

Rosters for This Week 26th & 27th March

Counting Team No. 2	Mary Forster, Marguerite Buckley, Lauren Dittmar
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm Gail Tull, Mary Soppitt 8.30am Karen Colla, Mary Frisby 10.30am Mimma Cutroni
Mass Readers	6.00pm Marcia Schobben 8.30am Mary Debenham 10.30am Olga Reginato

Rosters for Next Week 2nd & 3rd April

Counting Team No. 3	Ian Veal, Frances Maloney, Toni Cutroni
Ministers of the Eucharist	6.00pm John O'Keefe 8.30am Ivonne Cram, Mary Debenham 10.30am Di Collins
Mass Readers	6.00pm Josie Penna 8.30am Charles Hili 10.30am Olga Reginato

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Kevin Murphy, Sarah Rodgers, Cathy Reid, Assunta Delgrosso and Yemme Reddy.



RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES



We pray for 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 THANK YOU FROM SR. PATRICIA

Hello Fr. Greg, Parish Council, Heidi & Kylie & all parishioners. Thankyou so much for the enjoyable morning tea last Sunday morning. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to say thankyou and goodbye to you all. Thankyou too, for the beautiful card & bouquet-(so far surviving the heat!) May God bless you all and stay by your side always. God Bless **Sr. Patricia Stone. RSJ.**



Easter At St Mary's



Saturday 9th/Sunday 10th : Palm/Passion Sunday Masses. 6.00pm, 8.30am and 10.30am

Thursday April 14th: Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Good Friday April 15th Stations of Cross at 10am

Good Friday April 15th : Main Service Celebration of the Passion of the Lord. at 3pm

Saturday April 16th : Easter Vigil at 7.00pm

St Mary's Parish

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents



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

27th March, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR C



FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Joshua. 5:9-12

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians. 5:17-21

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

I will rise and go to my father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-3, 11-13, 17-24

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable. Then he said, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.....Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here I am, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' "So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began."



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

Heidi Zahra
Tuesday 8:30am – 4.00pm
Thursday 8:30am – 4.00pm
Friday 8:30am – 4.00pm

Parish Secretary

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.
Baptism 12:30am Sunday

Tuesday 29th March	9.15am Mass Service at St. Mary's Church.
Wednesday 30th March	9.15am Communion Service at St. Mary's Church. (Fr. Greg attending "Clergy Day" for Diocesan Priest in North Sunshine.)
Thursday 31st March	9.15am Mass at St. Mary's Church. (9.15am TV crew filming directly outside for a series on grief- only main doors need to be left open after Mass.)
Friday 1st April	11.30am Senior's Mass at St. Mary's Church. Followed by luncheon in the parish centre. All Welcome. 6.30pm Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's Church.

Dear Parishioners and Visitors

In line with this week's Gospel of the Prodigal Son I will be holding a **reconciliation service of forgiveness at 5:15pm just before the 6pm Mass on Saturday April 9th** – the Saturday before Holy Saturday.

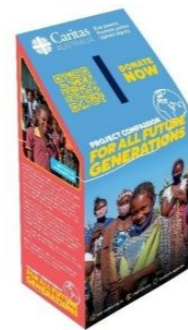
For those who have the Remember books for Lent (I will leave a few spare copies for others of the pertinent pages for this week on the back table) you will see a magnificent painting of the Prodigal Son scene by Bartolome Murillo. As it states in the commentary: **'Murillo emphasizes the protective embrace of the forgiving father.....Is the Father not only inviting us, but even begging us to come back to him this Lent?'**



Although many restrictions have been lifted it is important to understand that in a **Covid Safe plan** we need to abide by the following government regulations still:

- Hand sanitiser must be available for all to use, particularly at places of entry and exit to our churches.
- The chief Health Officer currently recommends masks to be worn indoors.
- Now the use of hymn books and other worship aids are again permitted as part of the liturgy.
- On Palm Sunday palm branches can be made available.
- On Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper) washing of the feet can be resumed – the celebrants and participants need to wear a face covering while performing the rite of the washing of the feet. We will be looking for some volunteers.

