

PARISH NEWSLETTER

9 AUGUST 2026

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2026 ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN

The 2026 Archbishop’s Campaign is now underway. 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.

Donate via envelopes provided. See our noticeboard or our social media platforms for more Information.





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 7:00 pm - the Black Nazarene Mass)

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK 2-9 AUGUST

Today is the conclusion of National Vocations Awareness Week, where the Church was invited to participate by promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life and by renewing prayers and support for those who are discerning these states of life within the Church. It is also a time to pray for those who are married, or considering marriage as their vocation, as all vocations, whether the priesthood, religious life, dedicated single life, or married life, are a call from God to love and serve him and the Church in that unique way. For “...all Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity.” 65 All are called to holiness: “Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (CCC 2013)

Let us continue to pray for members of the Church to discover and live their vocation with generosity, and self-giving love.



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.

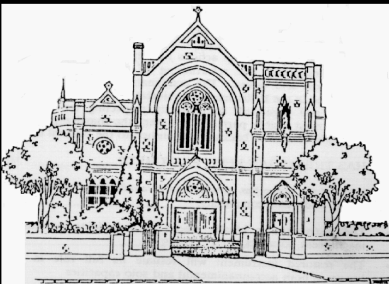


WEEKDAY MASSES					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10 AUGUST	11 AUGUST	12 AUGUST	13 AUGUST	14 AUGUST	15 AUGUST
SAINT LAWRENCE	SAINT CLARE	SAINT JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL	SAINTS PONTIAN & HIPPOLYTUS	SAINT MAXIMILLIAN MARY KOLBE	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Holy Day of Obligation)
Mass: 7am,12:30pm Pg. 476-477	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 477-478	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 624	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 624	Mass:7am,12:30pm Pg. 479-481	Mass:10:00 am Pg. 481-484

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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

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



We are all students in the school of God, or as Francisca Javiera del Valle would put it, the school of the Holy Spirit. We will only graduate from this school when, by the grace and mercy of God, we behold him face to face. Throughout our lives we continue to learn, provided, of course, that our pride or stubbornness does not hold us back. This has always been the experience of men and women of faith, even those called to the most special roles of cooperating with God’s plan of salvation. So in today’s readings we reflect on the experiences of two such chosen ones, Elijah and Peter. Elijah (Elias) lived some nine centuries before Christ and is regarded, together with Moses, as the archetype of all prophets. His mission was to lead the people back to faithfulness to the original covenant made centuries before that bound them to the ten commandments and to the one true God. He strived to correct the reigning king of the northern kingdom, Ahab, who had himself forsaken his allegiance to age-old covenant. Elijah had to be continually supported and guided by the hand of God. God revealed himself to him through signs and inspirations. The first reading tells of an occasion in which Elijah must be encouraged in the face of stiff opposition from the powerful king. God makes his presence felt, not so much through the powerful wind, nor the earthquake, nor the fire, but with the arrival of a gentle breeze. Together with Elijah we are taught that though God must sometimes use potent or even fearful signs to overcome human indifference or our evils ways, He himself is gentle, just and merciful - and never tiring in his love for us.

With the coming of Our Lord, the school of God became a ‘university’, containing all manner of learning in the way of salvation. Among the first students of this new level of learning, Peter held the primary place. Like ourselves, he was not always a good student, but Our Lord patiently continued to teach him and the others the virtues and attitudes that a Christian should live with. Today’s Gospel reading shows how Jesus taught Peter a lesson for later life through an unusual and miraculous event. Christ approached the boat of Peter, buffeted by stormy waters, walking over the rough seas. This greatly impressed and fascinated the Apostle to the point where he wanted to meet Jesus, by himself approaching his Master on the waves. Though Our Lord obliged him in his wish, Peter soon became overwhelmed by the threat of the wind and waters and panicked. He was then held by the strong arm of Christ. “Man of little faith....why did you doubt?” These words of Jesus would never be forgotten. Though there were still other times when Peter would give way to doubt or fear, his life as a whole would be one of faithfulness and even heroism. He succeeded in being the first of Christ’s Vicars, confirming the faith of others in the early Church. The boat of Peter has come to be regarded as a symbol of the Church, which must cross the often rough seas of human history. However, she cannot sink, because the arm of God sustains her. We too must bear this lesson of trust in our hearts and minds, especially when we meet difficult times and circumstances in our lives.

