St Simon the Apostle Parish

A compassionate community celebrating and living in Christ

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 14/15 MARCH 2026 | YEAR A

John 9:35 | "What have you to say about Him yourself, now that He has opened your eyes? '

In today's Gospel, Jesus encounters a man who has been blind from birth. The disciples immediately begin looking for someone to blame: "Who sinned?" But Jesus refuses this way of thinking. Instead of focusing on blame, he brings healing and new life.

Jesus places mud on the man's eyes and sends him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. When the man returns, he can see. Yet the real drama begins after the miracle. Those around him struggle to accept what has happened. The neighbours are confused. The Pharisees question him repeatedly. Even his parents are afraid to speak openly. Ironically, the man who was blind begins to see more clearly than anyone else. Step by step, he comes to recognise who Jesus is.

This Gospel reminds us that faith often grows gradually. The blind man first calls Jesus "the man called Jesus," then "a prophet," and finally he declares, "Lord, I believe." His physical sight is restored, but more importantly, his spiritual sight awakens.

This passage also challenges us as a Church, especially as we enter the Synod journey in Melbourne. A synodal Church is one that asks: Are we truly seeing clearly? Sometimes we can become like the Pharisees — confident that we already know everything, yet missing the new work God is doing among us.

The Synod invites us to listen deeply to one another, to recognise the experiences of those who may feel unseen or unheard, and to allow Christ to open our eyes again. Like the blind man, we are called to move from confusion to clarity, from doubt to faith.

Lent is a time for this kind of healing vision. When we allow Christ to touch our lives, we begin to see differently — with compassion, humility and hope.

And when our eyes are opened, we too can say with confidence: "I was blind, and now I see.".

With Blessings,
Fr Jerald Mariadas

Lenten Reconciliation

As we prepare our hearts during Lent, reconciliation is a vital part of our journey towards the risen Christ of Easter.

You are warmly invited to join our Lenten Reconciliation service

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH, 7.30PM—ST JUDE'S

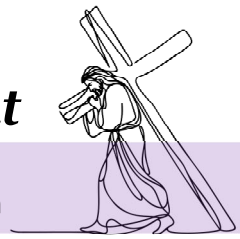
THURSDAY 26 MARCH, 7.30PM—ST SIMON'S

This liturgy is a time for reflection and an opportunity to see how we can change to become better versions of ourselves to those around us.

ST SIMON'S EASTER CALENDAR

Reconciliation (Second Rite)	26 March	7.30pm
Holy Thursday	2 April	8.00pm
Ecumenical Stations of the Cross @Rowville Community Centre	3 April	10.00am
Good Friday Passion of the Lord	3 April	3.00pm
Easter Sunday Dawn Mass	5 April	6.00am
Easter Sunday Mass	5 April	9.00am
Easter Sunday Mass	5 April	11.00am

Every Friday in Lent



Combined **Stations of the Cross** at St Simon's at 7pm after 6pm Adoration

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 PRIEST

PARISH PRIEST
Rev Jerald Mariadas
jerald.mariadas@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
Cyrilla D'Souza (Tue - Fri)
cyrilla.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
Email: cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au

MELBOURNE SYNOD

What is a SYNOD?

A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a **spiritual process rooted in faith** that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly, **"What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"**

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD ANNOUNCED

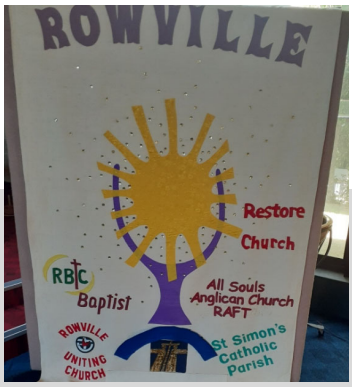
Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has formally convoked a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. This important step continues our journey of listening, discernment, and renewal — a synodal way of being Church, walking together in faith under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In the months ahead, parishes and communities across the Archdiocese will be invited to gather in prayer and conversation to reflect on how we are called to proclaim the Gospel more faithfully in our time and place.

