

PARISH NEWSLETTER

2 AUGUST 2026

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2026 ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN

The 2026 Archbishop’s Campaign will officially launch this August. Now in its third year, the Campaign continues to provide an opportunity for Catholics across Melbourne to support the charitable, pastoral and evangelisation work of our Archdiocese through a single annual appeal.

The annual campaign unifies the Archdiocese’s fundraising efforts into a single appeal supporting seminarian formation, retired priests and key ministries, including the CatholicCare Chaplaincy Program, the John Pierce Centre for the Deaf and Melbourne Overseas Mission. It also funds grants to community service organisations, including the Bay Leaf Kitchen in Geelong.

The Archdiocese’s 90 retired priests through the Priests Retirement Foundation this year alone, faces costs of upwards of \$5 million to provide accommodation, nursing care and ongoing medical support at places such as Justin Villa and George Maher House. This care extends to the many Archdiocesan priests who have retired to their own homes via the small nursing team who checks in on them regularly. Your support is vital, so please give generously.

More information on how to donate will be shared in the coming weeks via our social media platforms, and on our noticeboard.





FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY - 15 AUGUST

(A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

On Saturday 15 August we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; a day honouring our Lady’s own assumption, body and soul into heaven. This is a day that Christians, since as early as the 5th century, have honoured, where eventually in 1950, it was solemnly defined as one of the dogmas of the Church, a holy day of obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass.

At St Mary Star of the Sea, we will celebrate this feast day on Saturday 15 August at 10:00 am. (A vigil Mass will be celebrated on Friday 14 August at 7:30 pm - the Black Nazarene Mass)

PARISH FUNDARAISING

Following our recent Thanksgiving and Fundraising report, we are still in urgent need of donations to complete the remaining roof repairs, which will cost around \$60,000. We will also need funds for work and repair to the parish office, meeting rooms and presbytery building. (The verandah enveloping the building, which is heritage classified, is in a bad state, requiring urgent repairs). The estimated cost is \$150,000.

A copy of our financial report is on our noticeboard with details on how you can donate. You can also scan the QR code to make a donation to our *Roof Restoration fund*.

Thank you for your help, and generosity!





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
3 AUGUST	4 AUGUST	5 AUGUST	6 AUGUST	7 AUGUST	8 AUGUST
SAINT DOMINIC	SAINT JOHN VIANNEY	THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF ST MARY MAJOR	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	SAINT CAJETAN	SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS
Mass: 7am,12:30pm Pg. 467-468	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 469-470	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 623	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 471-472	Mass:7am,12:30pm Pg. 624	Mass:10:00 am Pg. 473-474

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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

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Today the evangelist Matthew tells us that the crowds were eagerly seeking our Lord. They hungered for his preaching and miracles so greatly that, when they finally found Him, they listened to him happily until sunset. On one of those occasions, the apostles suggested to Jesus that He send the people away before nightfall so they could find somewhere to buy food for their journey home. But our Lord, moved by those hearts that were so eager for his word, didn’t want to let them go without giving them one last gift.

Jesus knew it wouldn’t be easy to find food for so many people in the nearby villages and farms. So He decided to use that opportunity to teach his apostles an important lesson. Jesus wanted them to learn to trust Him, to dream big, and not to be deterred by difficulties. So He said, “You give them something to eat” (Mt 14:16). They didn’t understand this perplexing instruction: the time, the place and lack of resources made it impossible to feed that multitude. It would have required many cartloads of bread and a sum of money they didn’t have.

The apostles didn’t know what to do. One of them said to Jesus, “We have only five loaves here and two fish” (Mt 14:17). And our Lord replied: “Bring them here to me” (Mt 14:18). Those few loaves and fish became the raw material for the miracle. The same happens in our lives. God knows that by ourselves we can do very little, but He never stops asking us to place in his hands the little we have. Thanks to that small gift, Christ was able to feed the entire crowd. Therefore we can ask ourselves, “What do I bring to Jesus today? He can do a lot with one of our prayers, with a small act of charity for others, even with one of our sufferings handed over to His mercy. We give our small things to Jesus, and He works miracles. This is how God loves to act: He does great things, starting from those small things, those freely given ones.” (Francis, Angelus, 25 June 2021) When we humbly offer Him what we are and what we have, even if it seems insufficient, our Lord can multiply it far more than we can imagine.

