



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 Advent – 8 December 2024

Take the Way of the Gospel - Framework for Parish Renewal

Parish Masterplan Reference Group

This Reference Group, I am pleased to announce, is comprised of Richard Turnbull (facilitator), Nadia Jaworski, Robert Hoshun and Pavel Floroiu. I see its role as information-gathering and information-sharing, and, therefore, having a mediating function between the parish and Harmer Architecture.

St. Mary’s Parish – *Understanding of Mission*

The Self-Reflection Tool made available last Sunday concerns *Growing Viable Parishes*. It became obvious to me during the week that the great majority of parishioners would lack the knowledge to complete this tool. After having worked on this particular Self-Reflection Tool I then presented it to the Finance Committee for discussion. [see below] I did this in view of including it in this bulletin so that parishioners would have the knowledge it contains.

There are two other Self-Reflection Tools: *Growing Vibrant Parishes* and *Growing Vital Parishes*. These are much more straightforward and could be undertaken during collections or after Communion. An extra paper following the SOAR model: Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results is also available to be used by parishioners. Completed papers within or outside Mass are to be returned to the Parish Office.

Growing *Viable* Parishes - **CURRENT STATUS**

Minimum criteria for viability

We have a regular planned-giving programme: **No**; last programme in 2019
Our income from parishioners (thanksgiving, collections and donations) is sufficient to fund our priests, secretary and the general running costs of our parish including insurance, utilities, IT, churches and office supplies: **Yes**
Our parish does not deplete capital assets to pay for our current expenses: **Yes**; our parish has had to draw legitimately from the Preservation Fund to pay for particular projects, but when there has been no other option
We do not expect the Archdiocese to forgive our parish debts so we can meet our parochial expenses: **Yes**
We are meeting our financial obligations to the Archdiocese (i.e. Cathedraticum, Quota, Priests Retirement Fund, Land Acquisition Fund): **Yes**

3/5

contd Page 4

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

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 14/15 Dec 2024

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		F Pinto	
8.30 am		P McLoughlin		A Laughton
10.30 am	D Cutinho		M DeMaria	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 239

Offertory: CWBII 593

Communion: CWBII 482

Reflection: CWBII 232

Recessional: CWBII 233

Recently Deceased: Joseph Abdilla; Conrado Espinar; Neville Collins

Anniversaries: Vincenzo Caldarone; Giuseppe Panetta; Wenceslao Mallari; Gil Areza; Ana Carreon; William Ward

Feast Days: **9 Dec:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

13 Dec: St Lucy

14 Dec: St John of the Cross

Readings Next Week: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year C)
Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 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, Wednesday 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 17 December

9:30-9:50am during Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration

St Mary's Wednesday 18 December

7:30-8:30pm with the Second Rite

St Mary's Sunday 22 December

10:00-10:20am

Christmas Carols

True North Young Adults' choir will sing at 10.30am Mass, on the 22nd December at St Mary's Ascot Vale. Followed by Christmas Carols at 11.45am, plus a sausage sizzle and bake sale afterwards!



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Welcomers, Counters

The next roster for St Mary's & St Margaret's commencing January 2024 to April 2024 is being prepared. If you wish to come off the rosters, please contact us as well. Thank you.

Baptisms

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

Xavier Neal Croston

Mason Steele Miller

Lucy Ann Miller

Cruz Konrad Dobraszkievicz

Azaria Rose Cipollone

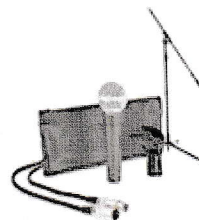
Lily Grace Anderson

Charlie Anderson

Zailie Rae McLean



Time to give something back to our Parish...



Public Address Audit

2024 - 2025 a Parish project

Summary

An examination of the Sound System at St. Mary's Church by the Media Team leads to the production of a "Wish List" in three stages where items not working well would be replaced. Parishioners are invited to select items from the published "Wish List" and either make full or part payment.

Comments are often made by visitors to the Parish that they can't hear the priest or choir clearly when they attend Mass. Certain microphones appear to be "soft" eg the wireless microphone the priest wears. This is further complicated by "dead spots" in various random spaces within the Church where you can't hear much at all if you sit there.

Compounding these problems is that St Mary's is known as an "echoey" church. The bare back wall and distance from front to back present some problems for loudspeakers distributed as they are down the sides of the church. Reproduction of the spoken human voice in those circumstances can be difficult.

