



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.

The Ascension of the Lord – 1 June 2025

Parish Offertory Program

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to everyone who promptly collected their offertory giving envelopes last weekend. If you have not yet retrieved yours, we kindly remind you to do so this weekend.

For those who wish to submit their filled-out pledge cards, there are several convenient options:

- Place them in the first or second collections during Mass
- Drop them off at the parish office
- Deposit them in the designated box located in the foyer

Your ongoing generosity and dedication to our parish are truly appreciated. Thank you for your support in strengthening our community and mission.

Towards a Masterplan

Parish Masterplan – PARISHIONER FEEDBACK

Paper

This A4 paper was made available last Sunday at Masses and outlined Harmer Architecture’s list of Priority Investments as gained from parishioner feedback: 1) Parish Resource Centre 2) Community Centre 3) Modern Staff Facilities 4) Safe Parish Residence 5) Outdoor Community Space 6) Investment Plan: a) residential development b) café (leased space).

Return of the FEEDBACK Paper – please return by Monday 16 June either at the box at the parish office or via email.

After the meeting held on Tuesday 20th May, with the Parish Masterplan Reference Group, Harmer Architecture forwarded the following:

Existing Conditions – Site Analysis

Following site inspections and the review of existing documentation, including the St Mary’s Vision and Mission document, Harmer Architecture has prepared existing site condition drawings and highlighted key findings in response to the Masterplan objectives.

- Existing Presbytery: Where possible, non-original additions to the Presbytery—particularly those that are deteriorating and considered unsafe—will be removed.
- Existing Garage & Portable Classroom: Harmer recommends removing the existing garage and portable classrooms to allow for new development opportunities.
- St Mary’s Church: Harmer will include an existing conditions analysis of the church. Further discussion and a separate building conditions audit will also be undertaken.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 7/8 Jun 2025

Parish Counters: J & S Crooks; 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	F Pinto		F Pinto	
8.30 am		B Port		J Gilmartin
10.30 am	G Kearney		R Rotunno	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 372

Offertory: CWBII 651

Communion: CWBII 509

Reflection: CWBII 511

Recessional: CWBII 550

Recently Deceased: Charles Airo-Farulla; Antonio Venuto

Anniversaries: Eric D'Rosario, Lucia Sessarego; Eileen Gaffney; Joseph & Lucy Galea; Keith Ashton; Paul Parnis

Feast Days: **3 June:** Charles Lwanga & companions
5 June: St Boniface

Readings Next Week: Pentecost Sunday (Year C)
Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Lk 24:46-53

Harmer Architecture comments continued:

Existing Presbytery – Heritage Overlay

Harmer have had a preliminary discussion with a heritage advisor on the possibility of demolishing the existing presbytery given that there is a heritage citation on the building. Due to the heritage citation and overlay, it is unlikely that the building can be completely demolished. However, there are building additions and renovations that have been done over the years that are not part of the original presbytery building. There is a possibility that these non-original additions may be able to be removed. We would need a heritage advisor to provide preliminary advice on the extent of refurbishment or alterations that may be allowed. Harmer has indicated on the existing conditions plan which parts of the building are likely to be removed. The heritage statement notes that later additions and alterations are not considered significant.

Zone Diagram - Masterplan Response

Harmer presented a zone diagram in response to the Masterplan objectives to facilitate discussion. The diagram illustrates potential development and landscaping opportunities, spatial relationships, public and private interfaces, and possible connections integrating the church, new buildings, and the school.

New History Garden

Harmer proposes creating a new History Garden at the location of the existing Grotto. This space could be enhanced through landscaping that celebrates the church's history. Some parishioners have a strong connection to the existing statues in the area, which hold deep personal and spiritual meaning. These statues and other articles currently scattered around the site could be integrated into the History Garden. The school has agreed to look after the existing sundial, which may be relocated to the school grounds. There was discussion around the possibility of relocating Fr Bakker's grave as part of the new garden.

Linkage to integrate church, Parish Centre and School:

Harmer presented an idea of a new covered outdoor path from St Leonards Road, with the History Garden highlighted as visitors come into the site to visit the church or the new parish centre, or when parents bring their children to school.

Café / Leased Space

The front section of the Presbytery could be converted into a small café with outdoor seating accessible to the broader community. The space can be leased to a commercial café operator to generate income for the church. The café would serve parishioners, school families, and the general public. To improve visibility and create a more welcoming environment, the existing high brick fence would be modified into a more open, friendly design.

Residential Commercial Development

Harmer presented their thought of possible residential development at the corner of the site for either 12 apartments with underground carparking or 5 townhouses with ground level parking. The return of investment on this development can be further explored where we will need to seek advice from property experts to understand the commercial aspect in more detail. There is a maximum height restriction for this type of development and also setback requirements with possible landscaping opportunity around the site. There is discussion regarding how to fund a commercial development at this scale and how to stage the developments and how to make it viable for the parish to undertake the development. The land in Ascot Vale is valuable and, therefore, the need to consider how to maximise the yield of the development. There are economies of scale that would need to be considered and how to maximise the available footprint of the land. Carparking will be required to be provided as part of residential development and underground carparking would be the sensible approach if we are to try to maximise the developments with residential apartments.

Parish Centre

A new parish centre is essential, offering a fellowship space with direct outdoor access for various community activities and children's use. The centre would also include additional meeting rooms. Consideration needs to be given to provide flexibility in the use of space to be opened up to large or smaller sized rooms.

Communion at Home

After Covid-19, we have noted that quite a few of our (mainly older) parishioners have not returned to Mass. Do you have a family member, friend or neighbour, living in this parish, who is no longer able to attend Mass, but would like to receive Communion regularly?

If so, please contact the presbytery or ring Marie on 9372 0307.

SHRINES OF OUR LADY (18th Aug- 3rd September 2025)

Fr Johnson Malayil, CRS, would like to invite you for a 16-day Jubilee pilgrimage, departing on the 18th of August 2025. This pilgrimage features Fatima, Avila, Loyola, Lourdes, Turin, Milan, Padua, Assisi, Rotondo, and Rome for an all-inclusive price of \$8890 + tips (30+ pilgrims).

The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in 4-star Premium Hotels, Catholic priest, Meals + English speaking professional guides + Entrances as per itinerary. Inquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or email pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 1800 305 330, Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm.

The Ascension of the Lord

FIRST READING

Act 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 46

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. (R.)

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

SECOND READING

Eph 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 28:19.20

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 24:46-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.