I hope the Project Compassion videos have helped to make everyone even more appreciate the great work of Project Compassion on behalf of 'Australian Caritas'. We can take for granted the things that not only St Vincent de Paul organisation do for flood victims in NSW and QLD, but also what "Australian Caritas" does throughout our world, and their sister connections in very many countries are extensive. I hope you feel generous through the envelopes at back or the project compassion boxes to support their good work by the end of our Lenten journey in preparation for Easter. The Parish always sends the majority of parishioners money onto Australian Caritas soon after Easter.



Not only during Lent should we be aware of St Vincent de Paul and Caritas but also the work our local organisation **"Way of the West"** does for refugees and asylum seekers. Although we are only a small parish group and met again last Wednesday night (monthly meetings) there is an enormous amount we can do as shown by the enclosed bulletin items on behalf of "Way of the West". As a group we struggle trying to keep our patience in order to see if much of our difficult work comes to fruition. Those fruits are shown every now and again by the stories enclosed on page 3 of this bulletin but also through such examples as a former refugee 'Silvanus' ringing me during last week to invite me to his wedding! Some of you will remember Silvanus as a single man coming to our morning teas a few times after the 8:30am Mass about 5 years ago. He was a West African refugee from Ghana who had very little English and was having great trouble to pay rent. Our Parish and "Way of the West" helped him until he eventually found cheaper rent in Cheltenham and was helped greatly by one of my earliest parishes of appointment, Our Lady of the Assumption Cheltenham. St Mary's Williamstown had helped him with tuition fees at university in order to get a teaching degree. Even though his English was hardly up to scratch he was subsequently luckily given a teaching position near Mildura at Red Cliffs in a Catholic school.

Continued.....

The last few years have gone by and now lo and behold last week he told me over the phone that he had met a lovely woman from Geelong and they are getting married at Our Lady's Church in Cheltenham on May 21st! Would I be a co-concelebrant? The Lord works in many marvelous ways. It is another good luck story like the stories of Project Compassion of a life being turned around by some normal Christian caring from two parishes and their generous parishioners along the way.

Please note **"Stations of the Cross"** is on again for the next few **Fridays at 6:30pm** - as another way of praying in readiness for Easter.

I am still looking for two more volunteers to help on the roster with the cutting of our front grass. It starts in April. It could be you!!

Yours 'in Christ'

Fr Greg 24/3/2022



Way of the West - Update on the Newport House

We are delighted to let you know that with the Parish's support at and through a difficult time, the asylum seekers (former) residents of the Newport house are now "on their feet", have work, achieved independence, and are also now starting to thrive in and contribute back to the community. During the week we received the following letter from BASP (Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project), which stated in part;

"We have been most grateful for the support of the parish for residents in the Newport house. The women formerly there have become independent and moved on, so appreciative of the rental help from the parish when they needed it. This enabled Farhia to have the surgery she needed before securing full time work and private rental for herself and her daughter.

It also assisted Mirabel when she had no work rights and was therefore hampered in earning an income. She now has work rights and has married and moved to Hampton Park.

As advised, the current residents are all men who were in offshore detention for 7 years, then over a year in hotel detention in Melbourne before being released late last year.

Two have since secured work and have begun paying rent. A third hopes to do likewise in the next month or so. Therefore, we think the rental for this property is now largely covered."

Albion and St Albans Houses – Our Next Projects

Two other asylum seeker families in the west have been identified for Parish assistance. These families would currently benefit greatly from Parish rental support and other support as outlined below.

One is a mother, originally from Iran, with 2 preschool children, who fled a violent husband late last year when she was about to deliver her 2nd baby.

BASP has been able to secure a house for rental in Albion. Since moving into this safe environment the mother has thrived, making connections with local services and other mums.

She currently receives no income and to date has not been eligible for some income support. BASP and Red Cross have been assisting with emergency relief funds.

The other is a family in St Albans. The father required dialysis every day or every 2nd day having to get there by taxi.

The wife is his carer but also working 3 days a week for 4 hours at an airport hotel to help with these costs.

One son, 20 is in training at the same hotel and should earn some money soon. The other 3 children attending school.

BASP has been assisting with rent, ASRC with some food and they are applying to Red Cross for funds for the bills etc.

They have a car which is not working, but only the husband has a licence and he is not well enough to drive. The mother would love help to learn to drive and get her licence.

The Parish Finance Committee has generously allocated \$7,500 to assist with rental support, for these families, and we are looking into driving lessons and car repairs.

Should you wish to assist please contact: contact Mark Northeast on 0409 337 083
or by email on mark.northeast@pitcher.com.au