



PARISH TEAM: Fr Shammi Perera, Fr Vinco Muriyadan, Fr Jonas Donasco MLCC
Carolyn Gutteridge—**Parish Secretary**
Rosie Caelli —**Sacramental Co-ordinator**

FACEBOOK: @CatholicParishLaunceston

PARISH OFFICE: 44 Margaret Street, Launceston 7250 **PHONE:** 6331 4377
E-MAIL: apostles@bigpond.com
OFFICE HOURS: 10.00AM - 3.00PM WEEKDAYS; **CLOSED ON TUESDAYS**

Sixth Sunday in ordinary time — Year A— 15 February 2026

Dear Parish Family,

A question worth asking daily: Where do my choices lead me?

What would you do if you have the choice today to go for a movie or go to the closest beautiful beach for a walk? What would you choose if you have chocolate mousse or a bowl of strawberries? We are all created with free choice, and how awesome it is to be gifted with it. The first reading taken from the book of Sirach is the clearest formula in the Bible about free will: "He has set before you fire and water." If you want to get burnt and be destroyed by choosing fire, you can live by drinking superabundant living water and be saved. Further, he says: "Before man is life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him." Very clear that we are not robots or machines manoeuvred by some superior being but independent free men and women with dignity. St. Thomas Aquinas views free choice as something coupled with our rationality when he says: "Man has free choice to the extent he is rational." It is quite true because there is a tendency in the world today to identify free choice with "I don't care about others. I will do what I want to do." But the free choice that God has instilled in us is totally different. So, let's ask why God has given us this gift. There are two reasons for that:

God does not intend evil, and nothing other than love emanates from him: "No one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin." (Book of Sirach). God is the source of all Good. In fact, He is the Highest Good. "Summum Bonum," as St Thomas Aquinas introduces it. So, he wants us to be part of this Highest Goodness through the proper use of the gift of free choice.

The second reason why God has given the gift of human freedom is to be part of his holiness. The late Jesuit priest Anthony De Mello said: "We all fall short. And therefore, we all must not judge. We all are called to holiness, and therefore we must not exempt ourselves." So, God calls us for holiness, knowing our weaknesses and failings. He understands man's every deed because he knows everything. "For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God." (1 Cor 2:1). But God looks right into our hearts and sees who we can become. He sees the potential in every sinner for holiness.

Jesus' New Law brings salvation to all through the cross. It entails absolute sacrifice. So, all the free choices that Jesus made were completely conscious choices that pleased his Abba Father. His prime goal was to please God the Father. These choices Jesus made ultimately led him to the cross, but after three days, the same choices led him to the Resurrection that opened us the eternal life for all humanity. There may be circumstances in life where we are faced to make choices that only please God and not many family and friends around us. Such moments are challenging. We might even feel isolated and abandoned. That's what Jesus felt on the cross. However, one thing is certain. Such decisions lead us to eternal life. Therefore, let us ask the fundamental question from ourselves: "Do my choices lead me and others to have eternal life; eternal communion with my Beloved?"

Fr Shammi Perera VG PP

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Sacred Heart Church, Newstead
No 6pm Mass until 28th February
at this stage

Sunday 7.30am Carmelite Monastery
9am St Patrick's Chapel, Prospect
9am St Finn Barr's Church, Invermay
10.30am Church of the Apostles, Launceston
6.30pm Church of the Apostles, Launceston

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 9.30am-10.30am Apostles
5.15pm- 5.45pm Newstead

WEEKDAY MASSES

16th—21st February

Monday-Saturday **7.30am**, Carmelite Monastery
Tuesday **NO MASS** Newstead
Wednesday **ASH WEDNESDAY**
12noon Apostles
3.15pm St Vincent's Hospital
7pm Apostles
Thursday 12noon Mass Invermay
Friday 12noon Mass Apostles

MASS LIVE-STREAMED

Every Sunday at 9am

Facebook @catholicparishlaunceston or:
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/>

Sunday Mass is also televised every Sunday Morning on WIN and WIN HD, 6.00am - 6.30am.

