

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: YEAR B

# The Tidings

14TH NOVEMBER 2021



**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Michael Moody

**DEACON**—Rev Chris Creo

**PHONE:** 9743 6515 **FAX:** 9747 8603

**EMAIL:** melton@cam.org.au

**WEBSITE:** pol.org.au/melton

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Margaret Cassar

**PARISH OFFICE** — 10 Unitt St Melton

(if using Google Maps—20-22 Unitt St, Melton)

**Office Hours** — Tuesday - Friday 9am-3pm

**POSTAL ADDRESS** — PO BOX 96, Melton, 3337

**CHILD SAFETY OFFICER:** Liz Coustley

**Child Safety Officer Phone**— 0490 885 515

**Child Safety Officer Email**— cso.melton@gmail.com

**The Parish Office is not open Weekends or Public Holidays**

**PARISH OF MELTON  
SERVING THE AREAS OF:**

Melton, Melton West, Aintree, Boonie Brook,  
Harkness, Grangefields, Kurunjang, Plumpton,  
Rockbank, & Toolern Vale

**MASS TIMES**

**St Catherine of Siena Church**

**108 Bulmans Road, Melton West**

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:**

Please contact the Parish Office.

**St Dominic's Church**

**Church Street, Melton**

**Thursday & Friday 9:15am**



## INTRODUCTION—

**MY WORDS WILL NOT PASS AWAY.** We live in a world of rapid change. The heavens and the earth as we know them are passing away. In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that things may be dismaying and tough now but the future belongs to God and to the beliefs and values he teaches, rather than with human forces of death and exploitation. Only the word of God stands forever. May we place our trust in the kingdom of God and not in the passing kingdoms we create.



## ANNIVERSARIES

13– 19 November

Joe De Beaufort,

Geraldine Nihill, Sam

Sammut, Filix Perera,

Alosios Fernando,

Madushi Fernando,

Sebastiana Perera, Punchi

Perera, Mark Gerada,

Patricia Peck, Gorga

Buttigieg, Imelda

Thomson, Polly Vassallo,

Christopher Fenlon, Kew

Johnson, Rex DeSilva,

Aloysius Maryanto, Brian

Rayner, Francis Zahra,

Leno Zahra, Evelyn

Menezes, Donald

Graham, Barry Reardon,

Charles Camilleri, Gordon

Vanspall, Robert Gant,

Lily O'Connel, Nancy

Colovitto, Elia Harford,

Cattina Dimech, Virginia

Frona Bonaga.

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## CONFIRMATION

At this time the children of the parish celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation & First Eucharist. We ask that you pray for these children as they take the next step in their faith journey.

## CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE -COBBLEBANK TURNING OF THE SOD

This week had the official turning of the sod ceremony for the new CRC Melton Cobblebank campus. Here are few pictures of the day.



## WANTED—CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are looking for a newborn child to play Jesus during the Christmas Masses. No experience is necessary and any child male or female can play this vital role!

## THIS WEEK'S MASS SERVICES

VACCINATED STATUS SERVICES—Saturday 6pm & Sunday 9am, 11am & 5pm

UNKNOWN VACCINATION STATUS SERVICE—CAPPED AT 30

Thursday & Friday 9.15am—St Dominic's Church

## LITURGY ROSTER NOVEMBER 13&14, 2021

Covid Marshalls	Mass Manager	Welcomer	PowerPoint	Lector	Responder	Eucharist Minister	Gift Shop
<b>6 PM</b>							
Lea Jacuta Liz Coustley	Tania Walters	Margaret & Brendan Richards	Tania Walters	Tetchie Hadfield	Trish McKenzie	Robert Obtinalla	Dalene Jenkins
<b>9 AM</b>							
Anne Stokie Maureen Mohr	Theo Franken	Karl Metha	Sanyata Creo	Jennifer Peters	Theo Franken	Asther Creo	Anne Stokie
<b>11 AM</b>							
Lea Jacuta Liz Coustley	Bruna Tomassi		Daniella Ahmet	Kate Swan	Stephen Fernandes	Lea Jacuta	Liz Coustley
<b>5 PM</b>							
Liz Coustley Frank Unferdorben	Josephine Krajina	Brian Dean		Ismael Sosa-Sanchez	Lesley Sosa-Ritchie	Dunia McPhee	Frank Unferdorben

**COUNTERS:** Leslie Gordon, Elaine Neely, John Woof

**STEWARDSHIP: FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Weekly Pledged: \$8,059.53**

**Weekly Amount Given: \$5,401.47**

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*We proclaim a crucified Christ*

1Cor1.23

9 November 2021

Dear People and Clergy of the Archdiocese,

### **Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021**

My prayerful greetings to you in the Lord.

It is with grave concern that I write to you about proposed new legislation, the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021* from the State Government, which will impact on all faith-based organisations in Victoria.

