

## PLENARY COUNCIL PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land. O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council. Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road. Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth. Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying. Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen. Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.



### IN OUR PRAYERS

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



### RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Mary Hannebery, Rory Gallagher, Jessica Pace, Peter Casey, David Casey, Peter Wenzel, Madelin Sliva, Alexandra Jane Zahra, Leo Pungitore, Pasqale Vivona, Sime Vuksevic, Paul Falzon, Agnes Hayes, Jean Healey, Neau Prun, Barry Frisby, Fr. Vic Crennan, Michael Kennedy, Pat Tuck, Jim Hynes, Sonia Schilich,

Donato Di Fabrizio, Carmen Borg, Paolo Pecora, Donald Marr, Carmelo Bendistinto, Peter Hernan, Salvatrice Cali, Margaret Keating, Roberta Carlon, Ted Jones, Robert Anstey, Anne Phipps, Mathew Zahra, Ray Hansen, Muriel Hynes, Alfie Hishon, Libra Del Grosso, Paul Wheelahan, Mary Barker, William Hill, Les Hodder, Beth Humphries, Tom Magee, Helen McLaren, Thelma Dundon, Freddie Lao, Roland Zammit, Felice Lanzon, Margherita Lanzon, Clare Henry, Rosa Taliana, Jim and Maureen Morgan, Peter Collins, Maryam Bella, Helen Bella-Panoussi and Rose Achar, whose anniversaries are at this time.



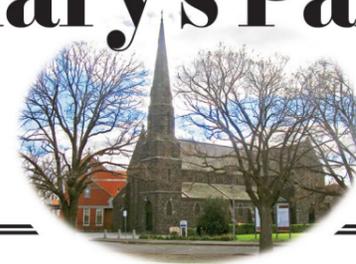
### A prayer for asylum seekers

Lord,  
No one is a stranger to you  
and no one is ever far from your loving care.  
In your kindness watch over refugees and  
asylum seekers,  
those separated from their loved ones, those  
who are lost,  
and those who have been exiled from their  
homes.  
Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,  
and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.



# 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](mailto:williamstown@cam.org.au)  
Web: [www.stmaryswilliamstown.org.au](http://www.stmaryswilliamstown.org.au)

26th September, 2021

## TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

### FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Numbers. 11:25-29.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

### SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of James. 5:1-6.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Your word, O Lord, is truth;  
make us holy in the truth.

### GOSPEL: MARK 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward."

"Who ever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."



### Parish Priest

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

Dear Parishioners,

I know many of you have conveyed to me that you would like to get back to religious worship and Mass. Nevertheless, I am confronted with two complications on this front. Firstly, the main one is that there is no certainty that we will reach the targets of 70% on October 26<sup>th</sup> or 80% by November 5<sup>th</sup>, and secondly due to mainly many wedding commitments, the period Oct 25 – Nov 19<sup>th</sup> is the only time I can take my annual holidays.

Only **outdoor religious services** are allowed for up to 50 people after October 26<sup>th</sup> according to the latest Victorian government roadmap. Accordingly, as the end of my annual holidays is November 19<sup>th</sup>, I propose as we are allowed to have **religious services indoors for 150 people for the fully vaccinated** by that proposed time that we start again on a big roll, from that weekend of Nov 20/21<sup>st</sup> onwards. This would give parishioners further incentive to be fully vaccinated by that time as we make this “a very real welcome home weekend for all of us”. This November 20/21<sup>st</sup> deadline would also give more certainty of getting to the 80% vaccination rate with that extra two weeks after Government’s best predictions.



Those **children and parents of the grade 5 children** have been given the rawest of deals during these last big lockdowns as the ceremonies for 1<sup>st</sup> eucharist have now been put off 7 times. Yes, 7 times – it is hard to believe!! But for you in that category and for all who have endured some other hardship during this pandemic may I remind you all of “the wattle”! Wattle is the national floral emblem of Australia. It represents resilience to withstand the harsh Australian climate and its effects – droughts, rain, floods, winds bushfires and now earth tremors – and yet it rises up and flourishes. Its beauty and colour enhance the landscape of this country. When you see the wattle now out in bloom in the Williamstown area and surrounds may it give you a feeling that there is always hope within the most difficult of circumstances.

