages and lack of water. Accordingly, **one of our parishioners wanted me to put out a petition to sign down the back to send to the Hobsons Bay Council** as so many other metropolitan Councils have expressed the need for Israel to stop their present stand and seek more intelligent dialogue again. **Mainly the petition is calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire** including condemning the present violence of Israelite forces against the people of Palestine. As a parish we wish the people of both Israel and Palestine to live in peace in as so far as that is possible in the decades to come and not to continue this violence which will only lead to more hatred and violence in the long term.

NEW PARISH STAFF MEMBER:

I have been very pleased to be able to add Sharon Vassallo to our Parish Staff at the beginning of January. The financial area is a very difficult and complex area these days for Parish secretaries. Consequently, Sharon is being eased into that arena with the background help of her husband Anthony who is a business manager of one of the bigger schools in the Western suburbs. Fortunately, Anthony applied for that position from Brisbane later last year and around the same time his wife saw the position of parish secretary being advertised for St Mary's Parish Williamstown, Victoria! Our panel thought that Sharon to be the best applicant, and I am glad to say that she is doing a fine and more than capable job after a month here. I think Sharon will be very good for our parish as well as her husband Anthony who is doing some serious theological studies on the side which one day may lead him to be a married deacon within the Catholic Church. This would mean he could help with marriages, funerals and baptisms within a given area. Married deacons are going to be worth their weight in gold over the next decade or two in the Melbourne Archdiocese.

SHORT INTRODUCTION FROM SHARON:

"My name is Sharon Vassallo, and I am your new parish secretary. I was born in the UK and moved to Brisbane 17 years ago with my husband Anthony, and son Anton. At the end of last year, with Anton away at University, Anthony and I moved to Melbourne. We are delighted to have become members of the St Mary's parish and I look forward to serving our new community."

OTHER STAFF:

One of the other Staff members Kylie Skinner has worked here for the last 10 years and works a few hours as secretary on the Wednesday and completes the Parish Bulletin on the Wednesday morning after I send it completed by Tuesday night. Kylie and her husband Michael are well known in the Williamstown area and have two children in secondary school, Grace and Oliver. Kylie has been very loyal and reliable over many years. Just to refresh everyone's memory our other main staff member is Monique Julian who has been a Pastoral Associate for four years and took over from Sister Patricia. Monique works on a Monday and a Tuesday from her office in the presbytery. She coordinates the government school program and works closely hand in hand with our St Mary's Religious Education coordinator Charlotte Lipnicki. They do excellent work for our parish and school as Monique also helps with a school choir that operates especially at our Family Mass on the last Sunday of the month at 10:30am. Monique besides other things sings and plays music nearly every weekend at various Masses especially the 6pm and 10:30am Masses plus this year will help on the fourth or the fifth Sunday of the month at the 8:30am Mass. Monique coordinates all those who are to provide music at the three Masses throughout each month plus the Christmas and Easter services. She has two daughters who are now at that wonderful secondary college 'the Academy of Mary Immaculate' run by the Sisters of Mercy in Fitzroy. Like Sharon Vassallo with her vast experiences overseas Monique has worked as a teacher and community arts worker in Australia and fifteen years overseas in Asia, and South and Central America.

GARDEN WORKING BEES:

We will have a major one on **Saturday morning March 2nd** but we need a minor one as there are so many new weeds in the front gardens especially in front of the presbytery, and it looks very ordinary at the moment! Accordingly, if you could help with **weeding between 9 – 10am next Saturday, February 10th** that would be a great help before our major one on March 2nd between 9 – 11:00 am with new tan bark and so forth.

LENTEN MATERIAL:

Lent is hitting us very early this year as it starts Wednesday week. There will be another small reflection pamphlet with background material available given out next weekend. Also, I will put out a number of spiritual books that I have either read or half read in the past and as I have said before it is better in your library than mine! Project Compassion envelopes and boxes will be available next weekend.

ASH WEDNESDAY:

Mass will be on **Wednesday February 14th** at both **9:15am** in morning and **7pm** in the evening. It is nice to start Lent well.

ROSTERS:

I have put out on the back table this week all our rosters in case someone was not contacted about being a Reader, Special Minister, Welcomer, Lawn Mower person, Children's Liturgy etc etc

Yours 'in Christ'

Fr Greg - 1/2/2024



WORKING BEE AROUND CHURCH GARDENS

SATURDAY 2nd March, 2024—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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

14th FEBRUARY 2024

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

9.15am Entire School Mass. **7.00pm** Mass at St Mary's



Rosters for this Week 4th & 5th February 2024

Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Mary Soppitt 8.30am Karen Colla, John O'Keefe 10.30am Di Collins, Alison Silke
Mass Readers	6.00pm Daniel Corcoran 8.30am Chris Maine 10.30am Mareena Peter
Welcomers	6.00pm Michael Dillon 8.30am Stephen Littleton 10.30am Joe Covelli
Children's Liturgy	8.30am No Children's Liturgy

Rosters for next Week 10th & 11th February 2024

Counting Team No. 4	Leanne Spiteri, Greg Morgan, Herb Zimmer
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull 8.30am Maryann Wenzel, Eilin Taylor 10.30am Maylene Clayton, Maria Laudato
Mass Readers	6.00pm Frank Schobben 8.30am Anthony Verhoef 10.30am Olga Reginato
Welcomers	6.00pm Claudia Hall 8.30am Mary Frisby 10.30am Herb Zimmer
Children's Liturgy	8.30am No Children's Liturgy

IN OUR PRAYERS



We pray for Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Sarah Rodgers, Cathy Reid, Assunta Delgrosso, Yemme Reddy, Anne-Marie Pelikinakis, Anthony Watts

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES



We pray for Guiseppe D'Angelo who passed away recently and Franca Ficcarra, Fr. John Woodcock, Fr. John Spillane, George Marzic, Adriano and Antonia Azzopardi, Rosa Cini, Michele, Rosa and Luciano Azzopardi, Rosaria Mangion, Marie Read, Mons. Attilio Delise, Mons. Pietro Fonda, Helena Meehan, Francis Spina, Concetta Merlino, John and Reno Bartolo, Paul, Frances, John, Charlie and Mathew Zahra, Kevin Broadfoot, Ljubica Vuksevic, Helena Meehan, Kathleen Liston, Sr. Marie Kennedy, Alan Grace, Kevin Clarke, Peter Hamment, Arch Rennie, Mary Dalton, Jennifer Phillips, William Murphy, Angelina and Natalino Meilak, Lawrence and Blondina Sammut, Michael Meilak, Carmela Sammut, Nunzio Ficcarra, Peter and Vera Rice, Lisa Di Donato and Joan Spiteri, whose anniversaries are at this time.

