

*St. Mary MacKillop
Church
Keilor Downs*



*St. Paul's
Church
Kealba*

PARISH OF ST MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Year B - 10th & 11th March, 2018



Today is LAETARE Sunday. It is a Sunday of rejoicing because it recalls to us that we are GOD'S WORKS OF ART created by HIS GRACE, not by our personal efforts.

Let our tongues be silenced if we ever forget that God so loved the world, and each and every one of us – sinners and saints alike – so much, that HE gave up HIS ONLY SON, that all who believe in HIM, may have ETERNAL LIFE.

The exiles in the first reading tell us about their infidelity and their exile in Babylon. We can identify with them, when we turn away from God by our sinful alienation, in whatever form it assumes. SIN is a refusal to enter into the personal relationship that God extends to us all.

Our Lenten fasting, self-denial – all this does not cause or bring about God's grace and salvation. On the contrary, if we are doing all kinds of praise-worthy, holy deeds, it is because God's grace is active in us. In our good deeds, we simply respond to God's mercy and love for us.

MASS TIMES

<u>St Paul's</u>	
Wednesday	No Mass
Thursday	9.30am
Saturday	5:00 pm (Latin)
	6:30 pm
Sunday	8:00am (Maltese)
	10:00am
Reconciliation	
Saturday	6:00pm
<u>St Mary MacKillop</u>	
Monday	9.30am
Tuesday	9.30am
7.00pm–8.00pm	Holy Hour
Friday	9.30am
Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	9:00am
	11:00am
	5:30pm
Reconciliation	
Saturday	4pm–4.50pm

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts.

1st Reading:

2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23
Psalms 136

Responsorial Psalm:

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

2nd Reading:

Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel:

John 3:14-21

Before Communion:

Lord, we offer you these gifts which bring us peace and joy. Increase our reverence by this eucharist, and bring salvation

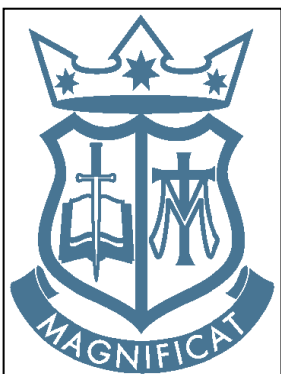
to the world.

Communion Antiphon:

To Jerusalem, that binds them together in unity, the tribes of the Lord go up to give him praise.

After Communion:

Father, you enlighten all whom come into the world. Fill our hearts with the light of your gospel, that our thoughts may please you, and our love be sincere.

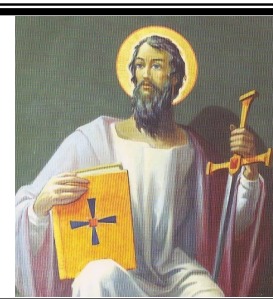


**ST. MARY
MACKILLOP**

'How truly wonderful are God's ways and how little we understand them.'

ST. PAUL

'When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.'



Parish Priest: Rev. Monsignor Charles Portelli **Assistant Priest:** Rev. Paul Chandler
Faith Development: Mr Joseph Zahra—St Paul's **Sacramental Program Coordinator:** Andrew Sciberras—St. Mary MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop Church & Parish Office (both Churches): **St Paul's Church & Presbytery:**
152 Odessa Avenue, Keilor Downs, Victoria 3038 230 Sunshine Avenue, Kealba, Victoria 3021
Office Hours: Mon—Fri 9am—1.30pm **Phone:** 9366 4040 **Fax:** 9364 2706
Office Staff: Joseph Camenzuli & Melinda Xerri
Phone: 9364 0440 **Fax:** 9364 6913
Email: mgrcep@stma.com.au **Website:** www.stmaryoftheassumption.org.au
reception@stma.com.au

Religious Freedoms/Protections

Currently there is a Federal Parliamentary Review on Religious Freedom following the amendment of the Marriage Act to change the definition to allow same sex couples to marry under this Federal law. Submissions have closed and some of the content in these submissions is quite alarming. We know from the 'Yes' campaign that this group was advocating the complete removal of religious freedoms from discrimination laws. Christian schools, churches and religious organisations would not be able to employ staff or enrol members or students that share their faith. The National Secular Lobby has gone even further in their submission arguing that indoctrination of children into religious faiths is a 'tragic consequence' of religious freedom protections in international law. The submission claims that "...it (religion) now represents intellectual child abuse to allow children to be taught Biblical myths..."

In Victoria, anti discrimination laws are currently being weaponised against faith based schools to force them to adopt radical transgender policies. Teaching the Gospel, maintaining a Christian home and providing a Christian education to the next generation are all fundamental principles that are genuinely under threat. Now that same sex marriage is law, it is clear that this is the next challenge facing the religious community. Please pray for our religious freedoms and be ready for the challenges that face our beautiful faith.

