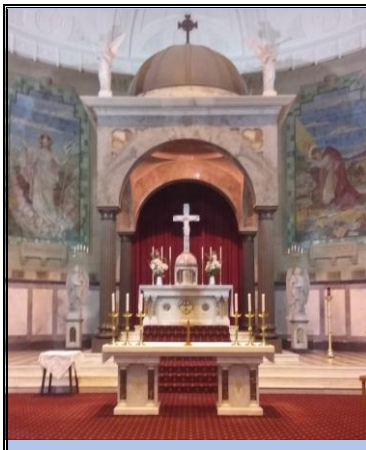




PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.

Second Sunday of Advent – 7 December 2025

Solemnity of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Monday, 8th December)

This is the patronal feast day of St. Mary’s Parish, Ascot Vale, and also happens to be the patronal feast day of the United States of America.

We honour Blessed Mother Mary because God favoured her with a special grace and her decision to cooperate with it has blessed humankind.

For our parish, may the intercession of Blessed Mother Mary assist the whole parish in its growth and development.

Blessed Mother Mary, Mother of the Church, we entrust our parish to you. Help us grow in genuine faith, strengthen us in service, and unite us in true Christian love.

Guide every family, leader, and ministry to walk in harmony and compassion. Teach us to support one another, to be generous in charity, and to live as one body in Christ. Through your motherly care, may our parish increasingly be a place of peace, prayer, and unity, where God’s love is made visible every day. Amen.

Parish Prayer

Lord Jesus, we place in your Sacred Heart
all the needs of the Church, the needs of the world and of our nation.
We entrust to you all the needs and cares of our own hearts,
and of those who are dear to us.

In a special way we pray for this church and this parish
named in honour of your Immaculate Mother and placed under her patronage.
Through her intercession, the intercession of St Margaret and of all the saints,
may every blessing be poured out on all members of our parish,
on all our works and ministries, and on all those who live here.

We pray in particular for our schools,
their staff and students, and all their families.
We remember especially our deceased parishioners:
may they be received into eternal life.

May our parish be filled with holiness and prayer, with faith and love;
may it be a place where worthy and reverent worship is offered to God,
and where we receive grace and power for our mission.

May all who come here find a welcoming home,
comfort in their needs and strength for their journey. Amen.

Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, Who by the working of the Holy Spirit did prepare both body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mother, Mary, that she might deserve to be made a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant that we who rejoice in her memory, may, by her loving intercession, be delivered from present evils and from lasting death, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 13/14 Dec 2025

Parish Counters: J & S Crooks, 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	R Boyer		P Barbaro	
8.30 am		B Dwyer		J Gilmartin
10.30 am	R Wiatrowski		R Rotunno	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 242

Offertory: CWBII 527

Communion: CWBII 603

Reflection: CWBII 251

Recessional: CWBII 240

Recently Deceased:

Fidelis Maryanne Boyer; Kathleen Stevenson; Agostino (Gus) Graziano

Anniversaries:

Robert Ridler; Denis & Mildred Andrews

Feast Days:

8 Dec: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

13 Dec: St Lucy, virgin, martyr

Readings Next Week:

3rd Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Is 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December

6:00 pm St Mary's
 8:00 pm St Margaret's
 12:00 Midnight St Mary's Carols from 11:30

Christmas Day, Thursday 25 December

(no 8:30 am Mass)

10:30 am St Mary's



Extra times for individual Reconciliation in Advent

In addition to our normal Confession times of **10:00-10:30 am and 5:30-5:45 pm every Saturday**,

St Mary's Tuesday 16 December 9:30-9:50am during Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration

St Mary's Wednesday 17 December 7:30-8:30pm with the Second Rite

St Mary's Sunday 21 December 10:00-10:20am

New Year's Day: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Thursday (1st January) - Mass at 9.00am at St. Mary's

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came along to our morning tea last Sunday.

A special thank you to all who came to any of our social events during the year, provided food for us all to share and helped in the setting up, serving and cleaning up. We appreciate your assistance.



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: 0435 095 998.

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

Volunteers for new Rosters:

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Welcomers, Counters

The next rosters for St Mary's & St Margaret's commencing January to April 2026 are being prepared. If you wish to be part of any of these wonderful ministries please contact Fr Desmond. Can we request all those who are currently on the rosters to advise the parish office via email if you wish to make any changes. Thank you.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

We are grateful for the support of our schools and parishioners have given us over the years, but we still face growing demand for people struggling to afford basic needs, particularly food, rent and utility costs. While some benefits and wages have gone up, they have not all kept pace.

From July to November this year we have spent over \$36,000 in the Ascot Vale area.

We have been told that the poor are always with us, so please remember that any small amount you can afford to donate to this appeal will go to help.

There are envelopes at the church doors with instructions for payment.

IN THE FRAME TO PROCLAIM



Advent Carol Service at St Patrick's Cathedral

Sunday 21 December 2025

3.00pm–6.00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral

The renowned choir of St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne presents its 51st Advent Carol Service (music, readings and prayers)

Second Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING

Is 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 71

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 15: 4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from

the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 3: 1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.