



Parish Priest: Fr Shabin Kaniampuram IVDei
 Parish Secretary: Fran Adamopoulos (Tue-Thu 9am-2pm)
 Financial Administrator: Margaret Harrington (Mon/Fri 9-2pm)

Assistant Priest: Fr Tuong Nguyen
 Pastoral Worker: Pauline Egan
 Email: adminANT@cam.org.au

Supporting Priests: Fr Brendan Hayes
 Email: financeANT@cam.org.au

ST MARY'S THORNBURY
 1 Rossmoyne Street, Thornbury 3071
 Principal: Mary Kearney | Ph: 9484 5333

ST JOSEPH'S NORTHCOTE
 140 Westbourne Grove, Northcote 3070
 Principal: Mary Kearney | Ph: 9481 7166

Mission Prayer: Loving God, guide us as we build a joyful and inclusive community. May your Holy Spirit lead and inspire us to be the Good News of Jesus Christ by serving others and caring for all. Amen.

PARISH OF HOLY SPIRIT & ST ANTHONY'S
 45 Railway Pl, Alphington VIC 3078
 Principals: Noelene Hussey, Acting Principal for Term 1,
 Holy Spirit Primary School,
 197 Clarendon Street, Thornbury East | Ph: 9480 0391
 James Casey, St Anthony's Primary School,
 Tania Bennett, Acting Principal

Partnership Parish Office Address
 45 Railway Place Alphington
 P.O.Box 85 Fairfield 3078
Office Number: 9484 2907
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm
Email: adminANT@cam.org.au
www.melbcatholic.org/s/hosan

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Reconciliation Times

10.30am Saturdays — St Mary's
 4.30pm Saturdays — Holy Spirit
 5.00pm Saturdays — St Joseph's

MASS TIMES

St Mary's Thornbury

Sunday: 10:00am English/Italian
 5:30pm
Weekday: Wednesday, 9:15am
 English/Italian

St Joseph's Northcote

Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 11:00am
Weekday: Tuesday, 9:15am

Holy Spirit Thornbury East

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:30am
Weekday: Thursday, 9:15am
 English/Italian

St Anthony's Alphington

Sunday: 10:30am, English/Italian
Weekday: Friday, 9:15am

FEAST DAYS IN THE WEEK

Recently Deceased

George Gouskos, and Leo Lenzi.

Anniversaries

Vincenza Pingiaro (1 yr),
 Margaret Claire Walsh,
 Jamileh Fakhry, George Bains,
 Youssef Rahorl Taouk,
 Siham Youssef Habchi, Malak Younis,
 Duloona Fakhry, Gregory Machado,
 Antonios Saada Taouk, Mary Troy,
 Go Ka Bio, Julian Peralta,
 Trinidad Peralta Arcangel,
 Policarpio Peralta,
 Alessandro Reginato, Alfonso Filippin,
 Gregorio Ferraro, Giorgio Marangoni.

To update parish details, please visit our official parish website:
www.melbcatholic.org/s/hosan



Fourth Sunday in Lent —Year A

15 Mar 2026

Two Responses to the Light

Reflecting on the Gospel story of **John 9:1-41**, where Jesus heals a man born blind, the passage highlights that the man's physical healing is only the beginning of a much deeper spiritual journey. His movement from darkness into light becomes a powerful symbol of coming to faith in Jesus, the Light of the World.

“Questioned again and again about how he came to be cured, he simply sticks to the facts and draws the inescapable conclusions.”

While the religious authorities strive to pressure him into denying what Jesus has done, the healed man instead grows in understanding and courage. His journey of faith leads him to an ever-deepening perception of reality and truth.