SACRAMENTAL BOOKINGS

Baptisms, Wedding and Funeral Enquiries
Please contact the Parish Office

Interested in becoming Catholic

(RCIA Programme)

Enquiries: Parish Office

CHILDREN'S LITURGY February

1st and 3rd Sundays –9am Invermay
2nd and 4th Sundays 10.30am Apostles

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

TO BE ADVISED

Enquiries: Parish Office

We are located on the country of the Tyerenotepanner, the Panninher and the Litarimirina people of the Stoney Creek Nation. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners, who have cared for land, sea, waterways and sky, as the ongoing custodians, for thousands of years. We honour Elders, past and present. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE The Launceston Branch, will hold its February meeting on **Thursday 19th February, in the Pastoral Centre** starting with Rosary at 12.30pm and the meeting proper at 1pm. New comers welcome. For all enquires ph Victoria: 0408398785 Or Rosa:0427692929

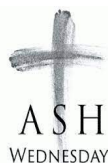
LECTIO DIVINA Every Friday morning 10.30 am for 1 hour, at the Pastoral Centre, Lectio Divina - Contemplating and praying the scriptures for the upcoming weekend Mass readings. A time to slow down, to listen with the ears of your heart. Everyone is welcome.

FRIDAY HOLY HOUR Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place for one hour every Friday when the 12noon Mass is held at the Church of the Apostles

HEALING MASS for all the sick and aged in our parish for all those who are in need of Our Good Lord's anointing and mercy. **Every First Friday at Church of the Apostles at 12 noon.**

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION will be held in the Nano Nagle Room on Wednesdays at 11am and at 4:30pm (*new time*) Christian Meditation is a method of prayer to help us set our eyes on God, in silence and grow closer to Him with Gratitude and Love. All are welcome. Enquires: Tina: 0417305546

THE CARMEL SHOP: The Carmel Shop, 7 Cambridge St, West Launceston is open on Wednesdays, from 4th of February 2026. Enquiries: carmelshop@yahoo.com



ASH WEDNESDAY - 18th February MASS TIMES

7.30am: Carmelite Monastery

12noon: Church of the Apostles

3.15pm: St Vincent's Hospital Chapel, Frederick St

7pm: Church of the Apostles

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays in Lent at 6.30pm in

Church of the Apostles

Commencing Friday 20th February

LENTEN REFLECTION TALKS - "RETURNING HOME"

"Returning Home" talks will be delivered by our Priests in the parish. Lent is a time to pause and take a fresh look at where we are heading as disciples of Christ and to respond to Christ's loving invitation to return home where we truly belong.

Dates: Tuesday 24th February; 10th March; 24th March in the Pastoral Centre

Session times: 10.30am—11.30am or 6.30pm-7.30pm

LECTIO DIVINA - Fridays at 10.30am in the Pastoral Centre will be reflecting on "The Journey Home"

Lenten Reflection Day - Come Beloved - Into the wilderness with Jesus

You are invited to a day of prayer and reflection *accompanying Jesus in the wilderness and discovering the temptations that distract you from your belovedness.* **Saturday 14th March**, 10am - 3pm, Catholic Pastoral Centre, Launceston. **Cost \$50** (including morning tea, BYO lunch). Facilitated by Belinda Chapman. Ph: 0418141 171 Email: belindachapman.sd@gmail.com RSVP: 10th March

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026 - FIRST RECONCILIATION

All parents/ carers of Baptised children, Grade 3 or above, wishing to present a child for the program will need to attend a parent information meeting. Please note previous meeting attendance is not sufficient. The meeting will outline the program, changes from previous programs and answer any questions you may have.

The meeting for parents / carers will be held at: Launceston Parish Pastoral Centre, (upstairs), 44 Margaret Street, on Monday 23rd February at 6.30pm.

Enquiries: Rosie Caelli, Sacramental Coordinator by email: pltn-sacraments@aohtas.org.au or phone the Parish Office on 6331 4377. . **Faith sharing sessions commence Monday 16th March.**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated in our Parish on Tuesday 12th May, 6.30pm at Sacred Heart Church, Newstead.

YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR THOSE CELEBRATING MILESTONES Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to **Sr Margaret Cousins** who celebrates her **Platinum (70th) Jubilee** as a Sister of St Joseph this weekend.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Fr Martin Aye Ngwe, Fr Ed Travers, Lilians Anderson, Merrill Thompson, Lauree Brown, Marcus Hughes, Mary East, Laura, Christina Waiss, Kath Aldred, Carol Cleary, Irene La Palombara, Noelene Bye, Tina La Palombara, Margaret Grossmith, Joanne Foley, Elisabeth Walters, Brigitte, Louisa Buttazzoni, Alida Moolenschot, Peter Brumby, Pat McCarthy, Shirley O'Byrne, Will Smith, Therese Brennan, Kees Moolenschot, Elsie Saltmarsh, Ruth Adams, Egidio Tosello, Maria Holton, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Shirley Ambrose, Alfred Weeding, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Jennifer Dowell, Andrew Campbell, Bill Lewis, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Beardwood, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan,.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED We pray for Pasquelina Bergamin and Cheryl Dawtrey who have died recently, Marica Drazenovic, Jan Siejka, Nancy Whatley, Graeme Power, Dominic Tweehuysen, Gertrude MacMichael, Raymond Bailey, Patrick McCormack, Maria Soroka, Barbara Hawes, Laura DiGiammarino, Irma Pasin, Tim O'Sullivan, Joseph Symons, Beverley Ryan, Maureen Burns, and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