The apostles thus took part in the miracle. Despite their littleness, they became a concrete sign of our Lord’s omnipotent action. It was obvious that five loaves and two fish could not feed such a large crowd. But what seemed insufficient was transformed into an abundant meal, from which “they all ate and were satisfied” (Mt 14:20). Today, too, our Lord is counting on us to satisfy the hunger for God in the people around us. The gifts He has given us – faith, the sacraments, vocation – are not just for ourselves: they are meant to pass through our hands and become nourishment for many. Saint Josemaría commented on this scene: “He could have gotten the bread from wherever he wanted... but no! He seeks human cooperation: he needs a child, a young boy, some pieces of bread and some fish. He needs you and me, and yet he is God! This should urge us to be generous in our response to his graces.” (Saint Josemaría, In Dialogue with the Lord, p. 99.) Jesus could do everything without us. But He wants to associate us with his compassion, so that our poverty, united with his mercy, may become abundance for others.

At the end of the story, the evangelist adds a significant detail: twelve baskets were filled with leftover food (cf. Mt 14:20). These baskets, overflowing with unused bread and fish, teach us a message about divine grace and generosity. Jesus could have calculated precisely the amount of food needed for everyone. Instead, He wanted more than what was necessary so that the disciples could gather what was left over. Thus He showed that God bestows his gifts and graces without measure, without human calculations of efficiency or mere sufficiency.

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

CONFESSIONS

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



Mass Setting
Mass of Mary Help
Of Christians
For music notation/
lyrics, please
scan the QR code

Entrance: Praise the one who breaks the darkness (CWBII 584)

1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.
Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing every dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

2. Praise the One who blessed the Children with a strong yet gentle word.
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.
From this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in every land.

3. Praise the One, true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory,
praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards (b. 1955)
© 1987 Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: NETTLETON

Offertory: God is love, let heaven adore him (CWBII 499)

1. God is love, let heaven adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
God, who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all creation
God is love, eternal Love.

2. God is love, and gently enfolding
all the world in one embrace,
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that self-same aching
deep within the heart of God.

3 God is love, and, though with blindness sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal loving kindness holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love forever
o'er the universe must reign.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874-1939 alt by permission Community of the Resurrection, UK
Tune: ABBOTS LEIGH 87.87D; Cyril Vincent Taylor 1907-1991; © 1941, Oxford University Press

Communion: Gift of finest Wheat (CWBII 651)

**Antiphon: You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat;
come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.**

1. As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your family Lord,
we follow and rejoice. Ant.

2. With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude,
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heavenly food. Ant.

3. Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ out-poured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? Ant.

4. The mystery of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world can not contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. Ant.

5. You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. Ant.

Text: Omer Westendorf (1916-1997)
© Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Music: Robert Kreutz (1922-1996)

Recessional: Mary, Mother of Good Counsel (CWBII 411)

1. Mary, Mother of Good Counsel,
you found favour in God's sight.
Overshadowed by the Spirit,
you brought forth the world's true light.
Filled with faith and holy wisdom,
you were worthy of God's choice.
May we too possess these virtues
so that we may hear God's voice.

2. All God's people give you honour,
graceful bearer of Good News.
Be for us a constant model,
holy one whom God did choose.
May we sing God's saving power;
may we tend to human need.
May God's word dwell deep within us,
counsel for each holy deed.

3. Glory to the God who made us,
who is author of all life;
Glory to the Word Incarnate,
who redeemed us from all strife;
Glory to the Holy Spirit,
who in water gives rebirth;
for the gift of Blessed Mary
to the pilgrim Church on earth.

Text: Murray J. Kroetsch, b. 1952; © Concacan Inc.
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Tune: HYFRYDOL

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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



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: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 144(145):8-9,15-18

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live.

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Second Reading: Romans 8:35,37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Account Name: **OR SCAN QR CODE**

St Mary Star of the Sea Parish
Melbourne West
Ref: Donation type,
e.g. RESTORATION, etc.



FIRST COLLECTION:	SECOND COLLECTION:
BSB: 083 373	BSB: 083 347
A/C: 663509289	A/C: 64396 1382
(For the support of the Priests)	(For the Parish expenses)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Newly Baptised
Nyjah McMillian
Maya Tissera