The authorities, however, deny the facts, resort to accusations, and ultimately cling to their own authority. The Gospel shows that although they can physically see, they descend into **“the ‘darkness’ of make-believe and sin.”**

This Sunday's Gospel concludes by contrasting these two paths: the healed man's journey toward truth and faith, and the authorities' journey into rejection and spiritual blindness — illustrating two very different responses to Jesus as the Light of the World. *(Sharing the Treasure, Brendan Byrne SJ)*



St Joseph's Feast Day
Sunday 22rd of March 2026
 11am at St Joseph's church
 Northcote

We wish the community of St Joseph's a Happy Feast Day.

*Refreshments will be served afterwards in the church garden
 Please bring a plate of food to share. All are welcome.*

Project Compassion 2026: Please collect your project compassion box from the back of the church. The funds raised will help provide women like **Manaini**, a grandmother from rural Fiji, with the skills to turn leftover crops into flour, creating a sustainable income for her family. **Donate** via website: caritas.org.au/project-compassion/sisilia-story/ | or call: 1800 024 413

Harmony Week—16 to 22 March—celebrates Australia's cultural diversity and the importance of inclusiveness, respect and belonging for everyone. As we mark this week, we affirm our commitment to welcoming and valuing all who call Australia home.

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13**A reading from the book of Samuel**

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (R.1)

R *The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

L The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul. **R.**

L He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me. **R.**

L You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. **R.**

L Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. **R.**

Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast.

The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel of John Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Readings Next Week—5th Sun of Lent Year A—22 Mar 2026

1st Rdg: Ezekiel 37:12-14

2nd Rdg: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:25, 26

Prima lettura 1Sam 16,1.4.6-7.10-13**Dal primo libro di Samuele**

In quei giorni, il Signore disse a Samuele: «Riempi d'olio il tuo corno e parti. Ti mando da Iesse il Betlemmita, perché mi sono scelto tra i suoi figli un re». Samuele fece quello che il Signore gli aveva comandato. Quando fu entrato, egli vide Eliàb e disse: «Certo, davanti al Signore sta il suo consacrato!». Il Signore replicò a Samuele: «Non guardare al suo aspetto né alla sua alta statura. Io l'ho scartato, perché non conta quel che vede l'uomo: infatti l'uomo vede l'apparenza, ma il Signore vede il cuore».

Iesse fece passare davanti a Samuele i suoi sette figli e Samuele ripeté a Iesse: «Il Signore non ha scelto nessuno di questi». Samuele chiese a Iesse: «Sono qui tutti i giovani?». Rispose Iesse: «Rimane ancora il più piccolo, che ora sta a pascolare il gregge». Samuele disse a Iesse: «Manda a prenderlo, perché non ci metteremo a tavola prima che egli sia venuto qui». Lo mandò a chiamare e lo fece venire. Era fulvo, con begli occhi e bello di aspetto. Disse il Signore: «Alzati e ungi: è lui!». Samuele prese il corno dell'olio e lo unse in mezzo ai suoi fratelli, e lo spirito del Signore irruppe su Davide da quel giorno in poi.

Parola di Dio

Tutti: Rendiamo grazie a Dio.**Salmo responsoriale Sal 22****Rit. _Il Signore è il mio pastore: non manco di nulla.**

L._Il Signore è il mio pastore:
non manco di nulla.

Su pascoli erbosi mi fa riposare,
ad acque tranquille mi conduce.

Rinfranca l'anima mia. **Rit.**

L._Mi guida per il giusto cammino
a motivo del suo nome.

Anche se vado per una valle oscura,
non temo alcun male, perché tu sei con me.

Il tuo bastone e il tuo vincastro
mi danno sicurezza. **Rit.**

L._Davanti a me tu prepari una mensa
sotto gli occhi dei miei nemici.

Ungi di olio il mio capo;
il mio calice trabocca. **Rit.**

L._ Sì, bontà e fedeltà mi saranno compagne
tutti i giorni della mia vita,
abiterò ancora nella casa del Signore
per lunghi giorni. **Rit.**

Seconda lettura Ef 5,8-14**Dalla lettera di san Paolo apostolo agli Efesini**

Fratelli, un tempo eravate tenebra, ora siete luce nel Signore. Comportatevi perciò come figli della luce; ora il frutto della luce consiste in ogni bontà, giustizia e verità. Cercate di capire ciò che è gradito al Signore. Non partecipate alle opere delle tenebre, che non danno frutto, ma piuttosto condannatele apertamente.

