

OUR MASS TIMES

Tue & Fri: 9.15am Mass
Wed & Thurs: 9.15am (Communion Service)
Sat: 6.00pm (Livestream)
Sun: 9.00am and 11.00am
Sun: 5.00pm **Youth Mass**

RECONCILIATION

Fri: 6 - 7pm *Adoration and Reconciliation*
Sat: 5.30pm - 5.50pm *Reconciliation*

OFFICE HOURS

Tue - Fri 9am - 4pm



OUR PRIESTS

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Jerald Mariadas (Away on holiday)
jerald.mariadas@cam.org.au

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Rev Libeesh Kuriakose
libeesh.kuriakose@cam.org.au

OUR TEAM

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Loretta Hughes
loretta.hughes@cam.org.au

PARISH COORDINATOR

Liza Jansz (Tue - Thurs)
Rowville@cam.org.au
liza.jansz@cam.org.au

PARISH SUPPORT OFFICER

Cyrrilla D'Souza (Tue - Fri)
cyrrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRAMENTS) & BAPTISM COORDINATOR

Theresa Abraham
Theresa.abraham@cam.org.au

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Melody Wells-Jansz
melody.wells-jansz@cam.org.au

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Newton Marques
Rowville@cam.org.au

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, MARRIAGE PREP, FUNERALS

Please contact our Parish Office

ANointing OF THE SICK

Contact the Parish Office

OUR SERVICES

PARISH CENTRE FACILITIES HIRE

Contact the Parish Office

ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mr Tom Wursthorn - 9755 4222

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE

1800 305 330

MUSICIAN IN RESIDENCE

Andrea O'Loughlin
Available for Funerals & Weddings
Mobile: 0404 051 401

LIVESTREAMING IN RESIDENCE

Corey Payton
Available for Funerals & Weddings
Mobile: 0498 185 295

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN NOTICES

Wednesday 4.00pm

St Simon the Apostle Parish

A compassionate community celebrating and living in Christ

2 Taylors Lane, ROWVILLE VIC 3178 | melbcatholic.org/s/rowville



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 24/25 JANUARY 2026 | YEAR A

Matthew 4:12-23 | 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'



In today's Gospel, Jesus begins his public ministry with a simple but challenging message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." In everyday terms, Jesus is saying, "God is near — it's time to change direction."



Repentance isn't about guilt or beating ourselves up. It's about stopping, taking stock of our lives, and asking whether the path we're on is really leading us where we want to go. Jesus invites people to leave behind whatever is holding them back and to step into something new.

We see this clearly when Jesus calls the fishermen. They are ordinary working people, busy with their nets, not religious experts or important figures. Yet Jesus calls them just as they are. He doesn't ask them to fix

themselves first — he simply invites them to follow. Their response is immediate, showing a deep trust that life with Jesus will be worth the risk.

The image of light shining in darkness reminds us that Jesus meets people in real, messy situations. No matter how stuck, tired, or overlooked someone may feel, God's light can still reach them.

This Gospel challenges us to listen for Jesus' call in our own everyday lives — at work, at home, in our relationships. Where might we need to let go, change direction, or trust more deeply? Jesus still calls ordinary people, and he still brings light where it's needed most.

With Blessings, Fr Jerald Mariadas

AUSTRALIA DAY MASS



St Jude's and St Simon's warmly invite you to a special Combined Parish Mass as we come together in faith, friendship, and community.

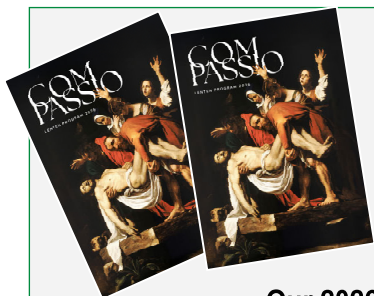
- Monday 26 January 2026
- 10:00am
- St Jude the Apostle Church, Scoresby

Let's celebrate Australia Day by uniting our two parish communities and strengthening the bonds that bring us together. Everyone is welcome



☎ (03) 9764 4058 @ rowville@cam.org.au

For all Bulletin Notices, please email
cyrrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au



Our 2026 Lenten Program is Compassio, developed by the Archdiocese of Wollongong. This well-established program invites parishioners into a deeper Lenten journey through Scripture, prayer, reflection, and shared discussion, helping us grow in faith and live the call to compassion more fully.

