

PARISH NEWSLETTER

16 AUGUST 2026

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2026 ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN

We are now in the second week of the 2026 Archbishop’s Campaign. This 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.

WORDS FROM POPE LEO XIV ON SUNDAY 9 AUGUST ANGELUS

Dear brothers and sisters,

I continue to follow with concern the tragic situation in Sudan, especially in the city of el-Obeid. In expressing my spiritual closeness to all the people of the nation, I renew my appeal to those in authority to guarantee humanitarian corridors for the civilian population. At the same time, I urge the international community to support efforts aimed at bringing about an immediate ceasefire. Let us pray that the Lord may sustain those who are suffering, convert the hearts of those who sow violence, and grant the long awaited peace.

Distressing reports continue to arrive of innocent people being killed and injured in Ukraine and Russia. These incidents are occurring one after another, indeed they are multiplying, resulting in ever-increasing numbers of civilian victims, including children. My thoughts are with the victims’ families, the wounded and all those who are suffering due to the ongoing conflict. In the face of so much anguish, I renew my heartfelt appeal for humanitarian law to be respected and for both sides to cease attacks on civilian targets. War only begets more war and causes immense suffering. It is time to put an end to this vicious cycle of violence and make room for diplomacy and dialogue, so as to open the way to peace.



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 Sacrament of Baptism and/or Confirmation (Easter 2027), classes have commenced, but late enquiries are welcome. For enquiries, 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
17 AUGUST	18 AUGUST	19 AUGUST	20 AUGUST	21 AUGUST	22 AUGUST
VOTIVE MASS FOR THE DEAD	VOTIVE MASS OF THE ANGELS	SAINT JOHN EUDES	SAINT BERNARD	SAINT PIUS X	THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Mass: 7am,12:30pm Pg.	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg.	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 625	Mass: 7am, 12:30pm Pg. 486-488	Mass:7am,12:30pm Pg. 488-489	Mass:10:00 am Pg. 489-490

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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

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Once again we see, in today’s Gospel, how Jesus has taken the Apostles with him to a distant place, this time the region of Tyre and Sidon. These are cities which still exist, and which even make the news, though not always for a happy reason, lying as they do in war torn southern Lebanon. But the place would have been in those times, for the Apostles and Our Lord, a peaceful one, giving occasion for rest and lengthy conversations. Here too, as on the occasion when Jesus multiplied bread for a crowd hungry for hope and consolation, the intimate gathering of Jesus and the Twelve is interrupted by someone desperate for attention and help. It is a woman of that pagan region, who is overwhelmed with grief over the diabolical torments of her daughter. She too has heard of the man from Galilee that many consider to be the Messiah and Saviour of the Jews. For her, he is a man of God, known to cure the sick and release people from evil spirits.

When the Apostles, whom she first approaches, ask Jesus to attend to her needs, Our Lord responds in a way that might surprise or even trouble us. He appears to reject her and her petition, with some words that many today would interpret as humiliating. “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.....It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the house- dogs (pups).” Like with all passages of Sacred Scripture, we need take the context of each text and the overall vision of Our Lord’s teaching into account. Jesus did come to save everyone and, for God, rank or race does not determine the merit of the individual. However, the salvation of the human race is according to a plan in the mind of our all knowing and all loving Father. Abraham and his descendants, the Jews, were called to have a special part in that history of redemption. There is order in the works of God, and just as we are asked to live according to an order of charity, giving first attention to those closest to us, Jesus centred his efforts of teaching and healing upon those who were meant to be a light to the nations. Such was the expectation he had of the Apostles. Though Jesus experienced many disappointments with his own people, and even with the Twelve, he persevered in following this order of divine justice and love. At the same time, he entrusted to his Jewish disciples the responsibility to go out to all nations, teaching and baptising all who came to believe so they might form a part of the new kingdom, the new People of God.

It is good to realize at the same time that Jesus does respond to this pagan woman’s request. He frees the daughter from her state of oppression. What is more, he adds words of praise, heard by all the apostles, for the woman and her faith. For these men, she has served as a lesson of humility and perseverance in seeking the good of her child. Her attitude has contrasted with that of many of Jesus’ countrymen, who failed to believe out of pride, attachment to power, greed or cynicism. How important faith is in our lives of relationship, not only with God but with others. Like the good woman of today’s Gospel may we never become disheartened in seeking the good of family and friends, or of society as a whole. May we learn to rely on God for his help and not doubt that he always listens and has in mind our good, and the good of those for whom we are concerned.