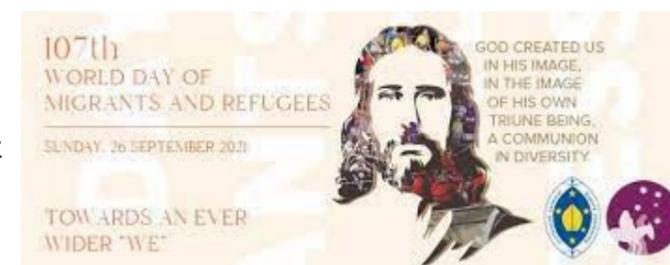
I need to mention a few other issues:

1. On the back of the bulletin is a prayer for **the Plenary Council**. The Plenary Council will place next month from the 3- 10 of October, 2021. From Oct 3-10 the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first of two Assemblies of the Plenary Council. Due to COVID and the varying lockdown restrictions across Australia, **the first Assembly will take place online**. As this is the first major council of the Catholic Church in Australia since 1937 it is only appropriate that several expert advisors in their fields join over 280 people from across the Catholic Church ‘called to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ centred Church in Australia’.
2. The son of the former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia is Fr Frank Brennan, a Catholic Jesuit priest. Thankfully we have lawyers of his calibre to point out problems with present government legislation in our state parliaments. For instance, Fr Frank who works through Newman College at the Melbourne University suggested **3 ways in which Queensland’s present euthanasia bill goes too far**:
  - a) Under Victorian law a registered health practitioner is not allowed to initiate discussion about VAD (Voluntary Assisted Dying) with a patient or resident to whom they are providing health or professional care services. Under the QLD bill the health practitioner is allowed to initiate the discussion. As Fr Frank suggests “...the last thing ageing, sick people need is evangelising health practitioners prompting them to consider VAD.”



- b) Second, under Victorian law a doctor is able to buy out of all aspects of euthanasia by informing their patients they have a conscientious objection. The QLD Parliament has been proposing that the provider who views VAD as morally unacceptable must provide the patient with information about another provider “who, in the practitioners belief, is likely to be able to assist the person with the person’s request”!!
- c) Third, under Victorian law and practice, hospitals and nursing homes can maintain their principled objections to euthanasia, giving notice to all patients and residents that VAD services are not provided on their campuses, whether for religious or other reasons. The QLD bill provides access for consulting VAD practitioners to facilities that do not provide VAD.

Although I was brought up in a very Anglo-Saxon suburb in Footscray in the 1950’s, by the 1970’s my best two mates in the seminary were from migrant families: one was of Maltese heritage and the other was born in a German refugee camp – from Polish background. As this weekend is the celebration of the “**World Day of Migrants and Refugees**” throughout the Catholic world, no doubt all of us have friends who are either refugees or migrants from an incredible diversity of backgrounds. This is not only good for us, but good for our country. Yet still we must fight for the underdog to join our ranks, otherwise as the present Pope states: “The truth however is that we all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer others, but only a single ‘we’, encompassing all of humanity.” When I mention ‘underdog’ I mean for instance nearly 20,000 refugees



who have been living in Australia for almost a decade, but who have only been given temporary visas. Like the guy who visited my doorstep today who was a former national soccer player, but was bashed by a different ethnic group in his torn apart country! Since these types of people do not have permanent residency, they cannot apply to have their family members join them here. Such prolonged family separation impacts on peoples physical and mental wellbeing. Consequently, I am glad to see that in December last year Bishop Long established the organisation ‘**Catholics for Refugees**’. This network brings together the many Catholic organisations and individuals supporting refugees and people seeking asylum in our country. The network allows Catholic refugee supporters to inform and support each other and, in doing so, to help create more compassionate and caring Australia for the vulnerable people who have come to our country seeking protection. <https://catholicsforrefugees.org.au/>

On a lighter note, talking about ‘**underdogs**’ **my team is listed by the bookmakers as the ‘underdogs’** this weekend and by the time some of you have read this bulletin Melbourne or the Bulldogs will have won the Grand Final! I was fortunate with few injuries to have played a fair bit of Australian Rules football over a 20-year period: I was never the star of the team but I would like to think I played my part! Consequently, I think I have learnt at least five major lessons in team sport, in particular Australian Rules football: firstly, you enjoy the friendship of those you are playing with; secondly you play to enjoy the sport; thirdly you try your best, fourth you congratulate the opposition if they have beaten you (and not be a poor loser); and finally, you play fairly within the spirit of the rules. If Melbourne beats the Western Bulldogs, I will be very disappointed but I will recover to enjoy another day, and another day to see my team play and at times win again. Where there is life there is hope! Losing is part of life and so is winning. If the bulldogs lose this coming weekend all I mainly wanted was for them to have tried their very best and if they still lose, I can still be proud as I will always be a dog! If the bulldogs win, I will be over the moon of course – go bonty/go dogs.

Yours ‘in Christ’

Fr Greg 22/9/2021