Di quanto viene fatto in segreto da [coloro che disobbediscono a Dio] è vergognoso perfino parlare, mentre tutte le cose apertamente condannate sono rivelate dalla luce: tutto quello che si manifesta è luce. Per questo è detto:

«Svegliati, tu che dormi,
risorgi dai morti
e Cristo ti illuminerà».

Parola di Dio

Tutti: Rendiamo grazie a Dio.**Canto al Vangelo** Gv 8,12

Gloria a te, o Cristo, Verbo di Dio!

Io sono la luce del mondo, dice il Signore;
chi segue me, avrà la luce della vita.

Gloria a te, o Cristo, Verbo di Dio!

Vangelo Gv 9, 1.6-9.13-17.34-38**Dal Vangelo secondo Giovanni**

In quel tempo, Gesù passando vide un uomo cieco dalla nascita; sputò per terra, fece del fango con la saliva, spalmò il fango sugli occhi del cieco e gli disse: «Va' a lavarti nella piscina di Siloe», che significa "Inviato". Quegli andò, si lavò e tornò che ci vedeva. Allora i vicini e quelli che lo avevano visto prima, perché era un mendicante, dicevano: «Non è lui quello che stava seduto a chiedere l'elemosina?». Alcuni dicevano: «È lui»; altri dicevano: «No, ma è uno che gli assomiglia».

Ed egli diceva: «Sono io!».

Condussero dai farisei quello che era stato cieco: era un sabato, il giorno in cui Gesù aveva fatto del fango e gli aveva aperto gli occhi. Anche i farisei dunque gli chiesero di nuovo come aveva acquistato la vista. Ed egli disse loro: «Mi ha messo del fango sugli occhi, mi sono lavato e ci vedo». Allora alcuni dei farisei dicevano: «Quest'uomo non viene da Dio, perché non osserva il sabato». Altri invece dicevano: «Come può un peccatore compiere segni di questo genere?». E c'era dissenso tra loro. Allora dissero di nuovo al cieco: «Tu, che cosa dici di lui, dal momento che ti ha aperto gli occhi?». Egli rispose: «È un profeta!». Gli replicarono: «Sei nato tutto nei peccati e insegni a noi?». E lo cacciarono fuori. Gesù seppe che l'avevano cacciato fuori; quando lo trovò, gli disse: «Tu, credi nel Figlio dell'uomo?». Egli rispose: «E chi è, Signore, perché io creda in lui?». Gli disse Gesù: «Lo hai visto: è colui che parla con te». Ed egli disse: «Credo, Signore!». E si prostrò dinanzi a lui.

Parola del Signore

Tutti: Lode a Te O Cristo.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Names will remain for 2 weeks, then a new request is required.

John Green, Jarneila & John, Ronnie, Mona, and Tina Marangoni

HOUSE VISITATIONS

Do you or someone you know require any of the following:

- Annual House Visits
- Visits to the Sick
- Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office on 9484 2907 to arrange a time with Fr Shabin or Fr Tuong.

SICK OR HOUSEBOUND / MALATI O CONFINATI A CASA

Se conoscete persone che sono malate o confinate a casa e vorrebbero ricevere visite o la comunione a casa siete pregati di mettervi in contatto Parish Office **9484 2907**

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Christian Meditation on Thursdays at 10:30am at Holy Spirit Parish. ALL WELCOME.

BAPTISMS: By Appointment Only

- 1st Sunday of the month—St Mary's
- 2nd Sunday of the month—Holy Spirit
- 3rd Sunday of the month—St Anthony's
- 4th Sunday of the month—St Joseph's

Please call the Parish Office 9484 2907 or go to our website at <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/hosan>

SENIORS

After the Thursday 9:15am Mass at Holy Spirit Parish Hall.