Each session provides a welcoming space to pause with God's Word and support one another as we prepare our

hearts for Easter. Parishioners of all ages and stages of faith are warmly encouraged to take part.

Sessions will be held at the following times, in the Parish Meeting Room/ Chapel, and you are welcome to

PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM 2026

attend whichever session best suits your schedule:

Monday 16 February: 7.00 – 8.30pm

Tuesday 17 February: 7.30 – 9.00pm

Thursday 19 February: 10.00 – 11.30am, 7.00 – 8.30pm

Friday 20 February: 10.00 – 11.30am

Please register via the sign-on sheets at the Welcome Desk. This is a wonderful opportunity to journey together as a parish during Lent, grounded in prayer, tradition, and shared faith. We encourage all our parishioners to join a session.

Where in your life is there a need to 'repent' – turn around; change your mind?

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD will resume from **8 February**.
All children up to 10 years of age are welcome



NEXT WOMEN'S GROUP
Thursday 26 February 2026 10am
in the Parish Center

Our next Men's Group will be held on Wednesday 28 January 7.30pm

We are very grateful for the men who continue to support and strengthen this group, and we warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Friendship | Conversation | Faith

Touch of Heaven

ALAN AMES MINISTRY

A unique faith filled experience of the healing power of our Lord



Alan has visited 40 countries and will speak of his dramatic conversion from alcoholism and violence to a deeply prayerful and sacramental life.

10 Feb St Gregory the Great, DONCASTER

11 Feb St Simon the Apostle, ROWVILLE
12 Feb St Martin de Porres, LAVERTON

6:30pm Rosary, 7:00pm Mass
followed by Alan Ames talk

Enquiries, please contact: Bernadette O'Hanlon | 0407 007 708 or Divine Mercy Publications 03 9830 4386

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Preparation Classes for the Sacrament of Reconciliation has begun for children in **Grade 3 & above** in non-Catholic schools.



Classes begin on **Tue 3 Feb, 4.00pm** at **St Simon's Parish Centre**

Please scan the QR code to register or call the Parish office.



PLEASE BRING IN YOUR OLD LENTEN PALMS AND PLACE THEM IN THE BASKET IN THE CHURCH FOYER BY 8 FEBRUARY

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- ◆ Test / Tag Services

Contact Ash: 0413 913 619

OUR PARISH GARDENS

Do you enjoy being outdoors and making a difference?

Our parish gardening group is looking for friendly volunteers to help care for the church grounds.

Just a few hours on Thursdays helps create a welcoming space for all. No experience needed — only a positive attitude and a love of nature.

If you're interested, please contact Liza at liza.jansz@cam.org.au. Thank you for helping keep our parish looking its best.



Do you have a compassionate heart or a listening ear?

Our Care to Connect team offers friendship and support to parishioners who are sick, lonely, bereaved or housebound. A simple phone call or visit can make a real difference.

If you know someone who would benefit, please leave their details in the Care to Connect book at the Help Desk. We are also seeking volunteers for phone calls and visits. Please contact the Parish Office to learn more. Together, we can ensure no one in our parish feels alone.



How can you share your time, kindness, or faith this week?

2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM *for Primary and Secondary School Students*

We are now taking enrolments for the 2026 sacramental program for families with children in primary and secondary schools who wish to have their child baptised, receive Holy Communion or confirmation. If you would like to know more or to register your interest, please contact:-
St Jude's Parish: 9763 7302 or
St Simon's Parish: 9764 4058



Farewell Masses for Fr Libeesh

14–15 Feb, St Simon's;
28 Feb–1 Mar, St Jude's.
We wish him blessings and assure him of our prayers.



A Farewell collection for Fr Libeesh

Fr Libeesh has a new appointment

As we prepare to farewell Fr Libeesh, we would like to present him with a small gift as a token of our gratitude for his faithful service, kindness, and dedication to our parish community.

If you would like to contribute toward this gift, donations may be made at the parish office or via the marked collection box after Mass. Your generosity, in any amount, will be deeply appreciated — but most of all, your prayers and good wishes mean just as much.

Thank you for helping us express our thanks in a meaningful way.



Listening for God in your life – a prayerful space to discern God's presence and invitations.

Are you seeking a deeper relationship with God, a prayerful space to reflect on your faith and life? Are you wondering where God is leading or inviting you?