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



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

**Entrance: Praise the Lord, ye heavens
adore him (NLPH 207)**

1. Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him;
Praise him angels, in the height;
sun and moon rejoice before him,
praise him, all ye stars and light.
Praise the Lord for he has spoken;
worlds his mighty voice obeyed:
Laws, which never shall be broken,
for their guidance he has made.

2. Praise the Lord, for he is glorious;
never shall his promise fail:
God has made his saints victorious;
sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
hosts on high, his power proclaim,
heaven and earth and all creation,
laud and magnify his name.

3. Worship, honour, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer to thy name;
young and old, thy praise expressing,
join their Saviour to proclaim;
as the saints in heaven adore thee,
we would bow before thy throne;
as thine angels serve before thee,
so on earth thy will be done.

Text: V1 & 2: Foundling Hospital Collection 1796, V3: Edward Oster 1798-1863
Tune: HYMN TO JOY

**Offertory: Father, we praise you
(NLPH 62)**

Refrain:
**Father, we praise you, we your trusting
people:**
**Father, we thank you, ruler and crea-
tor, giver of all our joy.**

1. Now to your altar, in answer to your
call,
we come to give thanks to you and
praise you. R.

2. Send forth the light of your truth to
be our guide,
and show us the way to our eternal
home. R.

3 Lord, we are sinners, unworthy of your
love,
and you are the Father who can pardon
us. R.

4. Mary, our mother, and all you saints
of God,
remember us, pray for us before his
throne. R.

Text: James Phillip McAuley 1917-76 © 1976 Estate of James McAuley
Music: SANDY BAY; © Richard Connolly Published by Willow Pty Ltd.

**Communion: O bread of heaven
beneath this veil (NLPH 168)**

1. O Bread of heaven, beneath this veil
thou dost my very God conceal:
my Jesus, dearest treasure, hail;
I love thee and adoring kneel;
each loving soul by thee is fed
with thy own self in form of bread.

2. O Food of life, thou who dost give
the pledge of immortality;
I live, no 'tis not I that live;
God gives me life, God lives in me:
he feeds my soul, he guides my way,
and ev'ry grief with joy repays.

3. O Bond of love, that dost unite
the servant to his living Lord;
could I dare live and not requite
such love, then death were meet
reward:
I cannot live unless to prove
some love for such unmeasured love.

4. Beloved Lord in heaven above,
there, Jesus, thou awaitest me;
to gaze on thee with changeless love;
yes, thus I hope; thus shall it be:
for how can he deny me heav'n
who here on earth himself has giv'n?

Text St Alphonsus Ligouri 1696-1787
tr. by Edmund Vaughan 1827-1908
Tune: TYNEMOUTH

**Recessional: Sing we of the blessed
mother (CWBII 417)**

1. Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast that child was fed,
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting Bread.

2. Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,
looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
saw the price of our redemption
paid to set the sinner free.

3. Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heav'nly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.

4. Sing the greatest joy of Mary
when on Earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heav'nly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.

Text: G. B. Timms 1910-1997, alt.
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Tune: PLEADING SAVIOUR

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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.
Late enquiries are welcome.
For enquiries, email:
info@stmaryswestmelbourne.org



PARISH SYNOD CORNER

Synodality requires humility
Walking together means recognising
that no one has all the answers.
Synodality invites humility—from
leaders and from communities—so
that the Spirit can guide us beyond
our limitations.

Mass Readings: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9,11-13
When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 84(85):9-14
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5
What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: Ps 129:5
Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33
Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

**WORDS FROM POPE LEO XIV ON SUNDAY
2 AUGUST**

Let us continue to pray for peace, that wars may cease throughout the world and diplomatic solutions to conflicts may be found. Let us remember all the victims of hostilities, especially the weakest and most defenseless: children, the elderly and the sick. May the Lord comfort those who suffer and bless the work of those who bring aid and consolation.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Newly Married
John Kozma & Melchora Aseniero
Jose Luis Urbina & Evelyn Reiko Gamboa