The Victorian Government is depicting this Bill as merely a protection against discrimination in religious settings. Sadly, however, this is a seriously far-reaching law that will limit faith-based organisations from managing employment matters according to their faith, conscience and values. The legalisation is a serious overreach of the Government into the rightful freedoms of Victorian faith-based organisations.

Across all areas of society, Catholics run organisations with an open and inclusive commitment to people in their care. Our excellence in the provision of services is recognised by many – evident in the large numbers of students attending Catholic schools and educational institutions.

Currently, Catholic organisations, including our schools can freely employ those who share our religious beliefs, values and ethos. However, the Victorian Government has introduced legislation seeking to change this. If it passes, the *Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021* will affect religious organisations all across Victoria, who will be limited in their ability to employ staff, run their schools and provide other services that adhere to their faith, values and ethos.

Under the new legislation, religious bodies and educational institutes will no longer be able to employ staff who hold the same religious beliefs and values unless they can prove that it is an 'inherent requirement' of the job. It would grant power to a government appointed commissioner or a court to ultimately determine whether particular staffing roles carried an 'inherent' religious requirement or not. This means that in places like schools, and especially where government funding is attached, employers will have an extra burden of administration placed on them, and leave them vulnerable to a decrease in the role and importance of faith in the work they do.

The example has been given that in a religious school, the only roles where religious beliefs might be an 'inherent requirement' of the job include positions of senior leadership (e.g., a principal) or religious education teachers. However, what the Government fails to understand is that faith is holistic – it affects the way we see the world and conduct our lives. Faith is part of the very make-up and fabric of each school. It is entirely reasonable and fair that religious bodies should be able to preference those who share their beliefs and values in their own private employment matters.

St Patrick's Centre, PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia  
Tel: +61 3 9926 5612 Email: [archbishop@cam.org.au](mailto:archbishop@cam.org.au)

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I do not believe it is in anyone's interest in the long term for a secular power to make such a determination for religious organisations. The role or importance of faith in a faith-based organisation cannot be relegated to a bureaucrat or a secular court. This is another sad example of people of faith and the freedom of religious organisations being unfairly targeted.

Other organisations like political parties will not have the same restrictions placed on them. In other words, the Government will impose on the staffing of faith organisations but not on the staffing of political organisations. We rightly ask, why the imbalance?

Unfortunately, we can expect the Bill to be debated in Parliament next week and the Government has given its full support to these proposals without adequate consultation in which we could have negotiated a fair and equitable outcome.

We live in a diverse and pluralistic society, and it is our democratic right and responsibility to respectfully challenge legislative proposals which are unfair and unreasonable. I encourage all people of faith and goodwill to stand up for religious freedom and ask our parliamentarians to oppose the Bill, particularly the introduction of an 'inherent requirement' test.

Attached you will find some suggestions on how to raise concerns about this important issue and I also encourage you to share this message widely.

Please continue to pray for a spirit of fairness to people of faith by our parliamentary representatives, and for good sense to prevail.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A Comensoli', with a small cross symbol to the left of the first name.

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**  
Archbishop of Melbourne

St Patrick's Centre, PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia  
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# How to stand up for religious freedom

*In light of the Equal Opportunity (Religious Exceptions) Amendment Bill 2021*

## 1. Contact your local Members of Parliament in Victoria

Writing to Members of Parliament (MPs) is an effective way to communicate with them about this Bill. A short letter (emailed or mailed) respectfully expressing concerns with the legislation will help them understand what is important to people of faith.

Each Victorian has one MP representing their local **district** and six MPs who represent their wider **region**. If you're unsure who to write to, you can find out which district/region you are part of and the contact details of the MPs representing you here:

[www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/electorates](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/about/electorates)

## 2. Contact your federal Members of Parliament

Writing to federal Members of Parliament to tell them about what is happening here in Victoria is also vitally important, because religious freedom legislation is potentially being considered on a federal level. You can write to them to share your concern and ask them to act to protect the religious freedom of all Australians.

Each Victorian has one local MP representing their geographic **area** and twelve Senators who represent their **state**.

Details of your local federal Member of Parliament can be found here:

[www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Members](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members)

*Simply scroll down to 'Search Members' and type in your postcode to find your MP.*

Details of Victorian Senators can be found here: [www.bit.ly/3BNVYAI](http://www.bit.ly/3BNVYAI)

## 3. Share your concerns with others

You are also encouraged to tell your family, friends and those in your local community about your concerns and ask them to become active too.

## 4. Get active on Social Media

You may also like to share your concerns with your Members of Parliament via their Social Media pages.

## 5. Find out more

Keep up to date about this issue at: [www.melbournecatholic.org/religiousfreedom](http://www.melbournecatholic.org/religiousfreedom)

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