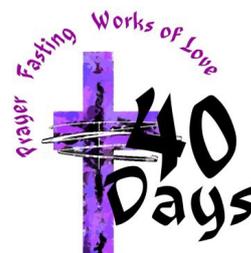


# Our Lady of the Rosary

Catholic Church

26 Swanston Street, St Marys, NSW 2760  
Tel: (02) 9623 1962

Parish Email: secretaryolrchurch@iinet.net.au  
Parish Website: www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au



Entrusted to the Salesians of Don Bosco

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A -

8 March 2026

### Entrance Antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me  
for I am alone and poor.

### First Reading: Ex 17:3-7

*Give us water to drink.*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

**The Word of the Lord**

### Responsorial Psalm:

*(R.) If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.*

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

### Second Reading:

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

*The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

**The Word of the Lord**

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Glorify and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

**Glorify and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### GOSPEL: John 5:42

*The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well

is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.'

Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

### Communion Antiphon:

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.



# IN OUR PARISH

## PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr. Jeff Miller SDB  
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Petelo Vito Pau  
 Parish Secretary: Fleur Mathias  
 Asst. Secretary: Violetta B (Mondays)  
 Parish Telephone: 9623 1962  
 Parish Email: [secretary@olrchurch@iinet.net.au](mailto:secretary@olrchurch@iinet.net.au)  
 Parish Website: [www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au](http://www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au)

**Enquiries:** Please phone the Parish Office between 9:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:30pm, Monday to Friday.

**Salesian Community:** Phone: 9623 1220

Rector: Fr. Petelo Vito Pau

**Don Bosco Youth Centre:** Phone: 9623 0450

Director: Fr Joseph Huong SDB

### **Salesian Sisters:**

Community Leader: Sr Edna Mary McDonald

### **Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School**

Principal: Ms Jackie Willard Phone: 8856 8301

Email: [olorstmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olorstmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Web: [www.olorstmarys.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olorstmarys.catholic.edu.au)

### **Emmaus Catholic College**

Principal: Mrs Gabriela Osterlund Phone: 9670 4588

Email: [emmaus@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:emmaus@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Web: [www.emmauskempscreek.catholic.edu.au](http://www.emmauskempscreek.catholic.edu.au)

## RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Wednesday: 11:15am - 11:45am. Mass at 12 noon

Saturdays: 9:00am - 10:00am, 5:00pm - 5:30pm



## PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

24 hours, 7 days a week in the Adoration Chapel.  
(All are welcome)

# MASSES THIS WEEK

**Sat 7 Mar** **Ss. PERPETUA & FELICITY**  
6:00pm Christabelle & Archie Falcao

**Sun 8 Mar** **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
7:30am Eileen Morrow  
9:00am Evelyn  
10:30am Krystyna Szpizakowski  
5:30pm Pro Populo

**Mon 9 Mar** **ST FRANCIS OF ROME**  
6:30am Freddie Mathias  
9:00am Rainer and Rochelle Cruz

**Tues 10 Mar**  
6:30am Milton Fernandes  
9:00am Alicia Bulatao

**Wed 11 Mar**  
6:30am Leo and Theresa Pereira  
12:00pm Constance Wijeratne

**Thu 12 Mar**  
6:30am Bill Burke  
9:00am Mary Kutty John

**Fri 13 Mar**  
6:30am Nathaniel  
9:15am Bernadette Burke

**Sat 14 Mar**  
8:00am



## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

### **Jesus the Healer, we commend to your gentle hands**

Valverde, Marylin Villamor, Margaret Gallagher, Rose Cauci, Emmanuel & Josephine Vella, Maya Glinski, Ruth Magnaye, Jorge Oliveras, Josephine Evans, Tenesha Faulkner, Linda Weightman, Rudy Rupac, Elinda Lopez, Norma Sulvita, Michael McDermot, Reynaldo Handog, Wayne Reynolds, Maryanne Santos, Denise Blanche, Patrick Levelle, Fr Bob Bossini, Bertha Wetton, Cocksedge Family, Dexter Assey, Peyton Daley, Mario Cauchi, Robert Engelebrecht, Reynaldo Bendayral, Vanessa Trujillo, Renee Azzopardi, Juliet Lee, Margaret Lawrence, Ashton D'Costa, Rolando Aguda, Hugo Labra, Shiv Naiker, Andre Rodriguez, Ginnah Alia, David Freeman, Susie Lipstack, Charlise McMillan, Crystal Darcy, Zdravko & Marija Palovic, Evotia Letele, Karen Barret, Josephine Mitchell, Emelita Howlett, Richard Dauglash, Emma Tucker, Jackie Cullen, Vicky Xerri, Esperanza Mirafeuntes, Abraham Thomas, Rectahmma Abraham, Sophia Furey, Alicia Bulatao, Mhom Samson, Aurora Jimenez, Adam Burton, Annabelle Rego, Arou Akot, Colleen Assimus, Jozef Karkowski, Ronald Manzano, Anna Juresa, Jose Maria Pepingco, Ronnie D'costa, Chito Redoblado, Beatrice Leary, Lorraine Damiani.

