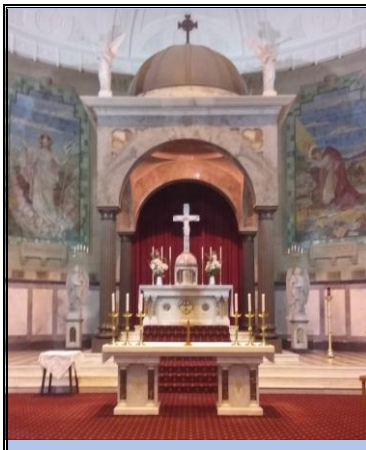




PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.

1st Sunday of Lent – 9 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 officially declared 2025 a Year of Jubilee with a papal bull, titled **“Spes Non Confudit,”** meaning “Hope Does Not Disappoint.” The Jubilee Year began with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024.

“Hope is also the central message of the Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years,” said Pope Francis in his papal bull.

The theme of the jubilee is “pilgrims of hope” as the pope is calling on all Catholics to renew in the hope of Christ, using St. Paul the Apostle as a guide for this special year.

“Everyone knows what it is to hope,” said Pope Francis. “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 the 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,”

The Year of Jubilee follows the Year of Prayer in 2024, which was **declared by the pope on Jan. 21**. Since then, Pope Francis has urged the faithful to pray for peace, especially amidst the wars in Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine. The Dicastery for Evangelization **released a free “Teach Us to pray” guidebook** for the Catholic faithful.

Pope Francis also decreed that on Sunday, Dec. 29, in every cathedral and co-cathedral, diocesan bishops are to celebrate Mass as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year. The Jubilee will officially come to an end with the closing of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica on Jan. 6, 2026, the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 15/16 Mar 2025

Parish Counters: V Colicchia; J Dawson

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	J Escano		P Stanley	
8.30 am		B Dwyer		J Gilmartin
10.30 am	R Wiatrowski		R Rotunno	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 587

Offertory: CWBII 291

Communion: CWBII 648

Reflection: CWBII 293

Recessional: CWBII 295

Anniversaries:

Rose & George Glover; Francesco Zanni

Readings Next Week: 2nd Sunday of Lent (Year C) Gen 15:5-12,17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28-36

Baptism

We warmly welcome into the family of God's Church, the children being baptised in our Parish this weekend.

Sienna Grace Maggiore

Matteo Dean Cantone

Zoe Anne Frazer

Isla Maeve Spencer Maggiore



Wedding at St Mary's

We congratulate **Carrie Ho & Matthew Huliganga**, married at St Mary's this weekend.

Lent

Project Compassion - Project Compassion boxes/envelopes are available for collection in both churches.

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

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 – starts this Friday 14 March 2025

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

Calendar for March 2025

Friday 14	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
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

PLEASE NOTE: NO 9.15am MASS At St Mary's Church on Friday 14 March 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 1 The importance of the heart:

This chapter reflects on what we mean when we speak of "the heart," with reference to Ancient Greek civilization and the Bible. The pope argues that in a time of social upheaval, "we need to start speaking once more about the heart."

He writes: "In this age of artificial intelligence, we cannot forget that poetry and love are necessary to save our humanity."



This interior reality of each person is frequently concealed behind a great deal of "foliage," which makes it difficult for us not only to understand ourselves, but even more to know others: "The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse, who can understand it?" (Jer 17:9) We can understand, then, the advice of the Book of Proverbs: "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life; put away from you crooked speech" (4:23-24). Mere appearances, dishonesty and deception harm and pervert the heart. Despite our every attempt to appear as something we are not, our heart is the ultimate judge, not of what we show or hide from others, but of who we truly are. It is the basis for any sound life project; nothing worthwhile can be undertaken apart from the heart. False appearances and untruths ultimately leave us empty-handed.

If we devalue the heart, we also devalue what it means to speak from the heart, to act with the heart, to cultivate and heal the heart. If we fail to appreciate the specificity of the heart, we miss the messages that the mind alone cannot communicate; we miss out on the richness of our encounters with others; we miss out on poetry. We also lose track of history and our own past, since our real personal history is built with the heart. At the end of our lives, that alone will matter.

THE HEART UNITES THE FRAGMENTS

We see, then, that in the heart of each person there is a mysterious connection between self-knowledge and openness to others, between the encounter with one's personal uniqueness and the willingness to give oneself to others. We become ourselves only to the extent that we acquire the ability to acknowledge others, while only those who can acknowledge and accept themselves are then able to encounter others.

This profound core, present in every man and woman, is not that of the soul, but of the entire person in his or her unique psychosomatic identity. Everything finds its unity in the heart, which can be the dwelling-place of love in all its spiritual, psychic and even physical dimensions. In a word, if love reigns in our heart, we become, in a complete and luminous way, the persons we are meant to be, for every human being is created above all else for love. In the deepest fibre of our being, we were made to love and to be loved.

Whenever a person thinks, questions and reflects on his or her true identity, strives to understand the deeper questions of life and to seek God, or experiences the thrill of catching a glimpse of truth, it leads to the realization that our fulfilment as human beings is found in love. In loving, we sense that we come to know the purpose and goal of our existence in this world.

1st Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING

Dt 26:4-10

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement: "My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 90

R. Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' (R.)

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. (R.)

They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. (R.)

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 10:8-13

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus

is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt:4-4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.' Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

The Gospel of the Lord.