

8 March 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

Year A



Readings: Sunday 8 March 2026

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7
Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
Gospel Reading: John 4:5-42 or John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

Readings: Sunday 15 March 2026

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

Today's liturgy is centred around a God who meets human need with generous love and life-giving presence. From water flowing from the rock in the desert, to the love poured out in Christ while we were still sinners, and finally to Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, we see a patient, accompanying God who thirsts for relationship with humanity. These readings invite us to recognise our own deep thirst and to open ourselves to God's desire that we receive the life-giving water that restores our life.

2026 Stations of the Cross: Friday

March 13th: St Mary's, Altona at **7pm**
Friday March 20th, St Leo's, Altona North at **6pm**
Friday March 27th: St Mary's, Altona at **7pm**
Good Friday: Cherry Lake, Altona at **Noon**

Mass arrangements for March 19th (Feast of St Joseph): -

Our parish Mass will be at **8am in the Chapel of Mount St Josephs College** in Maidstone Street. Please park in Harrington Square and walk across to the main College entrance. Once you have signed in as a visitor, you will be directed to the College Chapel. (This will be the only Mass in our parish for that day).

Receipts & Thanksgiving Envelopes There are still quite a few uncollected receipts in the Narthex, Could parishioners please collect theirs at the Mass they attend and perhaps deliver any that are in your street. We greatly appreciate your help in this regard.

World Day of Prayer 2026 -Focus on

Nigeria Date: Friday 6 March; **Location:** St. Leo's, 289 Mason St, Nth Altona. **Time:** 10.30am; **Contact:** Anne 0418 340 174.
All Welcome!

Please take home a Project Compassion box to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and support their mission against poverty.

OUR 2026 PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM

THANK YOU for your positive response to our Parish Commitment Weekend – the final weekend of our Parish Renewal Program. A special THANK YOU to all the parishioners who have already returned their completed Thanksgiving pledge commitments and Ministry responses – either at Mass last week or by return to the Parish Office. Your support is very much appreciated!

If you have not yet done so, **additional pledge cards will be available at all Masses this weekend.** Please place your completed financial commitments and Ministry flyers in the special Privacy Envelope and return in the collection baskets at Mass.

Stephen Littleton, our Program Coordinator, will be following up by SMS, email, and phone to confirm intentions from parishioners who have not yet responded – so to minimise that follow-up please ensure you complete and return your commitments this weekend.

Your new pledges will **take effect on Sunday 22 March.** Confirmation letters, and where appropriate, new sets of envelopes, will be available at all Masses on the weekend of Sunday 15 March.

We thank you once again for your generous response.

We may feel our crosses hard at times, but our courage should rise with them.



Liturgy Roster - 15 March 2026

Mass Times	Lectors	Special Ministers
6.00pm	Stephanie Arquesa	Mary Bartolo
8.30am	Jessica Duffy	Mark Nicholls
10.30am	Clara Abate	Noella Misquitta
Linen Roster March	Counting this week: Team 1: 08.03.2026	Counting next week: Team 2 : 15.03.2026
Maryanne Bartolo	Betty Fitzgerald Bill & Maureen Fogarty	Leticia Mauricio Raquel Arquesa Connie Manguiat

**Novena Of St John Paul the Great
to commemorate 40th Anniversary of his visit to
St Leo the Great, Altona North.**

All Welcome.

**See Poster on Narthex Notice Board
for full details.**

Novena Day 1 – 28.2.26 5pm Bishop Martin Ashe
Novena Day 2 - 28.3.26 5pm Fr. Jude Johnson
Novena Day 3 – 28.4.26 7pm Fr. Kevin Dillon
Novena Day 4 – 28.5.26 7pm Fr Victor Farrugia
Novena Day 5 28.6.26 5pm Bishop Thinh Nguyen
Novena Day 6 28.7.26 7pm Fr. Tadeusz Rostworowski
Novena Day 7 28.8.26 7pm Fr Edwin Agius MSSP
Novena Day 8 28.9.26 7pm Fr Paul Tru
Novena Day 9 28.10.26 7pm Archbishop Michael Kalka
Feast Day 28.11.26 5pm Archbishop Peter Comensoli

For enquiries please contact Parish Office via
AltonaNorth@cam.org.au or 03 9391 7111

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” JOHN 4:13

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus - when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”



Recently Deceased:

Kathleen Cassar

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Henry & Angeles Rigonan; Chris Olszewski; Ness Quino; Henry Krol; Pablo Edejer; Josefa Edejer; Wally Morgan; Armando Edejer; Lucilo Dela Torre; Virginia Edejer; Eric Bransdon; James O'Brien; Robert Cuthbert

Prayers for the Sick:

Trish Aitken; Maura McCabe;

Anne Playnsek;

Alfred & Jane Farrugia;

Mary Magdalene the Musical

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Date: 12-15 March, 2026

Where: The Renaissance Theatre, Kew High School; If interested please go to the website to book tickets – Trybooking.com/DHZPD

2026 Palms Easter Raffle – Win an

encounter of a Lifetime! Tickets: 1 for \$25; 5 for \$120; 10 for \$230. Every Ticket purchased goes directly toward sustaining our volunteer program in Asia & the Pacific. Closes 1 April 2026. Palms.org.au/raffle See Poster on Narthex Notice Board for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Prizes.

Cast Your Net! Jn 21 - Join us in a journey of faith in a day retreat for the youth organised by The Little Sisters of the Poor “Love and Service” (Guided by Fr. Ant Nguyen SSS) Saturday 14 March, 2026 . 9.30am to 6pm. Little Sisters of the Poor – 112B St. Georges Rd. Northcote. Please contact Sr. Maureen srmaureenmokaya@gmail.com 0416 609 878 or 9489 8444. RSVP 10/3/2026

<https://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org.au>

Please note the weekly bulletin will no longer be available via bulk email due to stricter filtering laws in relation to bulk emails with attachments. From now on, if you wish to view the bulletin online, please go to our website www.altonacatholic.org.au once opened you can click on the ‘bulletin Tab’ to view. We will endeavour to have the bulletin loaded on our website each week by midday, Friday

Fr. Michael Kalka

✠ MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH ✠

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ABN:29 213 076 983



Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 10am – 2pm
Parish Priest: Archpriest Michael Kalka. JP
Priest in Residence: Fr Deonildo de Andrade
Child Safety Officer: Mr Gavin Deller 0431 184 014
Principal: Mrs Sonia Riccardi 9398 4842
Mass Times: Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 8.30am & 10.30am
Weekday Mass: Tuesday 5pm;
Wed to Sat 9.15am
(or as advertised in the Parish Bulletin and Parish Website)
Reconciliation: Saturday at 9.45am or by request
Anointing of the Sick and Elderly: Once per quarter at Mass or by request
Rosary: After the 9.15 a.m. Mass, Wednesday to Saturday
Marriages & Baptisms: by appointment

Child Safety: The Catholic Parish of Altona is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

Privacy Principles: Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation which deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, store and disclose information including health information collected from individuals. The Catholic Parish of Altona is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.

First Collection: (Loose cash) For the support of the Archbishop, sick and retired priests and our Parish Priest.

Second Collection: (Stewardship Collection envelopes, cheques, credit cards and direct debits) for the management, upkeep and running of our Parish.



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