



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.melbourne.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.

2nd Sunday of Lent – 16 March 2025

Jubilee Year of Hope – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Most Blessed Mary

Mother Mary was strengthened to stand at the foot of the cross and filled with joy at the resurrection: by her intercession may our sorrow be lightened and our hope reinforced.

Pope Francis has said: Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. Taking it as our guide, let us return to the message that the Apostle Paul wished to communicate to the Christians of Rome.

*... we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and **hope does not disappoint us**, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. [Rom. 5:2a-5]*

Two Seminarians

Two seminarians, Luke Emslie and Chinh Tran, both in the discipleship phase of formation (second year at Corpus Christi College) will make visits on assigned Sundays in the course of 2025. We welcome their presence and involvement in St. Mary’s Parish.

Growing in parish VITALITY and VIBRANCY

A fuller, more detailed presentation of what was printed in two Sunday bulletins has been placed on the noticeboards.

Fr Desmond J Moloney

Calendar for March 2025

Friday 21	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 22	6.00pm Vigil	First Holy Communions
Friday 28	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 29	6.00pm Vigil	First Holy Communions

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 22/23 Mar 2025

Parish Counters: T Peters; J Balzan

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		M Zoleta		A Laughton
10.30 am	A Fogarty		M Andronaco	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 295

Offertory: CWBII 582

Communion: CWBII 648

Reflection: CWBII 293

Recessional: CWBII 455 v1,2,5

Anniversaries:

Natalizia (Lina) Spadaro; Dorothy LeCount; Rosalie Printer

Feast Days:

18 March: St Patrick

19 March: St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings Next Week: 3rd Sunday of Lent (Year C) Ex 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

Lent

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world.

Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

CARITAS AUSTRALIA
**PROJECT
COMPASSION**



Stations of the Cross at St Mary's

Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm

The 2025 Lenten Regulations are on the parish notice boards at our churches.

Our monthly report - **FEBRUARY 2025 – Offertory donations**

Envelopes/Loose	\$5768.00
Credit card	\$ 1210.00
Direct debit	\$ 5107.00

TOTAL **\$12085.00**

Masterplan: Vision and Mission

If you have any feedback on the vision and mission statement, please feel free to contact Stephanie Houten on 0481 388 215, or via email sstraube@gmail.com. We would appreciate that you submit any feedback before 7/4/2025.

'Dilexit nos' – encyclical letter of Pope Francis on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ, 24 October 2024

The encyclical is divided into five chapters.

Chapter 2 ACTIONS AND WORDS OF LOVE

The heart of Christ, as the symbol of the deepest and most personal source of his love for us, is the very core of the initial preaching of the Gospel. It stands at the origin of our faith, as the wellspring that refreshes and enlivens our Christian beliefs.

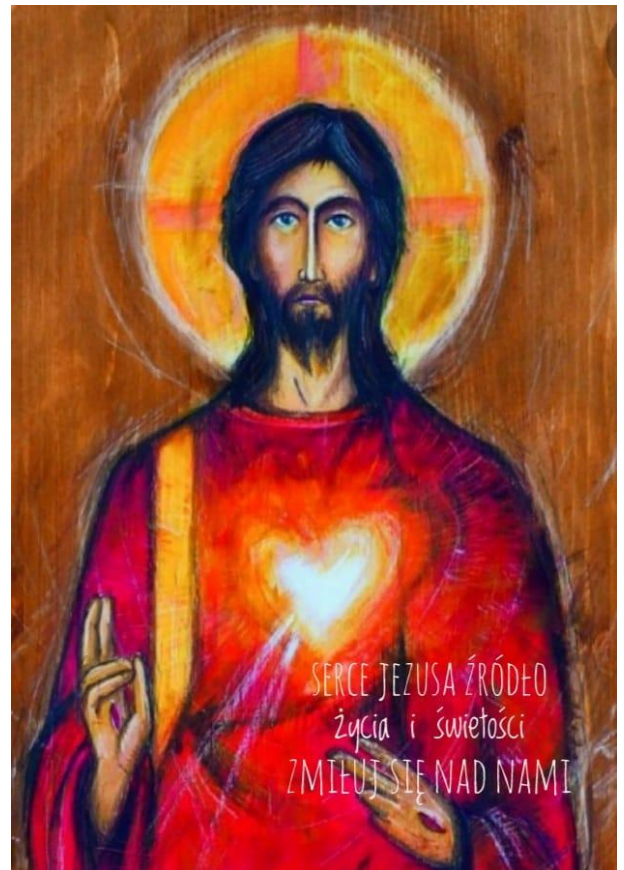
If we find it hard to trust others because we have been hurt by lies, injuries and disappointments, the Lord whispers in our ear: "Take heart, son!" (*Mt 9:2*), "Take heart, daughter!" (*Mt 9:22*). He encourages us to overcome our fear and to realize that, with him at our side, we have nothing to lose. To Peter, in his fright, "Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him", saying, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (*Mt 14:31*). Nor should you be afraid. Let him draw near and sit at your side. There may be many people we distrust, but not him. Do not hesitate because of your sins. Keep in mind that many sinners "came and sat with him" (*Mt 9:10*), yet Jesus was scandalized by none of them. It was the religious élite that complained and treated him as "a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (*Mt 11:19*). When the Pharisees criticized him for his closeness to people deemed base or sinful, Jesus replied, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice" (*Mt 9:13*).

That same Jesus is now waiting for you to give him the chance to bring light to your life, to raise you up and to fill you with his strength. Before his death, he assured his disciples, "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me" (*Jn 14:18-19*). Jesus always finds a way to be present in your life, so that you can encounter him.

JESUS' GAZE

Precisely out of concern for us, Jesus knows every one of our good intentions and small acts of charity. The Gospel tells us that once he "saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins" in the Temple treasury (*Lk 21:2*) and immediately brought it to the attention of his disciples. Jesus thus appreciates the good that he sees in us. When the centurion approached him with complete confidence, "Jesus listened to him and was amazed" (*Mt 8:10*). How reassuring it is to know that, even if others are not aware of our good intentions or actions, Jesus sees them and regards them highly.

In his humanity, Jesus learned this from Mary, his mother. Our Lady carefully pondered the things she had experienced; she "treasured them... in her heart" (*Lk 2:19, 51*) and, with Saint Joseph, she taught Jesus from his earliest years to be attentive in this same way.



2nd Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.' *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 26

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink? (R.)

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' (R.)

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. (R.)

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! (R.)

SECOND READING

Phil 3:17- 4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it

today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown. *The word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt:17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.