The Synod will focus on three key themes: **Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, and Formation and Participation**. We are encouraged to ask: **Where is the Holy Spirit leading us? Who are we called to accompany? How can we reflect the face of Christ more clearly?**

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. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

Please keep this journey in your prayers as we move forward together with hope and confidence in the Lord.



Our parish was delighted to host the annual **World Day of Prayer** service, prepared this year by the people of Nigeria. Around **60 people gathered in prayer**, including friends from the Christian communities of Rowville and Lysterfield, making it a wonderful expression of unity in faith.

We were especially grateful to welcome our Nigerian speaker, **John Eric-Ighalo**, who shared insights into the prayer and spirit of the celebration. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and host this meaningful ecumenical gathering.

We also thank all who contributed so generously, with **$780 collected and forwarded to the Bible Society**.

Next year will mark the **centenary celebration of the World Day of Prayer**, and the service will be hosted by **Rowville Uniting Church**.

The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation

24-Week Study Series

Mondays: 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Location: St Judes' conference room
Start: April 20th 2026
Cost: workbook tbc
Tea and Coffee Provided

LIMITED AVAILABILITY
To register interest please contact
Dinelle - 0416 810 541
Kim - 0403 323 353
Group Chat via WhatsApp

We will welcome the newly baptised members of our community with a wonderful Breakfast

After EASTER SUNDAY DAWN MASS

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MOST WELCOME.

PLEASE NOTE YOUR NAME AND PREFERENCE ON THE SHEET IN THE CHURCH FOYER

WE PRAY FOR

For those who have recently died especially Patricia Dwight, Murray Ukena and those whose memories are sacred to us at this time especially Dolores Mifsud, Joseph Duc Tri Ngo, Daniel Namasibayam, Yolande Riviere, Guy Riviere, Benadict Tisserra, Lim Wee Neo

For the Sick: Bill Leane, Jenny Liston, Perry Law, Sam Russo, Jay Russel, Aneta Crowley, Lisette & Noah Vissenjou, Bernadette Ukena, Brooke Hiho, Noelle Parsons, Jonathan Salerno, Barbara Kirsch, Mark Bramich, Charles, Daniel, Denzil Britto, Sonani Cramer, Rvevin Serrano

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2026

Appliance Repairs & Installation Service

We specialize in the repair of:

- Washing Machines
- Dishwashers
- Dryers
- Electric Ovens
- Microwaves
- Cooktops / Range hoods
- Fridges / Freezers
- Test / Tag Services

Contact Ash: 0413 913 619

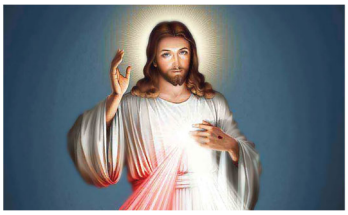
Pray for Peace

In these troubled times, when many around the world are living in fear and uncertainty, we hold in prayer all who are suffering because of War. We remember the innocent lives lost, families forced from their homes, and those who find themselves stranded and vulnerable in the midst of travel disruptions, including in airports and transit points.

Let us also pray for the Leaders of all Nations. May the Spirit of God grant them wisdom, right judgment, and the courage to work tirelessly for peace—seeking solutions that protect life, uphold human dignity, and avoid the tragedy of war.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we lift up all those affected by the ongoing war. Please protect the innocent, comfort the grieving, and give strength to those living in fear. Soften the hearts of leaders and guide them toward peace, wisdom, and understanding. May violence cease, may healing begin, and may hope rise even in the darkest places. Grant safety, unity, and lasting peace to all. Amen.



Celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday

We begin with the Divine Mercy Novena on 3 April at 6pm

The celebration will be on Sunday, 12 April, 2pm

Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Reconciliation, Adoration, Mass and Afternoon Tea

Sacramentals will be blessed, and can be purchased in the foyer

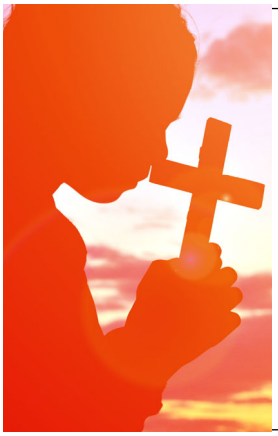
St Simon's Parish Retreat

Please register your name at the HelpDesk/Parish Office and Save the Date

29 – 30 August 2026

Please collect your Project Compassion box from the foyer and transform a life!

