

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Leo O'Brien, Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Kevin Murphy, Sarah Rodgers, Cathy Reid, Assunta Delgrosso.



Days will pass and turn into years... but I will always remember you with silent tears.

Missing You!



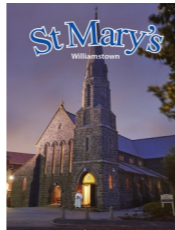
RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Nell Morley, Helen Nicholson, Antonia Kucich, Prisca Reddy, Augustinho Fernandes, Bev Curtis, Dalia Lucia, Angiolina Saragozza, Stella De Luca, Anna Dubiel, Vito Massaro, Pat Brannick, Edith Lovell, Marjory Renton, Gerry Franken, Len Roper, Norm Quale, Ron Grima, Dean Ballantyne, Catrina McInney, Clare Oliver, Kay Hollo, Dorothea Albinson, Lillian Connors, Joan English, Aileen Sandri, Victor Pezzani, Neddy Dawson, Ray Bryan, Anna Spence, Pasquale Fabbro, Herbie Cole, Leo Rogan, Anna Matson, Nellie Heaps,

Kath Jones, Kath Dowling, Fay Forbes, Bill Brydon, Patrick Wilkinson, Michael Tuck, Lawrence Meehan, Edna Ross, Anne Smith, Rose Ashkar, David Templeton, Wilma Ulmer, Albert Kennedy, Kerrie Knot, Mary Emilie Meerwald, Aurelio Sagona, Warwick Smith, Paolo Pecora, Salvatrice Pecora, Aristeia Sagona, Antonio Sagona, Salvatore Sagona, Berta Geremia, Patricia McBride, Annie Costa, Natalino Mifsud, Anthony Sammut, Joseph Sammut, Elena and Anthony Banavage, Maria and Lucio Falzon, Teresa and Giuseppe Sciciereff, Lawrence Galea, Blondina and Lorenzo Sammut; whose anniversaries are at this time.

ATTENTION!!! Don't Forget to Save Your Seat At Mass

As there is a maximum on the number of Mass attendees, please ensure that you register to book your (free) ticket to Mass. This can be done via our website: stmaryswilliamstown.org.au under the heading: **SIGN UP TO ATTEND MASS** or by accessing the link: signupgenius.com/go/stmarys



Someone Blew His Head Off!!



May we who are merely inconvenienced,
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving
their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility
to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our
neighbours.

Amen.

St Mary's Parish



A community where we bring together our gifts and talents

116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016
Telephone: 9397 6066
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Web: www.stmaryswilliamstown.org.au

22nd August, 2021

Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall
PH: 9397 6066
MO: 0400 524 363
Email:
greg.trythall@cam.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian
0450 789 951
Monday, Tuesday

Parish Office Manager-Secretary

Heidi Zahra
Tuesday 8:30am - 4pm
Thursday 8:30am - 4pm
Friday 8:30am - 4pm

Wednesday Secretary

Kylie Skinner
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.

Baptism 12:30am Sunday

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Joshua. 24:1-2, 15-18.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. 5:21-32.

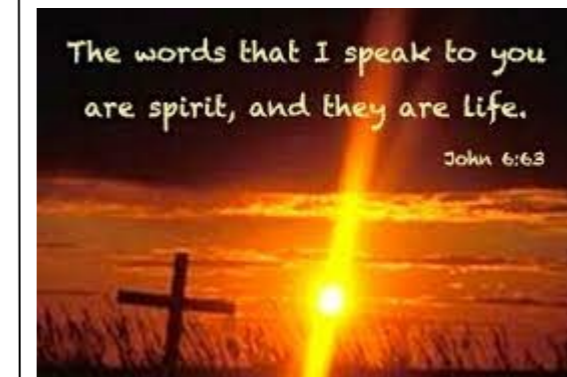
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.

GOSPEL: JOHN 6:60-69

Then many of his disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you?"

What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe."



Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."



Dear Parishioners,

Two weeks ago, when the Vic Govt announced that there would be a 7-day lockdown I thought at the time that it was a bit of overkill. However, when it was announced yesterday that there would be a further two-week extension I thought "you must be joking", and so many of you probably thought the same! Now it is what it is and we have to adjust to this new situation. It is of course always a pity that the responsible majority are affected by a senseless or stupid minority, through engagement parties or whatever!

I purposely walked down past Nelson Place shops and Ferguson Street shops yesterday - just to pray for those many businesses in our own suburb of Williamstown which have been affected by the past and present lockdowns. I know many restaurants have been sorely affected but a good percentage of Williamstown shops are stocked with certain merchandise, especially clothing merchandise which cannot be sold at this time. I feel for those businesses and the many others whether they be selling nick knacks or are owners of hairdressing salons etc etc. In such grave times it is important for us when it is possible to support those local businesses that not only employ a goodly number of people but add a certain vibrancy to the Williamstown township.

No one wants the lockdown to continue for too long into the future as for instance children are missing crucial class time and more importantly social engagement. Consequently, I cannot stress how important it is to get the covid jab so that we are less likely to be affected by a serious illness to ourselves or our love ones, such as our children and very importantly less likely to spread a virus to the rest of our Williamstown area.