(Source: Australian Christian Lobby)

In Remembrance...

Recently Deceased:

Fr Joseph Micallef

Anniversaries:

Michael & Gemma Imbroll,

Pauline Agius,

Connie Poidomani,

Alistair Bosser,

Tarcisio Vella,

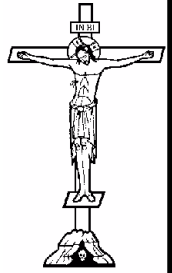
Theresa Pinto, Hubert Barwell, Joan Cate,

Barbara Cassar, Juanita Orzales, Fredrick

Highland, Lancy, Maureen, Romeo & Nicky

Fernandez, Maria Attard, Paul Bonnici, Joseph Attard.

We pray for all those who are sick, especially



LETTING GO

One day while out walking, I was reflecting on my past, worrying about my future. After months of tests for a life-threatening illness, my doctor told me there was nothing more he could do and referred me to the oncology unit. I had left the surgery in a daze. How could this be happening? I searched for meaning but found none. Some ten years earlier I had struggled to accept another child into the family. I had thought that my child-bearing days were over and I was looking forward to doing some study. This child came into our lives and became the spring of light and life in our home. Having had these last ten years, my current anger was directed at God for threatening to take this away.

After all, I was given a job to do (parenting) and I was not going to be able to finish it. What kind of God would give you a family to rear and then take you away before you had finished? It didn't make sense. I was extremely angry. As I walked, with my meditation and breathing I calmed down and cleared my mind of all thoughts of death. Out of one of those rare luminous silences came an answer. God spoke to me and said: 'They are my children too. Why do you think YOU know what is better for my children than I do? I love them unconditionally, and want only the best for them also. Trust me.' In this moment of truth I remembered that my God knows my needs as well as I do and I was left with a peaceful feeling. I knew deep down that no matter what lay ahead, things were going to be OK. I had no idea what that OK would mean in terms of living or dying, but I was able to accept whatever lay ahead knowing that God was there with me in all the stress and worry, walking with me, and this was enough to comfort me. My faith prepared me to meet the future, rather than to foretell it. (Margaret)

For Christians, life is an ongoing journey of dying and rising. Individually and as a Church, the path to maturity is about learning to yield to the Holy Spirit.
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ADORATION & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be held every Friday during Lent at 7pm.

ADVANCED NOTICE

The Kingdom of God is at Hand Healing Seminar will begin on Thursday, 19th March, for 6 consecutive Thursday evenings. All details are on the noticeboard in the foyer of the church at St. Mary MacKillop. Enquiries: Christina 0431 955 975.



Fourth Sunday of Lent 11th March 2018



Evangeline is strengthening Aboriginal culture while making a living and creating opportunities for her community. Featured in Project Compassion 2016, Evangeline went from seeking employment to being a Senior Artswoker and an inspirational leader for youth. Her work

at the non-profit Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation has supported the organisation's growth and it is now a major employer for young people in the remote Northern Territory community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive, essential for a just future.

A Just Future starts with your support! You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

CHILDREN OF MARY

When: **Friday's** during School Term

Time: **4:45-6pm**

Where: St Mary MacKillop's Parish Office Building (Opposite the Church)

All School aged children are welcome

Come and join us for...

Games

The Rosary

and different weekly activities

For more information contact Tara: 0434 636 719



Dear Friends,
 I convey to you the sad news that Fr. Joseph Micallef died on 6th March at St. Bernadette's Aged Care Facility, North Sunshine.
 Ordained at Sts Peter & Paul Basilica, Rome on 13 March 1965, Fr. Micallef served the church in a very positive and pastorally enriching manner, giving fine example to both his brother priests and the community for over 52 years. The Archdiocese is most grateful for his service to the Church of Melbourne.
Pontifical Requiem Mass to be held on Wednesday, 14 March 2018 at 11:00am.
The Rosary will be recited at 10.30 a.m.
St Paul's Church, Kealba (230 Sunshine Avenue, Kealba)
Burial to follow at Keilor Lawn Cemetery

Please note: there will be no 9.30am Mass held at St. Paul's Church on Wednesday 14th March.

