

PARISH NEWSLETTER

12 JULY 2026

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SEA SUNDAY (12 JULY) - THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

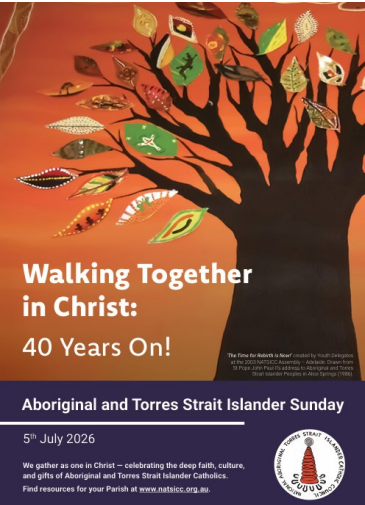
Sea Sunday is a moment each year when churches around the world come together to pray for seafarers, to give thanks for their vital work; an opportunity to pause, reflect, and respond — standing alongside the men and women who keep our world moving. Many work unseen, facing long periods away from home, isolation, and often dangerous conditions.

In our own neighbourhood, that very mission is being met at the Stella Maris Seafarer’s Centre in Melbourne.

Stella Maris centres are part of the Catholic Church’s official missionary work in its care of seafarers, and are active in numerous Archdioceses. These centres are a key component of the Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), an agency which is operated globally under the auspices of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrant and Itinerant People in Rome.

Please visit their website for more information and to make a donation: <https://www.stellamaris.org.au/> and let us invoke our patroness, Mary Star of the Sea, to pray for our seafarers today.





Walking Together in Christ:
40 Years On!

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

5th July 2026

We gather as one in Christ – celebrating the deep faith, culture, and gifts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. Find resources for your Parish at www.natiosc.org.au

NAIDOC WEEK 5-12 JULY

Today we draw to a close Naidoc Week, a celebration of the culture and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and their contribution to our Church.

The Australian Church was invited to reflect as we marked 40 years since St Pope John Paul II spoke to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Alice Springs.

Our theme, Walking Together in Christ: 40 Years On!, speaks to this moment. It calls us to continue the journey with humility and hope - listening deeply, and walking side by side as one Body in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit. Across this land, the Church is enriched by the cultures and voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Their spirituality, connection to Country, and deep sense of community continue to shape and strengthen the life of the Church in Australia. As St Pope John Paul II reminded us, the Church is enriched by the many cultures it embraces. This is not something we simply acknowledge — it is something we are called to live.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA) CLASSES

Do you or anyone you know, want to enter the Catholic Church?

For adults who are interested in entering the Catholic Church and receiving the Sacraments of Baptism and/or Confirmation (Easter 2027), classes will commence: **Sunday 9 August.**

Don’t wait - enquire now! For more info email: info@stmaryswestmelbourne.org



CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

There is still time to enroll your child in Confirmation classes. These are held after the 10am Sunday Mass. The Confirmation ceremony will take place on: **Sunday 15 November** at St Mary Star of the Sea . For registration and more information, please contact the parish office or email: info@stmaryswestmelbourne.org

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN - OUR POLICY AND COMMITMENT

At St Mary Star of the Sea, we are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person, ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our church. This commitment is extended to clergy, employees, and volunteers at our church, regardless of their role or responsibility to act to safeguard children and young people from child abuse.

(For more information, please read our Safeguarding Policy on our website, or on our noticeboard in the foyer).

DAILY MASS READINGS AND RESPONSES

All daily Mass readings and responses to votive Masses can now be accessed on our website via the QR code.

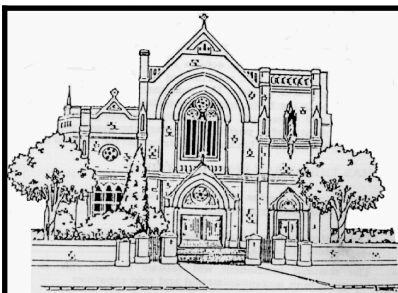


WEEKDAY MASSES					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13 JULY	14 JULY	15 JULY	16 JULY	17 JULY	18 JULY
VOTIVE MASS FOR THE DEAD	SAINT CAMILLUS DE LELLIS	SAINT BONAVENTURE	OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL	VOTIVE MASS OF THE CROSS	VOTIVE MASS OF OR LADY
Mass: 7am,12:30pm Pg.	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 621	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 451-452	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 621	Mass:7am,12:30pm Pg.	Mass:10:00 am Pg.

