



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 <i>Secretary: Carmen D’Rosario</i>
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.

3rd Sunday of Lent – 8 March 2026

St Patrick’s Day Mass and Patrick Oration INVITATION

Tuesday 17 March at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne.

The evening will include:

- 6.00pm: Mass for the Solemnity of St Patrick
- 7.15pm: Patrick Oration delivered by the Archbishop
- 8.00pm: Refreshments will be served in the Cathedral grounds

The event will be a significant event in the life of the local Church of Melbourne, with the Oration introducing *Light into the City*, the Archbishop’s vision for the renewal of the Cathedral and its surrounds – a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore and reimagine this sacred precinct for future generations.

The Archbishop would be honoured by your presence, and that of your parish community. Our thanks to those who have already booked or sent through apologies, and also passed the invitation onto parishioners. We would like to again extend an invitation for a group of up to 5 parishioners to attend – representing your parish.

There is no cost for guests, however, places are limited, so we would encourage nominated parishioners to book soon. Places can be reserved via the following <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1538179>.

Two Seminarians in 2026

St. Mary’s Parish will receive two seminarians on a series of Sundays throughout this year beginning next Sunday. Their names are Nicolas Calandra, who is in 6th Year, his Diaconate Year (whose mother, Rose, is a parish catechist), and Mason Crosier in 2nd Year. We look forward to welcoming them and trust it will be an enriching experience.

Funeral Mass Details – John Balzan RIP

Friday 13 March 2026 at 11.00am at St Mary’s Church.

Stations of the Cross at St Mary’s

Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm

Legion of Mary - For member enquiries/home visitations please contact: 9346 7900.
St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 1800 305 330, Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 14/15 Mar 2026

Parish Counters: J & S Crooks; T Peters

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 Barbaro	
8.30 am		B Dwyer		A Laughton
10.30 am	R Wiatrowski		L Venuto	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 473

Offertory: CWBII 290

Communion: CWBII 291

Reflection: CWBII 511

Recessional: CWBII 477

Recently Deceased:

John Balzan; Audrey Patel

Anniversaries:

Denis & Mildred Andrews; Edwin Goveas

Readings Next Week:

4th Sunday of Lent: 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Baptisms

We welcome into the family of God's Church the children who will be baptised in our parish on Sunday.

Michael Pennisi

Lily Josephine Blair

Jude William Blair

Austin Dane Kett



Wedding

We congratulate **Sinndy Duque & Pedro Puente**, married at St Mary's on Saturday.

Sacramental Program

*Does your child attend a non-Catholic school in Year 6 or older and needs to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**?* Classes are run weekly (except school holidays), commencing 12th March 2026, **Thursdays 4pm**, at St Mary's school, for approx. 8 weeks. If your child has received First Reconciliation and First Communion and would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, email, catechist.rc@gmail.com or the Parish Office: ascotvale@cam.org.au to enrol for these classes. For any enquiries, feel free to call Rose, the Catechist on mob: 0411 040 669.

Morning Tea after Mass

The Parish Community Group will be holding morning tea after 10.30am Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday, **22nd March**.

We would like to invite everyone to come along and have a cuppa and something to eat, while chatting with fellow parishioners. It is always good to say hello to a person you haven't met before, as well as chat to other parishioners whom you do know.

If you would like to bring a plate of food to share, that would be a boost for catering and we will be very grateful. Everyone is welcome, so please come along!

Six30 Holy Hour at St Patrick's Cathedral

Every Thursday, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Join with young Catholics from across the city for a time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, music and an opportunity for confession.

For more information, email udisciple@cam.org.au or call 9926 5677.



Please use the QR code if you wish to contribute to our parish church. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.



This weekend, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening Church' (*Evangelii Gaudium*, §31).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern:

- young discipleship
- missionary leadership
- formation and participation.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod.

Prayer for the Synod

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Collaboration: Growing Vital Parishes

The parish received an invitation for parish leaders to join a workshop.

Saturday 14 March, 10.30am-3.30pm (10am registration and morning tea)

Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne



Third Sunday of Lent
7–8 March 2026

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Third Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING

Ex 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94

**R. If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;

give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.