If you would like a listening ear of a qualified spiritual director, I offer spiritual direction / accompaniment as a prayerful, confidential, and non-

judgemental conversation, supporting you to notice God's presence and discern where the Holy Spirit may be inviting you.

If you would like to enquire, please contact Ewa (pronounced as 'ever' J) on 0425 776 083, or toomeyewa2000@gmail.com. Looking forward to hearing from you.



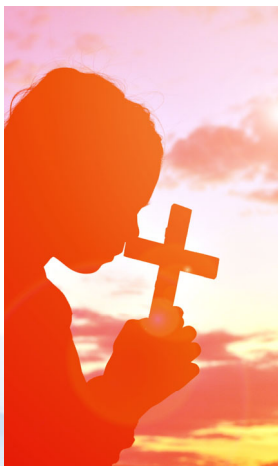
To access our
livestreamed Masses
please scan the QR Code



WE REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

For those who have died recently
Gillian Anne Deeley, Helen Tan and those whose memories are sacred to us at this time especially Eileen Misso, Josephine Dixon, Jean Dalton, Rupert Ferdinands, John Phillip Vaz

For the Sick: Bill Leane, Jenny Liston, Perry Law, Sam Russo, Jay Russel, Anita Crowley, Lisette & Noah Vissenjou, Bernadette and Murray Ukena, Lisette Visenjou, Noelle Parsons, Jonathan Salerno, Barbara Kirsch, Mark Bramich, Charles, Daniel, Denzil Britto, Trevor Cross.



Now open for 2026

Our parish is blessed to journey with families as children prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Each of these Sacraments is an encounter with God's grace, deepening their faith and drawing them closer to Jesus Christ and His Church.

To register your child or to obtain further information, please email or contact the Parish Office.

We look forward to accompanying our young parishioners and their families.



**SACRAMENTAL
REGISTRATIONS**

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, 24/25 January 2026

First Reading: *Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3*

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

Responsorial Psalm 26

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading: *1 Cor 1:10-13, 17*

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice.

From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel: *Matthew 4:12-23*

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.



IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

MON 26 JAN	TUE 27 JAN	WED 28 JAN	THUR 29 JAN	FRI 30 JAN	SAT 31 JAN	SUN 1 FEB
OFFICE CLOSED	9.15am Mass (Fr Libeesh)	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Mass (Fr Libeesh)	5.30pm (Church) Reconciliation	9.00 am Mass (MGL)
10.00am (St Jude's) Combined Australia Day Mass	7.30pm (Parish Center PC) RCIA Meeting	7.30pm (PC) Men's Group	5-9.00pm (Church) SSS Choir Practice	6.00pm (Church) Eucharistic Adoration	6.00 pm Mass (MGL)	11.00 am Mass (MGL)
7.30pm (via ZOOM) Gospel Reflection	7.30pm (Church) Chaldean Community	7.30pm (Church) Chaldean Community		7.00pm (PC) Chaldean Women G	PLEASE NOTE: THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY	12.30pm (Church) Chaldean Catechism
7.30pm (Church) Chaldean Community				8.00pm (Church) 11am Choir Practice		2.00pm (Church) Chaldean Community
Fr Jerald will be on holiday from 12 January to 6 February						3.30-5pm (PC) Chaldean Community
WEEKDAY MASSES St Simon's—Tuesday and Friday St Jude's—Wednesday and Thursday COMMUNION SERVICE St Simon's—Wednesday and Thursday St Jude's—Friday						5.00pm Youth Mass Fr Tony Alex

NEXT WEEKEND

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time — 31 JAN / 1 FEBRUARY 2026 — Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13, 1 Cor 1:26-31, Matthew 5:1-12

MASS TIMES	31 JAN, SATURDAY 6.00PM	1 FEB, SUNDAY 9.00AM	1 FEB, SUNDAY 11.00AM	1 FEB, SUNDAY 5.00PM
Commentator	Jodie Marziano	Pam Comerford	Christina Liew	Damon
Reader 1	Thabesan Family	Phil Mawdsley	Loretta Hughes	Zara
Reader 2	Thabesan Family	Dorothy Stack	Alf Kakala	Aarya
Welcome Desk	Malaika de Mel	Enakshi Jayamanne	Roseline Acker	
Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	
Flowers	Beatrice Polydor	Altar Society	Lidwin & Samuel Hudson	Church Cleaning
			Marina Ruffolo, Diana Paul-Anna, Kim Phoon	Giselle Garcia