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ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH

33 Howard Street, West Melbourne 3003 P: 9328 3474

Email: info@stmaryswestmelbourne.org
www.stmaryswestmelbourne.org

HOME TO THE ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Saint Matthew tells us in the Gospel of today’s Mass (Matthew 13: 1-23) that Jesus sat beside the sea and that such great crowds gathered about him to hear his words that He had to get into a boat so that they could listen to him from the shore. Sitting now in a small fishing- vessel, Our Lord began to teach them: A sower went out to sow. And the seed He spoke about fell on very different types of soil.

In Galilee, where the terrain tended to be very uneven and hilly, it was only the narrow strips of land in the valleys and skirting the river banks that were sown with seed. The parable faithfully records for us the agricultural situation of that particular area. The sower scattered his seed broadcast, which is why some of it would fall onto the path. The seed that fell on those paths would soon be eaten up by birds or trodden underfoot by passers-by. The detail of the rocky soil, covered perhaps by only a thin layer of earth, was also true to reality. Because of the lack of soil-depth, the seed shoots up more rapidly, but only to have the heat dry it up just as quickly, since it has no depth of root.

33 Howard Street, West Melbourne 3003
P: 9328 3474
Email: info@stmaryswestmelbourne.org
www.stmaryswestmelbourne.org

PARISH PERSONNEL

Parish Priest:
Fr Andrew Paris

Priests in Residence:
Fr Anthony Bernal
Fr Peter Fitzsimons

Parish Office Administrator:
Yvonne Kee.

Communications:
Michelle Komadina

Sacred Music Centre Director:
Andrew Mariotti.

RCIA Coordinator:
Mimi Lee

Office booking hours:
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday :
10.00 am – 2.00 pm.

For urgent matters, you can contact:
Fr Andrew on 0404932862

MASS TIMES

Sunday:
10.00 am
5:00 pm

Monday to Friday:
7:00 am
12.30 pm

Saturday:
10.00 am

CONFESIONS

Saturday:
9.30 am – 9:55 am
10:35 am – 1100 am

Sunday:
9:15 am
4:15 pm

Monday to Friday:
Before and after 7:00 am Mass
12:00 noon – 12:25 pm
1:05 pm – 1:30 pm
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
and any other time when requested if possible

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Please check our website for more information.

DEVOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

Eucharistic Adoration:
Thursdays 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm.

Legion of Mary:
4:00 pm Mondays at the presbytery.

Holy Rosary:
Mon – Fri & Sun before Mass
Saturday after 10am Mass

Theology Lectures:
Sundays 11:30 am.

Young Families:
Every Sundays after 10 am Mass

Faith Formation Program:
Check our website and noticeboard for more details

The soil on which the good seed falls is the whole world; it represents each individual person. We too are soil for the divine seed. Even though the sowing is carried out with great love - it is God who pours himself into our souls - the results depend largely on the condition of the soil on which it falls. Christ’s words tell us forcefully about the responsibility man has to prepare himself to receive God’s grace and to correspond with it.

Some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart. The path is soil that has been trodden on until it has become hard. These compacted areas are dissipated, empty souls, prepared to accept only external things. Such souls are incapable of recollecting their thoughts and guarding their senses. They have no order in their affections and are not particularly watchful over their feelings, so that they frequently allow their imagination to engage in useless thoughts. These souls are like ground that has never been tilled or cultivated, having always turned their face away from God. Their hearts are hardened, like those constantly trodden pathways. They hear God’s word, but the devil easily snatches it away from them. He is not idle; rather, he has his eyes always wide open and is always ready to spring and snatch away the gift that you do not use (Cardinal J. H. Newman, Sermon for Sexagesima Sunday: Calls to Grace).

We must ask Our Lord for fortitude so that we never become like those who are like the path on which the seed fell - negligent, lukewarm and full of scorn (St John Chrysostom, Homilies on St Matthew’s Gospel, 44, 3). Negligence and lukewarmness are manifestations of a lack of contrition and repentance, and of our failure to put up a determined struggle against venial sins. The first time the divine Sower scattered his seed onto the soil of our soul was in Baptism. How often since then has He given us an abundance of his grace! How often has He passed close beside us, helping, encouraging and forgiving us! At this moment, in the intimacy of our prayer, we can say to him quietly: O Jesus! If in spite of the poor way I have behaved, you have done for me what you have done, what more would you do if I were to respond well?



Mass Setting
Mass of St Francis
For music notation/
lyrics, please
scan the QR code

Entrance: God has spoken by his prophets (CWBII 497)

1. God has spoken by his prophets,
spoken his unchanging word,
each, from age to age proclaiming
God, the One, the righteous Lord.
In the world’s despair and turmoil
one firm anchor holds us fast:
God eternal reigns for ever,
God the first, and God the last.