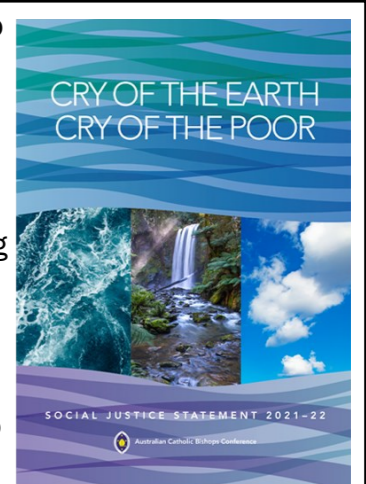
There are **two dates that I honour greatly in my life** as I appreciate them both, this Friday August 20th my ordination date, on the Feast Day of the great St Bernard of Clairvaux and my birthday, June 29th on the Feast Day also of two of our great saints, Peter and Paul. I believe with our experiences of lockdowns and the effect of the covid virus on our world, it is well to reflect on what Pope Francis stated the day before the Feast this year of those two beloved saints: "This year we will celebrate Peter and Paul in a world still struggling to emerge from the dramatic crisis caused by the pandemic. This scourge has tested everyone and everything. Only one thing is more serious than this crisis, and that is the risk that we will squander it, and not learn the lessons it teaches. It is a lesson in humility, showing us that it is not possible to live healthy lives in an unhealthy world, or to go on as we were, without recognising what went wrong. Even now, the great desire to return to normality can mask the senseless notion that we can go back to relying on false securities, habits and projects that aim exclusively at pursuing wealth and personal interests, while failing to respond to global justice, the cry of the poor and the precarious health of our planet." The point Pope Francis makes is that we learn from the crisis: we need to understand its impact, reflect on the values that societies should live by, and respond to the crisis.



Naturally one way of responding to the present pandemic crisis is not to turn inward but to be even more aware of the needs of others. Accordingly, I am very thankful for the great response once again to our **7th Annual Way of the West Food and Living Essentials Collection for Refugee and Asylum Seeker Families**. During the time the Church has been closed so many of you have left items in the two big containers on the front porch of the presbytery. Hundreds of items now fill the dining room floor of the presbytery and I am so thankful for that. Soon, when lockdown is over, we will transport these with the help of Mark Northeast's van to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Footscray.

In regards to asylum seekers It is hard to believe that almost 20 years have passed since the Tampa incident - a shameful and pivotal moment in Australian immigration policy. We saw people seeking asylum rescued at sea, refused entry to Australia and forcibly removed to Narau. Tampa marked the introduction of Australia's boat turn back policy and two decades of hardening asylum policy - and with the support of many people like yourselves we've been advocating for fairer policy every day since. Hopefully those poor Afghanistan people somehow lucky to get out of their country at this disastrous time will not find years of waiting for an asylum seeker decision on their behalf, if they were airlifted out or somehow got through by another means of transport. Blind Freddie could tell you that getting out of their country at this time was the most sensible step if I as I say they were lucky to get some means of transport out of the place. I pity the women and the children in that country now - only thing it seems now is that we pray for them.

The Australian bishops have shifted their **annual Social Justice Statement** to the end of August rather than normally at the end of September. I believe such fantastic statements on present social justice issues have often been lost due to the fact of having the AFL Grand Final on that weekend. I don't know the reason for the change of date but I believe that could have been one factor. God willing, I will explain that latest 2021 statement of the Australian Bishops with a good summary next weekend. Briefly we are facing an ecological crisis and Pope Francis wants the whole church globally to act with a greater sense of urgency. The Bishops of Australia draw from Scripture, from our theological traditions, from Catholic Social Justice teachings and from the wisdom of the world, including insights from First Nations peoples. It is a very well-considered annual Statement and I hope to do justice to it in a detailed summary for the bulletin for next weekend. It is aptly labelled: **Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor**.



By the way I have restarted **fathergreg.online** to give parishioners a sermon based on the scriptural readings of the weekends. It can be found on the top tool bar of your computer. I started the site last year as there was a reasonably long lockdown but as one does not know what is going to happen with the pandemic over the next months, or how the Vic Govt is going to respond I thought I had better restart the site. Those who look at this weekend's sermon I hope will find it worthwhile.

Yours 'in Christ'
Fr Greg 18/8/21

The Annual Way of the West Food and Living Essentials Collection for Refugee and Asylum Seeker Families

Week 4—Monday 23rd August to Sunday 29th August

Other Household Items

Dishwashing Detergent, Washing Powder,
Household Cleaning Products, Nappies (especially larger
sizes), Gift Cards (Kmart, Big W, Target)

All items can be placed in the plastic tubs at the Presbytery door.



An Invitation to serve your Parish! Come and be an Altar Server.

All students in Grades 3-5, boys and girls are invited to join the St Mary's altar server's team. New and old faces are invited to attend one training session, which will be held in the Church under the direction of Michael McConville. This will be held on Sunday September 12th from 4pm-5pm. Do not hesitate to ring Fr. Greg on 0400 524 363 for any further clarification. Please complete the below information and return ASAP.

Name of Child: _____

Name of Parents: _____

Contact email and phone number of at least one parent:



PARISH WORKING BEE - SATURDAY 11th SEPTEMBER - 9AM—11AM



Come along and join us to help clean and tidy up the parish gardens.
Even an hour of your time would be greatly appreciated.
If possible please bring your own tools.