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: There's a wideness in God's mercy (CWBII 624)

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea,
and forgiveness in his justice
sealed for us on Calvary.

There is plentiful redemption
through the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

2. For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.

3. Restless souls, why do you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why do you wander
from a love so true and deep?
If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt.
Tune: IN BABILONE

Offertory: Your hands, O Lord, in days of old (CWBII 129)

1. Your hands, O Lord, in days of old
were strong to heal and save;
they triumphed over pain and death,
O'er darkness and the grave.
To you they went, the blind, the deaf,
the palsied and the lame,
the leper set apart and shunned,
the sick and those in shame.

2. And then your touch brought life and health,
gave speech and strength and sight;
and youth renewed and health restored,
claimed you, the Lord of light.
And so, O Lord, be near to bless,
almighty now as then,
in ev'ry street, in ev'ry home,
in ev'ry troubled friend.

3. O be our mighty healer still,
O Lord of life and death;
restore and strengthen, soothe and bless,
with your almighty breath:
on hands that work and eyes that see,
your healing wisdom pour,
that whole and sick and weak and strong
may praise you evermore.

Text: Matthew 14:35-36; Edward Plumptre (1821-1891) alt.
Tune: MOZART

Communion: Godhead here in hiding (CWBII 162)

1. God-head here in hiding,
whom I do adore,
masked by these bare shadows,
shape and nothing more.
See, Lord, at thy service
low lies here a heart
lost, all lost, in wonder
at the God thou art.

2. Seeing, touching, tasting
are in thee deceived;
how says trusty hearing?
that shall be believed:
what God's Son has told me
take for truth I do;
truth himself speaks truly,
or there's nothing true.

3. On the cross thy God-head
made no sign to men;
here thy very manhood
steals from human ken:
both are my confession,
both are my belief,
and I pray the prayer
of the dying thief.

4. I am not like Thomas,
wounds I cannot see,
but can plainly call thee
Lord and God as he;
this faith each day deeper
be my holding of,
daily make me harder
hope and dearer love.

5. O thou our reminder
of Christ crucified,
living bread, the life of
us for whom he died,
lend this life to me then;
feed and feast my mind,
there be thou the sweetness
we were meant to find.

6. Jesus, whom I look at
shrouded here below,
I beseech thee send me
what I long for so,
some day to gaze on thee
face to face in light
and be blest for ever
with thy glory's sight. Amen

Text: Adoro te devote;
attrib. St Thomas Aquinas (c. 1227-1274)
tr. Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889) alt.
Tune: ADORO TE DEVOTE

Recessional: O Mary conceived in the grace of your Son (AHB 615)

1. O Mary, conceived in the grace of
your Son,
the firstfruits of victory on Calvary won!
He chose you as Mother to bring him to birth,
the one fitting shrine for his dwelling on earth!

2. Immaculate Virgin, with motherhood blest,
true God is the Child that in your womb did rest!
With you shall we ever "Magnificat"
sing,
whose Son is our Maker and Saviour and King!

3. O Mother, who stood by your Son till his death,
still stand by your children till life's dying breath!
O pray for us all as in glory you share
your Son's resurrection, his masterpiece fair!

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919-2010, © 1969,
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Music: ST DENIO

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PARISH SYNOD CORNER

Is synodality slow?

Synodality may seem slower than top-down decision-making, but it often leads to deeper, more lasting renewal. What is discerned together is more likely to be embraced together.

Mass Readings: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1,6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66(67):2-3,5-6,8

O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15,29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the Kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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

OR SCAN QR CODE



FIRST COLLECTION:
BSB: 083 373
A/C: 663509289

SECOND COLLECTION:
BSB: 083 347
A/C: 64396 1382

(For the support of the

(For the Parish expenses)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Newly Baptised

*Ezekiel Corcoran
Ilaria Gattellari
Atlas Bourke*

The Newly Married

*Giuseppina Nesci & Mone Vea. J
Stefan Flinders & Alya Te Aute*