2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the ever-lasting Son,
brightness of the Father’s glory,
with the Father ever One;
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God, ere time began,
Light from light, to earth descending,
God, revealed as Son of Man.

3. God is speaking by the Spirit,
speaking to our hearts again,
in the ageless Word declaring
God’s own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith yet standing fast:
God still speaks, his word unchanging,
God the first, and God the last.

Text: George Williams Briggs (1875-1959) alt.
© 1953, 1981 The Hymn Society USA
Tune: HYMN TO JOY

Offertory: Word of God, come down on Earth (CWBII 644)

1. Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav’n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh we long to hear you.

2. Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav’n to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.

3. Word that caused blind eyes to see,
speak and heal our mortal blindness;
deaf we are: our healer be;
loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken;
heal the world, by our sin broken.

4. Word that speaks your Father’s love,
one with him beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us,
Word of life, with one Bread feed us.

Text: © 1969 James Quinn SJ (1919-2010)
Tune: LIEBSTER JESU

Communion: Draw near and take (CWBII 482)

1. Draw near and take the body of
the Lord, and drink his holy blood for
you out poured;
saved by his body and his precious
blood, our souls refreshed, we offer
thanks to God.

2. Our true Redeemer, Christ the only
Son, by cross and blood a mighty vict’ry
won, off’ring himself for greatest and
for least, himself the victim and himself
the priest.

3. The victims offered by the law of old,
as signs from God, eternal myst’ries
told,
now Christ our light, the ransom of our
race,
gives to his own this endless source of
grace.

4. Let us approach with loving hearts
sincere, and take the pledge of our
salvation here;
Christ, who his faithful servants rules
and shields,
to all believers life eternal yields.

5. With bread of life he makes the
hungry whole,
gives living waters to each thirsty soul.
Christ Jesus, first and last, is with us
now, to him at end of time we all shall
bow.

Text: Sancte, venite, Christi Corpus sumite
From the Antiphony of Bennchar, 7th cent.
tr. J. M. Neale (1818-1866), alt.
Tune: GUSTATE

Recessional: Help of Christians Guard this land (CWBII 429)

1. Help of Christians, guard this land
from assault or inward stain;
let it be what Christ has planned,
his new Eden where you reign.

2. Teach us that in Christ your Son
lies the wisdom to be free;
for the cross which we would shun
is man’s tree of liberty.

3. Should the pow’rs of hell arise
and our peace be trampled down,
in that night of blood and lies,
show us still your twelve-starred crown.

4. Take from us the coward heart,
fleeing will, divided mind;
give us sight to play our part
‘though the world around is blind.

5. Image of the Risen life
shining in eternity,
glimmer through our earthly strife,
draw us to your victory.

Text: James McAuley (1917-1976)
© 1976 Estate of James McAuley
Tune: CAMILLA

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**ST CARLO ACUTIS
EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES
EXHIBITION WITH FIRST
CLASS RELIC**

The Legion of Mary is hosting the
exhibition of St
Carlo Acutis and
his Eucharistic
Miracles from:



16-28 July
10am - 3pm, at
Magnificat
House, 456
Queensberry St
North Melbourne.

There will also be a first-class relic in
the exhibition.
Out of hours visits are available by
contacting 0423 838 756, or
vicepresident@legionofmary.net.au



PARISH SYNOD CORNER

Synodality and the margins

A synodal Church pays attention to
voices often overlooked: the poor, the
wounded, the disaffected, and those
who feel distant from the Church.
Their experiences matter, and their
stories can teach us where renewal is
most needed.

Mass Readings: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: ‘As the rain and the snow come down
from the heavens and do not return without watering the
earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for
the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes
from my mouth does not return to me empty, without
carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to
do.’

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 64(65):10-14

*The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful
harvest.*

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

*The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful
harvest.*

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth.

*The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful
harvest.*

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

*The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful
harvest.*

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

*The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful
harvest.*

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be
compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting
for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to
reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of crea-
tion that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was
made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being
freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the
same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the
beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has
been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only
creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the
Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to
be set free.

Gospel Acclamation: 1S3:9,Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the
sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds
gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The
people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in
parables.

He said, ‘Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some
seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate
them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little
soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of
earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and,
not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among
thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on
rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty,
some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, ‘Why do you talk
to them in parables?’ ‘Because’ he replied, ‘the mysteries of the
kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed
to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have
more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he
has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is
that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or under-
standing. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

‘But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because
they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men
longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you
hear, and never heard it.

‘You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When
anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding,
the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this
is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The
one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the
word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him,
he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on
account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who
received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but
the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word
and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed
in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he
is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold,
now sixty, now thirty.’

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Newly Baptised

Landon Balafas