



PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

ST MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ST MARY'S CHURCH, 123 ST LEONARDS ROAD, ASCOT VALE
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, BARB STREET, MARIBYRNONG

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Desmond J Moloney
Assistant Priest / Lithuanian Chaplain: Rev Fr Joseph Deveikis
Presbytery / Parish Office: 123 St Leonards Rd, Ascot Vale (Postal: PO Box 468 Ascot Vale 3032)
Telephone: 9370 6688
Website: www.melbcatholic.org/ascotvale
Email: ascotvale@cam.org.au
Office Hours: Tue – Thu 9.30am – 3.00pm *Secretary: Carmen D’Rosario*
Principal, St Mary’s School: Mr Denis Johnstone T: 9370 1194
Principal, St Margaret’s School: Mr John Rudd T: 9318 1339

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil:

6.00pm St Mary’s

Sunday:

8.30am St Margaret’s

10.30am St Mary’s

6.00pm St Mary’s (Spanish)

Weekday Mass Times

Mon 10.00am St Mary’s

Tue 9.00am St Mary’s

Wed 9.00am St Mary’s

7.00pm St Mary’s

Thu 9.00am St Mary’s

Fri 9.15am St Mary’s

Sat 9.30am St Mary’s

Reconciliation

(Confession)

Saturday

10.00–10.30am St Mary’s

5.30–5.45pm St Mary’s

Eucharistic Adoration

Tue 9.30–10.30am St Mary’s

Sat 10.00–11.00am St Mary’s

Baptisms at St Mary’s

Baptisms are celebrated on the
2nd & 4th Sundays of each
month at 12:00 noon.

Baptism Information Sessions
are held in St Mary’s Church
at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday
of each month. Parents desiring
the baptism of their child must
attend one of these sessions.

4th Sunday of Lent – 15 March 2026

The 4th Sunday of Lent is Laetare Sunday, ‘Rejoicing’ Sunday, when in the midst of our Lenten penances we anticipate the joy of Easter.

Celebrating Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum

Palm Sunday 29 March

Holy Thursday 2 April 7.30 pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper St Mary’s

Good Friday 3 April 11.00 am Stations of the Cross St Mary’s

3.00 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
St Mary’s

Holy Saturday 4 April 8:00 pm Easter Vigil St Mary’s

Easter Sunday 5 April 8.30 am Easter Sunday Mass St Margaret’s

10.30 am Easter Sunday Mass St Mary’s

6:00 pm Easter Sunday Mass (Spanish) St Mary’s

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Lent

Normal Confession times Saturdays 10:00-10:30am, 5:30-5:45pm

Confessions will also be available at the following times:

Friday 20 March St Mary’s Church 7:30 – 8:00pm (following Stations)

Sunday 29 March St Margaret’s Church 9:30am (following 8:30am Mass)

Wednesday 25 March St Mary’s Church 7:30 – 8:00pm (following 7:00pm Mass)

St Patrick’s Day Mass and Patrick Oration

Tuesday 17 March at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne.

The evening will include:

- 6.00pm: Mass for the Solemnity of St Patrick
- 7.15pm: Patrick Oration delivered by the Archbishop
- 8.00pm: Refreshments will be served in the Cathedral grounds

The event will be a significant event in the life of the local Church of Melbourne, with the Oration introducing *Light into the City*, the Archbishop’s vision for the renewal of the Cathedral and its surrounds – a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore and reimagine this sacred precinct for future generations.

The Archbishop would be honoured by your presence, and that of your parish community. There is no cost for guests, however, places are limited, so we would encourage nominated parishioners to book soon. Places can be reserved via the following <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1538179>.

The Episcopal Ordination and Installation of the Bishop of Ballarat

Fr Mark Freeman will be ordained and installed as the ninth Bishop of Ballarat on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 11.00am at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 21/22 Mar 2026

Parish Counters: V Colichia; B Toomey

Ministers of the Word			Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	
Time	St Mary's	St Margaret's	St Mary's	St Margaret's
6.00 pm	R Hoshun		P Bonnici	
8.30 am		P McLoughlin		R Turnbull
10.30 am	A Fogarty		M Andronaco	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 295

Offertory: CWBII 582

Communion: CWBII 291

Reflection: CWBII 651

Recessional: CWBII 587

Anniversaries:

Maria Rosario; Pasquale Portolesi; Lucia, Carmine & Michael Dilisio; Tony Staropoli; Pino Acquaro; Natalizia (Lina) Spadaro

Readings Next Week: 4th Sunday of Lent: 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Stations of the Cross at St Mary's

Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm

Sacramental Program

*Does your child attend a non-Catholic school in Year 6 or older and needs to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**?* Classes are run weekly (except school holidays), commenced 12th March 2026, **Thursdays 4pm**, at St Mary's school, for approx. 8 weeks. If your child has received First Reconciliation and First Communion and would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, email, catechist.rc@gmail.com or the Parish Office: ascotvale@cam.org.au to enrol for these classes. For any enquiries, feel free to call Rose, the Catechist on mob: 0411 040 669.

Morning Tea after Mass

The Parish Community Group will be holding morning tea after 10.30am Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday, **22nd March**.

We would like to invite everyone to come along and have a cuppa and something to eat, while chatting with fellow parishioners. It is always good to say hello to a person you haven't met before, as well as chat to other parishioners whom you do know.

If you would like to bring a plate of food to share, that would be a boost for catering and we will be very grateful. Everyone is welcome, so please come along!

Mass Of The Holy Oils (Chrism Mass)

The Chrism Mass will be at **St Patrick's Cathedral at 10.00am on Tuesday 31 March 2026**.



Please use the QR code if you wish to contribute to our parish church.
Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.

Legion of Mary - For member enquiries and home visitations please contact: 9346 7900.
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 1800 305 330, Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm.



1. What is a Synod?

A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only “What do we think?” but more importantly, “What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?”

2. Where does the word “Synod” come from?

The word Synod comes from the Greek syn-hodos, meaning “walking together on the road.” This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ.

3. Synodality is not new

Synodality is not a modern invention. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians gathered to pray, listen, and discern together. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Church faced difficult questions and resolved them not through power struggles, but through prayer, dialogue, and trust in the Holy Spirit.

4. A Synod is not a parliament

The Church is not a democracy where truth is decided by majority vote. A Synod is not about winning arguments or pushing agendas. Instead, it is a spiritual process of listening deeply—to God, to Scripture, to tradition, and to one another—so that decisions are shaped by faith and mission, not ideology.

A Prayer from Pope Leo for Peace

As tensions escalate following US and Israeli strikes on Iran, we share this prayer to St Francis of Assisi—a timeless intercessor for peace—which Pope Leo XIV shared with leaders of the Franciscan order at the beginning of the 800th anniversary of St Francis’ death in January 2026.

St Francis, our brother, you who 800 years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You who recognised true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.

Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

14–15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural

Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia’s partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children’s education.



Please donate today.

Online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Fourth Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)

You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall
I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING Eph 5: 8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants

of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Jn 9:1, 6-9,13-17, 34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.