- Dopo messa Bingo e carte nella sala, si offre caffè e biscotti. Tutti benvenuti.

After Mass, bingo and cards in the hall, with coffee and biscuits offered. All Welcome.

Last Friday of the month

St Joseph's Seniors Mass every last Friday of the Month at 10:30am in the church.

Parrocchiani anziani di San Giuseppe sono invitati a partecipare alla **Santa Messa ultimo Venerdì del mese alle 10:30am.**

Mass of Anointing of the Sick

9:15am Mass of Anointing of the Sick will take place on the first Friday of the month at St Anthony's Alphington.

"Telephone Prayer meeting"

When: Every Tuesday at 11:30am
Dial: **07- 5660 6012** (call from home)
Access code: **722762 #**
Cost: Cost of a local call. Open to all.

Catholic Religious Education Classes for children attending government schools in preparation for the Sacraments

Please call the Parish Office 9484 2907 or go to our website at <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/hosan>

Safeguarding Children, Young

People and Vulnerable People Committee

Contact Person via the Parish Office:
Moses El-Fahkri



Parish Notices

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



We welcome into the Christian Community **Edie & Pippa Little, Harper O'Halloran, Charlie & Elodie Roy and Dominique Csefalvay** who are presented for their baptism by their parents **Craig & Megan, Sean & Sarah, Michael & Sophie, and Daniel & Alision** at **St Anthony's** this weekend. We congratulate Edie & Pippa, Harper, Charlie, Elodie & Dominique and their families and pray for their spiritual growth and wellbeing in the Lord.

We warmly welcome Seminarian **Rohan Prince**, who begins his parish placement this weekend in our Mission Parishes. Please take a moment to introduce yourselves when you see him after Mass.

RCIA: We thank Jim Coffey and Cheryl Sullivan for preparing our Catechumens: Jake, Kyle, Caitlin, Max and Candidate Lucy in their journey to receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation at Easter. We keep our Catechumens and Candidate in our prayer as they do their second Scrutiny this Sunday.



Convocation of the Melbourne Synod 2026

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli has formally convoked a synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, describing it as a moment for the local Church to listen deeply to the Holy Spirit and discern its missionary priorities for the future. In a pastoral letter and during Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, he emphasized synodality as a shared journey marked by humility, dialogue and attentive listening to the Gospel and the lived experience of the faithful. Drawing on the Gospel story of Jesus and the woman at the well, he framed the synod as an invitation to encounter, relationship and renewal—moving the Church from isolation toward mission, strengthened by the diverse gifts and hopes present across the Archdiocese (Melbourne Catholic).

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Jim Brown for so generously leading the program "**Climbing the Mountain of God**" in our parish. The discussions were not only insightful and engaging but also touched our hearts, offering practical wisdom that continues to guide and inspire us on our faith journey.

During the month of March, children at our Parish Primary schools (**19 and 24 March**) and those preparing through the Sacramental Program (PSP) on **22 March** will receive the Sacrament of **Reconciliation**. Please keep all our students in your prayers as they prepare to receive the gentle forgiveness and love of their Lord.



Asylum Seeker Support Group Alphington, Fairfield, Northcote & Thornbury Fundraising Dinner for Asylum Seekers—**A Taste of India**—

21 March 2026, 7-11pm | Holy Spirit Hall, 197 Clarendon St, Thornbury East | **Entertainment: Jhoom Bollywood Dance Company**

Introducing: Eve Watt Comedian

| Enquiries: 9484 2907

Tickets \$ 75 available via Humanitix: <https://events.humanitix.com/indiadinner>

Choose Chocolate Free from Labour Exploitation This Easter— Children, men and women are too often forced to work in exploitative conditions to bring us chocolate in Australia. Use the Chocolate Scorecard to see if the brand you use is ethical by reading the Poster "A Sweet Solution" at the back of the church or using this QR code to find out more of what you can do.