## PRAYERS FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

### **Please remember in your prayers our deceased parishioners, family and friends especially**

Patricia McGee, Marie Thompson, Gloria Rivas, Valerie Hennessy, Lucy Levelle, Lolita Allarey, Bishop Kevin Manning, Maria Anh Nguyen, Elvis Vaz, Roland Peters, Roberto Rayco, Sr Mary Griffiths, Sr Therese-Anne Curmi FMA, Sr Kathleen Hanna FMA., Cynthia Sulvita, Evelyn McVey, Patrick Nathaniel, Sybil Williams, Karl Kiseli, Kevin Piesley, Foad Sakkour, Antonio Oliverio, Peter Dorakay, Janice McKelvie, Marc Norric, Cecilia Milo, Richard Scibberas, Edna Coles, John Joe Noonan, Ben Santiago, Rolando Aguda, Maria Crastic, David Reddin, Noelene Trower, Evelyn Bates, Peter Nicholson, Remon Goldstone, Maria Pace, Dominica Rositano, Vijaya N Perera, Pauline Harris, Pauline Carr, Phyllis Cross, Ellen Buss, Joseph Khanh Le, Bill Burke, Rainer Cruz, Henryk Kowalczyk, John Ross Birch, John Rodriguez, Argyna Santiago, Pope Francis, Nozha Mey, Denis McGee, Rodney Blundell, Jamie Dowsett, Ivan Canic, Josh Bulloch, Ruth Borg, Ostono Vaurasi, Len Dettling, Damian Bonser, Sr Joanna Healey, Clementina Canuto, Ross Graham, Paul Muscat, Lenin Nunes, Frank Stricek, Christine Walker, Paz Jacinto, Perry Peisley, Beryl Martin, Pauline Rogers, Carmel Jeffery, Greg Whitby, Charlie Kirk, Marie Rosario, Suzana Stojcevski, Fr John Briffa SDB, Fr Frank Moloney SDB, Mary Kumar, Serge Nalletamby, Peter Aquilina, Angela Barca, Victoria Borg, Deacon Petelo Savea, Andrew Vaessen, Milly Martin, Alicia Bulatao, Pasquale Bellino, Br Rey Pongo, Tony Martin, Patricia Armstrong, Stephen Neville, Raymond Clarke, Sarafino Enadid, Felicia Sisinni, Eileen Morrow, Vincent Leary,

**Eternal rest grant unto their souls O Lord, let light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen**

## 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections:

**We Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support.**

**If you prefer to donate via ONLINE BANKING,**

**Please refer to details below:**

**(1st Collection) - For the Clergy's sustentation & care**

**BSB NO:** 067 950 **ACCOUNT NO:** 00004414

**ACCOUNT NAME:** St Marys Pastoral Revenue

**(2nd Collection) - Parish Ministry & Maintenance**

**BSB NO:** 067 950 **ACCOUNT NO:** 100000329

**ACCOUNT NAME:** St Marys Catholic Church

*First Collection (previous weekend)* \$3397.90

*Second Collection (previous weekend)* \$3094.80

*Tap & Go Donations* \$1890.00

## TAP & GO MACHINES

**The two New Tap & Go machines in the church, donations go towards the Church Refurbishment.**

*Kindly Select your donation amount \$5, \$10, \$20 or other.*



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Held every Friday in Lent at 7pm, in the Church. All are welcome.**

### HOLY WOUNDS DEVOTIONS

Come, honour the Holy Wounds of Jesus.  
**Monday 9 March, 7:30pm, Church**  
All are welcome.



### AN HOUR WITH JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE



*"Can't any of you stay awake with me for just one hour? Mathew 26:40*

**12 March 2026, 7:30pm – 8 :30pm**  
following the 7pm Mass. Come join us.

### CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS

Sunday 15th March 2026, 2:00pm

Celebrant: *Fr John Puli*, Campion College  
8-14 Austin Woodbury Pl, Toongabbie.

Mass will be followed by individual prayer for healing. All welcome!



### LOST PROPERTY

For Items left in the Church / Adoration Chapel, contact the Parish office during office hours only.

### CARITAS - Project Compassion



In 2026, Project Compassion calls on us to

**"Unite Against Poverty" this Lent**

*It is an invitation to stand in solidarity with people around the world who face immense challenges every day – challenges that most of us can scarcely imagine. Please pick up a Project Compassion box from the table in the Church Foyer.*

***Project Compassion Boxes will be collected on Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30pm.***

### CAFÉ IVAN

**SOUP KITCHEN** by KKOTTONGNAE & OLR

We welcome our needy neighbours and homeless for a warm meal.



