



*The only thing that counts is faith working through love. (Galatians 5:6)*

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**15 February 2026**



**TRANSFORMED  
THROUGH  
THE FIRE**

As we stand on the threshold of Lent, our thoughts return to the dried palm branches, once green and vibrant as we shouted "Hosanna!" (Matthew 21:9) - are now brittle and brown. In a sacred cycle of renewal, these palms consumed by fire, transformed into the very ashes will mark our foreheads this Ash Wednesday.

### **The Cycle of Victory and Humility**

The use of palms-turned-ashes is more than a practical recycling of sacramentals; it is a profound lesson on the human heart.

- **The Triumphant Entry:** Last Palm Sunday, we waved these branches to welcome Jesus as King.
- **The Transformation:** By burning these same palms, the Church reminds us that our own devotion can often wither. The "victory" of the world is fleeting, and we must enter Lent in a spirit of humility and conversion.
- **The Holy Ashes:** symbolize grief over sin, humility before God, and the hope found in Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

**Parish Priest:**

Fr. Joby George VC

**Priest-In Residence:**

Fr Sebastian  
Mappilarambil VC

**Parish secretary:**

Caroline Allen

**Parish Manager:**

Gerard Antony

**Principal:**

Paul Sharp

**Child Safety Officer:**

Florida Nugara

**Catechist:**

Christina D’Couto

**Sunday Masses:**

Saturday Vigil ..... 6.30pm

Sunday..... 9.15am

..... 11.00am

Healing Mass .... 7.00pm

**Spanish Mass:**

Saturday 4.00pm

**Weekday Masses:**

Monday to Saturday 9.15am

Wednesday 7.00pm

**Reconciliation:**

Tuesday 9.45am - 10.15am

Saturday 9.45am - 10.15am

**Novena to Our Lady:**

Saturday 9.00am

Wednesday 7.00pm

**Baptisms:** Second Sunday

**Divine Kids Bible Class:**

Sunday 10.15am

**Parish Prayer Group:**

Tuesday 7.00pm-8.00pm

**Parish Halls Hire:**

Contact Parish Office

 **Ash in the Scriptural Background**

While Ash Wednesday itself is a traditional development, its roots are deeply embedded in the Word of God:

- **Our Mortal Origin:** The most familiar phrase spoken during the imposition of ashes comes from Genesis 3:19: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* It serves as a stark reminder of our fragility after the Fall.
- **A Sign of Repentance:** In the Old Testament, sitting in ashes was a public sign of deep remorse. **Job** declared, *"I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes"* (Job 42:6), and the people of **Nineveh** covered themselves in sackcloth and ashes to seek God’s mercy.
- **The Call to Return:** The prophet **Joel** urges us to *"Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning"* (Joel 2:12). Ash Wednesday is our communal response to this call.

 **Entering the Desert**

As the priest traces the cross upon us, the ashes—purified by fire and often blessed with holy water—signify a "**spiritual detox**". We are entering our own 40-day desert, following the example of Jesus who fasted and prayed before His ministry (Matthew 4:1-11).

**Jesus Bless us all**

*Fr. Joby George VC*

**CHILD SAFETY**

Holy Family Parish is committed to upholding the wellbeing, safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.

## READINGS

### SUNDAY

Ecclesiasticus  
15:16-21  
Psalm 119:1-2,4-5,17-  
18,33-34  
1 Corinthians 2:6-10  
Matthew 5:17-37

### MONDAY

James 1:1-11  
Psalm 119:67-68,71-  
72,75-76  
Mark 8:11-13

### TUESDAY

James 1:12-18  
Psalm 94:12-15,18-19  
Mark 8:14-21

### WEDNESDAY

**Ash Wednesday**  
Joel 2:12-18  
Psalm 51:3-6,12-14,17  
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2  
Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

### THURSDAY

Deuteronomy  
30:15-20  
Psalm 1:1-4,6  
Luke 9:22-2

### FRIDAY

Isaiah 58:1-9  
Psalm 51:3-6,18-19  
Matthew 9:14-15

### SATURDAY

Isaiah 58:9-14  
Psalm 86:1-6  
Luke 5:27-32

## ASH WEDNESDAY (FAST AND ABSTINENCE)

The season of **LENT** commences with Ash Wednesday on **18 February**. Mass will be celebrated with the blessing and distribution of ashes at **9.15 am and 7.00 pm**.

**NO novena on Ash Wednesday Evening**

## THE WAY OF THE CROSS

From Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February, and all Fridays during Lent, **The Stations of the Cross** will be conducted at **6.30pm**, followed by **Mass at 7pm**.



## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS & ADORATION

**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February** is the third Friday, and we will have Intercessory Prayer / Adoration in the church after the 7pm Mass until 12 midnight.

Prayer will be in consecutive one-hour sessions. Kindly come and join any of the hours convenient for you.



*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20)*

## BIBLE CLASS for CHILDREN

Sunday 10:15am – 10.55am

(after 9.15 am Holy Mass)

Venue: Holy Family Community Hall



### PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE WEEK

#### **FOR Our Brethren persecuted for Christian faith**

We will be praying for them in every Holy Mass for this week.

Please keep them in your personal Rosary and prayers.

### POSITIONS VACANT

#### **Parish Positions**

- Parish Secretary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church, Sunshine
- Finance Officer, Corio Lara Catholic Parish, Corio
- Youth Worker, St Macartan's Parish, Mornington
- Housekeeper, St Michael's Parish, North Melbourne

#### **CAM Positions**

- Formation Specialist: Sacraments & Liturgy, East Melbourne
- Finance Transactions Team Leader, East Melbourne
- Event & Protocol Officer, Archbishop's Office, East Melbourne
- Product Marketing Coordinator, Catholic Development Fund, East Melbourne
- Finance Business Partner, East Melbourne
- Health & Safety Specialist, East Melbourne

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: [Job vacancies](#) | [Melbourne Catholic](#)

#### **Parish Office Opening Hours**

Tuesday to Friday  
9.30am to 1.30pm

Presbytery T: (03) 97924317 | School T: (03) 97911853

Parish W: [holyfamilydoveton.org.au](http://holyfamilydoveton.org.au)

Parish E: [doveton@cam.org.au](mailto:doveton@cam.org.au)

Parish Manager E: [hfparrishmanager@gmail.com](mailto:hfparrishmanager@gmail.com)

Child Safety E: [holyfamilycso@cam.org.au](mailto:holyfamilycso@cam.org.au)