CHOIR PRACTICE
 To prepare for Holy Week and Easter will be held on the following days:-
Monday 12th of March at 6.45pm
Monday 19th of March at 7pm
Monday 26th of March at 7pm
 At St. Mary MacKillop Church.
 Enquiries: Rosanna 0425 751 230



PARISH CHOIRS
 Parishioners are invited to join the Choirs at all masses to praise the Lord in song. If you would like to be involved in this vital Ministry, please contact :-
St Mary MacKillop Choir: Rosanna 0425 751 230
St Paul's Choir: Hung 0402 171 733

PRAYER GROUPS

MONDAY MORNING
 Following 9.30am Mass
 10am Fellowship
 10.30am - 11.30am Devotions

Join us in praying the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** 10am-10.30am

WEDNESDAY EVENING
ST PAUL'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP
 Join us in this Lenten season as we share in some time with meditation and reflection on the Cross.
Wednesday, 14th March
 7pm Rosary, Praise, Worship, Reflection & Meditation
 Concludes at 9pm with fellowship.
 Prayer ministry also available.
 For more information call Doris: 9367 4126

SUNDAY AFTERNOON


SAMOAN DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP
 Samoan Divine Mercy Prayer Group - at St Pauls Church every Sunday at 12pm-4pm.
 Info: Deacon David 0451240713

THURSDAY MORNING
ST MARY MACKILLOP MORNING PRAYER GROUP
10.30am - 12pm
 Come and join us in Praising our Lord. Hearing the Word of God and praying. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 (except School Holidays)
 Enquiries: Teresa 0411 233 625

THURSDAY EVENING
ST MARY MACKILLOP EVENING PRAYER GROUP
Thursday, 15th March
 7.30pm Praise & Worship,
 8.00pm-9.00pm Lenten Gospel Reflections
 All Welcome.
 Enquiries: Christina 0431 955 975

LEGION OF MARY
 Wednesday 7.00pm in the Parish Meeting Room
 All Welcome

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
EVERY TUESDAY 7:00pm-8:00pm
 St Mary MacKillop Church
"Will you not stay with me one hour with me?"



ST. PAUL'S ROSTER WEEKEND 17TH & 18TH MARCH

SAT 17TH MARCH 6.30PM
 R Greg Moore
Special Ministers
 M. Long.

SUN 18TH MARCH 10AM
 R Hip Falcoa
Special Ministers
 J. Zahra, M. Zahra.

St Mary MacKillop Cleaning

FRIDAY 16TH MARCH
 Mary Formosa
 Margo Harley
 Pauline Portelli
 Mary Xuereb

Counting Team

COUNTING TEAM NO. 5:
 Eddie Vassallo
 Chris Kisielewski
 Val Watson
 Sally Rodrigues
 Rachel Rodrigues

ST. MARY MACKILLOP ROSTER WEEKEND 17TH & 18TH MARCH

SAT 17TH MARCH 5PM
 R Christine Peters
Special Ministers
 Zbig Piorowski, Michael Vytillingam, Joe Sammut.

SUN 18TH MARCH 9AM
 R June-Ann Caruana
Special Ministers
 Wayne Harrison, Doris Borg, Hilda D'Souza.

SUN 18TH MARCH 11AM
 R Jenny Saunders
Special Ministers
 Rosa Grabovac, Helen Sorokowski.

SUN 18TH MARCH 5.30PM
 R Anne Abeyasinghases
Special Ministers
 Georgina Sant, Peter Schwegler, Marcia Schwegler.

Music Group Rehearsals

ST MARY MACKILLOP GROUP
 Monday 12th March-6.45pm
ST PAUL'S MUSIC GROUP
 To be advised

Feast Days

Saturday, 17th March
 St. Patrick



This Week in the Parish

Monday, 12th March
 10.30am Prayer Group

Tuesday, 13th March
 7.00pm Eucharistic Adoration - St. Mary MacKillop

Wednesday, 14th March
 7.00pm Legion of Mary
 7.00pm St. Paul's Prayer Grp

Thursday, 15th March
 10.30am St Mary MacKillop Morning Prayer Grp
 7.30pm St Mary MacKillop Evening Prayer Grp

Friday, 16th March
 4.45pm Children of Mary

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Entrance:

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
Your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till trav'ling days are done.

Responsorial Psalm:

If today you hear His voice,
Harden not your hearts.
If today you hear His voice,
Harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation:

God loved our world so much

God gave us his only Son
That we who believe in him
May have the fullness of life.

Offertory:

How amazing is your love,
How unmeasured, rich and free;
For you took my hand and walked to Calvary.
On the Cross you took my place,
Sin undone by death and grace.
Your amazing love gave life eternally.

Sun, moon and stars and all creation cannot
tell,
Angelic hosts can never understand
The joy that we who are redeemed,
Who take the Saviour's hand,
The joy we have in your amazing love.

(Repeat all)

...amazing love, amazing love, amazing love.

Communion:

Before the world began
You were on His mind
And every tear you cry
Is precious in His eyes
Because of His great love
He gave His only Son
Everything was done
So you would come

Nothing you can do
Could make Him love you more
And nothing that you've done
Could make Him close the door

Because of His great love
He gave His only Son
Everything was done
So you would come

Refrain:

Come to the Father
Though your gift is small
Broken hearts, broken lives
He will take them all
The power of the Word
The power of His blood
Everything was done
So you would come (repeat refrain)





The power of the Word,
The power of His blood,
Everything was done so you would come.

Recessional:

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

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