**Thursdays 6pm - 7pm**  
**Parish Hall -Basement**

*(corner of Swanston St and Collins St, St Marys)*  
Contact Br James or Parish office for more information

### IMMACULATE MARY STATUE



**Ms. Nancy Catherine**  
**6/74 Mamre Rd, St Marys**

If you would like the Rosary Statue in your home for a week, kindly contact Mr & Mrs Johnson 0404 028 823.



### WE WELCOME

Samuel Paul Mifsud,  
Adriana Lucic Ghoulmieh  
Selina Thamarai Jesurajnam  
Michael Alexander & Cora Olivia Lo Campo,  
and Malia Kaitlyn Devine.  
**into our Parish Family through the Sacrament of Baptism.**

### DON BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE

is resuming bookings for private functions and birthdays as of now.



**For bookings speak directly to Fr Joseph at the Youth Centre.**

### Natural Fertility – Natural Family Planning

Come and explore a natural, effective, healthy and scientific approach to achieve, space/avoid pregnancy or monitor women's health. NFP is suitable for all situations including post-contraception, breastfeeding mothers and women experiencing peri-menopause.

[www.parracatholic.org/learn/natural-family-planning](http://www.parracatholic.org/learn/natural-family-planning)

### OCP Men's FREE Movie Night

Several men from various churches with a heart for Men's Ministry have arranged for a FREE Movie Night at Glenbrook Cinema

**7:30pm on 10th March**

**Movie: "I Can Only Imagine 2". All welcome.**

Tickets are limited and available here: <https://events.humanitix.com/i-can-only-imagine-2>

**Colin Klein M: 0431143 692, [colinrk72@gmail.com](mailto:colinrk72@gmail.com)**

### Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Celebrations:

**Monday, 6th April 2026, 1:30pm – 5:30pm**

You are invited to celebrate with us the 75 years of the arrival of the first Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary to Australia and 60 years of the Schoenstatt Movement in Australia. Join us on Easter at Mount Schoenstatt – *Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.* RSVP Shirley Hall 0417 153 930 [movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au)

### DANCING-4-FUN

Dance classes: Wednesdays, 7:30pm to 9:30pm  
at the Parish Hall.



**On request we are having an earlier session Wednesdays: 5:30pm - 7:30pm**

*We learn all types of Dancing - Line dancing, Party & Ballroom.*

**\$6 per person / per session. All Welcome.**

## COMING EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

- 9 March: Catechist Meeting, Parish Centre, 10am  
Holy Wounds, Church, 7:30pm
- 10 March: Legion of Mary  
St Vincent De Paul Meeting
- 12 March: Evening Mass, 7pm  
Garden of Gethsemane, 7:30pm - 8:30pm
- 13 March: Friday, Stations of the Cross
- 15 March: Confirmation classes begin
- 25 March: Parish Pastoral Council
- 26 March: Pre-Baptism Programme, 7:30pm
- 31 March: 2nd Rite of Reconciliation, 7:30pm
- 1 April: Chrism Mass, St Patrick's Cathedral, 7:30pm
- 2 April: Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30pm
- 3 April: Good Friday
- 4 April: Easter Vigil, 8pm
- 5 April: Easter Sunday. Masses at 7:30am, 9am and 10:30am (no evening Mass)  
Daylight Saving ends
- 12 April: Divine Mercy Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

This week we will commence regular 7pm Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays, followed by Confession. All things going well, we will hope to add additional evening Masses as of Easter Monday.

In an earlier bulletin, I proposed the cessation of taking up collections during Mass. A number of parishioners have since raised their concerns regarding this proposal, which I've considered. As I mentioned, all I ask is that we give it a try, and if it proves too problematic, we can start it up again. Shortly after Easter, we will trial placing an offerings box at the back of the church on Sundays only, which will have two separate slots marked for the First and Second collections. To supplement this, we will also provide a more convenient mobile option; the Australian Salesians' IT support will provide the parish with access to a custom mobile app which facilitates one-off or ongoing offerings to the First and Second collections. I hope the combination of these options will allow everyone to devote more focus to the liturgies, whilst also being able to support the church as they choose.

Finally, during the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent, we will be conducting the Scrutinies for our parish catechumens being baptised at this year's Easter Vigil. The Scrutinies will take place at the 5:30pm Mass on these Sundays. We continue to keep our catechumens and candidates, as well as their families and sponsors, in our prayers, as they prepare for their full initiation into the Catholic Church at Easter.

Yours faithfully,

Fr. Jeff