Archdiocese
of Hobart

Cordially invites parishioners to attend a

Mass of Thanksgiving and Farewell

to honour

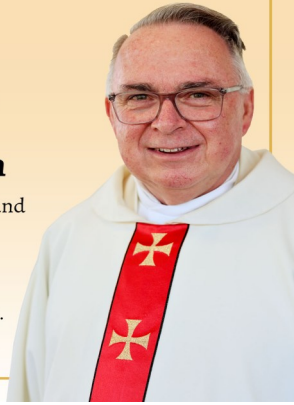
Bishop-Elect Mark William Freeman

Mass will be celebrated by His Grace, Most Reverend Anthony J. Ireland



Monday 2 March, 2026 | 6pm
St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart

Following Mass, a reception will be held at Best Western Hobart.
Reception attendance is by RSVP only, for catering purposes.
Please RSVP by 20 February 2026 by scanning the QR code.



SAVE THE DATE: *Bishop Elect Fr Mark Freeman will be celebrating Mass at 9am in St Finn Barr's Church on Sunday 8th March.*

This Mass will be live-streamed instead of the usual 9am St Patrick's Chapel Mass.

Refreshments will follow Mass in St Finn Barr's School Hall. Please bring a plate of food to share.

Enquiries: Parish Office 6331 4377



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**



Project Compassion Sunday

This Lent, we are called to **Unite Against Poverty** through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.

Please donate today: You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

There is a single Project Compassion donation envelope – rather than the six weekly envelopes used in previous years. This change was made to reduce waste and support our shared commitment to caring for our common home.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026

Parishioners are warmly invited to **Unite Against Poverty** this Lent and attend the prayer service launch of Project Compassion 2026 at **Church of Apostles** at 11 am on Tuesday, 17 February.

A Caritas Action Hour Beyond Project Compassion will feature a guest presenter. **7-8 pm, Monday, 16 February.** at Church of Apostles Parish Centre meeting room. All are welcome. Further information:

penny.edman@caritas.org.au

A VOCATION VIEW

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began. Some people he predestined to be priests or religious - might you be one of them? Listen to the call!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

Parishioners are invited to the annual World Day of Prayer service to be held in Holy Trinity Anglican Church, (Cnr George and Cameron Street) on Friday 6th March at 10am This year, the focus is on Nigeria, learning about its people, praying together for its needs and supporting the work of the Bible Society in its communities.

EASTER RAFFLE

The parish hopes to run an Easter Raffle to raise much needed funds for St Vincent de Paul Society.

We are looking for donations eg: Easter eggs, chocolates, children's Easter items, wine, gift vouchers etc.

Donations can be dropped off to Parish office during office hours. Thank you

Volunteer with IMPACT

palms@palms.org.au

Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities! Join Palms International Volunteering [online](http://www.palms.org.au) in this special session where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](http://www.palms.org.au) suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives.

Details: Online- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events, **Thursday 19 February 2026, 7 pm – 8:30 pm**

Ph: 02 9560 5333



Want to visit a community first? Join our 13-day **Encounter Tour to Timor Leste!**

Book by **28 February** for the May tour! See

palms.org.au/encounters

SAFE COMMUNITIES NOTICE

CHILDREN must be supervised at all times and must not be allowed to wander in the church grounds with church doors open to parking areas and main streets. Children must also be accompanied by an adult (and not another child) if visiting toilets as these can be accessed by the public.

Thank you for your co-operation in keeping our parish communities safe, Fr Shammi



The Catholic Parish of Launceston embraces and whole-heartedly supports the Archdiocese of Hobart Safe Communities Policy and Framework.

Enquiries: Safe Communities officer- Parish Office 63314377 or email: launceston@aohtas.org.au

Safe Communities Information flyer available in the Church or visit: SafeCommunitiesTas.com.au

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING

Sirach 15:15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them

and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

"I have come
not to abolish
but to fulfill."

-Matthew 5:17-37

Next Sunday's readings— First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

Ps 50:3-6,12-14,17

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



Ponder and pray the living Word of God

Bank details for direct debit donations to support the financial needs of your Parish:

Account Name: Launceston Catholic Parish

BSB: 067 000; **Account No:** 1031 6153.

Reference: "your surname"

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.