In response to all this a report has been produced by the Media Team this year. The report confirms specific problems with parts of the system and makes many recommendations for a 2024 - 2025 upgrade. The full audit is on our Website.

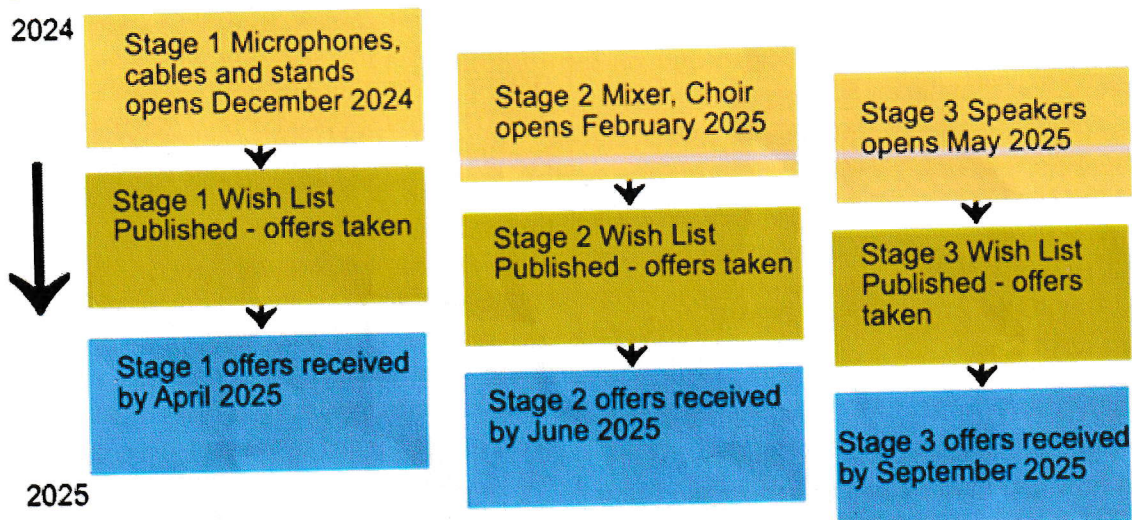
The aim of this upgrade would be to produce the best sound audio technology can reasonably deliver. The upgrade, it is suggested, is to be presented over a number of stages over a period of time. This will roughly coincide with Stage 1 Microphones, microphone cables and microphone stands, Stage 2 Mixers and choir issues and Stage 3 Speakers (with the option of amplifiers being built into the speakers.)

A Wish List for Stage One will be presented at the exit doors today. The Wish List contains all the upgrades considered necessary to carry out the Stage One refurbishment. Stage one involves upgrading the Presider's microphone, stand and cable, upgrading the Altar "church mice" microphones, upgrading the Wireless microphone including appropriate antenna placement.

Individual Parishioners, Families or Groups within the Parish could choose to respond by sponsoring an item(s). The benefits of sponsorship are clear. We are directly participating in the proclamation of the Word and helping others benefit from that proclamation. Watch out for updates in this Bulletin. Please give consideration to supporting our Parish in this practical and very specific funding proposal where you are in control of what you purchase on behalf of the Parish, big or small.

Gerald Kearney (0431570067) for the Media Team

Public Address Parish Project 2024 - 2025



Sustainability characteristics

We have sufficient capital reserves for short and long-term capital needs: **No**; not for long-term

We have a Parish Finance Committee that assists in the development of a long-range fiscal plan (5 years plus) that demonstrates our ability to fund operational and capital needs across the parish: **No**; in progress and is connected to the masterplan.

We have evidence of adherence to (and ongoing investment in) Archdiocesan policies and procedures that protect people and property (e.g. human resources, child safety, property risks): **Yes**

Our parish office staff is competent and capable of fulfilling role requirements: **Yes**

We have recently undertaken an assessment of lay leadership and competency (including employee evaluation) and can sustain staff and volunteer related expenses (including investing in formation and professional development): **No**; incomplete.

2/5

Growth characteristics

We have stable, sufficient and diverse income streams to fulfil specific obligations or anticipated needs: **No**

We have a Parish Master Plan that builds out our long-term strategy: **No**; in progress

We have a long-term cash flow estimate and lifecycle costing of minor and major works to all property assets: **No**

We have sufficient and appropriately located land, building and spaces that we can mobilise to support and grow our mission (directly or indirectly). Our assets are not lying fallow or being depleted: **Yes**; hopefully; masterplan related.

1/4 (6/14)

Fr Desmond J Moloney

2nd Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:4-6,8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this

good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.