CARITAS AUSTRALIA
PROJECT COMPASSION



Our parish is blessed to journey with families as children prepare to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

To register your child or learn more, please scan the QR code, **email Theresa.Abraham@cam.org.au** or contact the Parish Office.

SSJ YOUTH
ST SIMON AND ST JUDES

SSJ YOUTH WARRIORS

Teen Alpha
Ages: High Schoolers
Next Event: 6:30pm, 22.03.26
St Simon's Parish Centre

SSJ YOUTH ALPHA 2026
WhatsApp group

Contact: Dinelle - 0416 810 541
Denise - 0435 742 838

SSJ Warriors
Ages: 18+
Next Event: 6:30pm, 15.03.26
St Simon's Parish Centre

Contact: Kim - 0403 323 353

IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

MON 16 MAR	TUE 17 MAR	WED 18 MAR	THUR 19 MAR	FRI 20 MAR	SAT 21 MAR	SUN 22 MAR
OFFICE CLOSED	9.15am Mass (Fr Jerald)	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Mass (Fr Jerald)	5.30pm (Church) Reconciliation	9.00am Mass (Bishop Tomlinson)
7.00pm (**Parish Centre PC**) Lenten Program	10.30am (Church) Funeral of Patricia Dwight	11.00am (PC) RE Care	10.00am (PC) Lenten Program	10.00am (Meeting Room) Lenten Program	6.00pm Mass (Bishop Tomlinson)	11.00am Mass (Fr Jerald)
7.30pm (via ZOOM) Lenten Program	1.30pm (PC) Craft Group	7.00pm Easter Triduum Rehearsal	11.00am (Church) Funeral of Murray Ukena	10.00am (Cinema) Movie Morning		12.30pm (Chapel) Chaldean Catechism
	3.30pm (PC) Sacramental Program		5.00pm (Church) SSS Choir Practice	6.00pm (Church) Adoration		2.00 - 4.30pm Chaldean Community
	7.30pm (PC) RCIA		7.00pm (PC) Fete Meeting	7.00pm (Church) Stations of the Cross		5.00pm Youth Mass
	7.30pm (Meeting Room) Lenten Program		7.00pm (Meeting Room) Lenten Program	8.00pm (PC) 11am Choir Practice		6.30pm Sts Simon & Jude Warriors (PC)
				8.30pm (Church) Chaldeans Stations of the Cross		

Fourth Sunday of Lent, 14/15 March 2026 (Laetare Sunday)

First Reading:
1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.'
When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm 22
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: ***Ephesians 5:8-14***
You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:
Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation:
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: ***John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38***
As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

PARISH NOTICE

Fr Jerald will be overseeing weekday Masses at both parishes for the time being. During this transition, the weekday schedule at **St Simon's**:

Tuesday & Friday — Holy Mass
Wednesday & Thursday — Communion Service only

We thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued support during this time.

Who participates in a Synod?

A Synod involves the whole People of God: bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful. Each has a distinct role, but all share responsibility for the Church's mission. Synodality does not blur roles—it helps each vocation flourish in service of the Gospel.

PLEASE NOTE THE PARISH CALENDAR IS ON PAGE 3

For all Bulletin Notices, please email cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au
Deadline Wednesday 4pm

NEXT WEEKEND	Fifth Sunday of Lent — 21/22 MARCH 2026 — Ezekiel 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45			
MASS TIMES	**21 MAR, SATURDAY 6.00PM**	**22 MAR, SUNDAY 9.00AM**	**22 MAR, SUNDAY 11.00AM**	**22 MAR, SUNDAY 5.00PM**
Commentator	Stephen White	Phil Mawdsley	Ildi Cilter	Paige
Reader 1	Julie Faull	Bernard Mulholland	Therese West	Gloria
Reader 2	Thabesan Family	Pam Comerford	Pia Pagotto	Chantel
Welcome Desk	Volunteer needed	Victoria Kong	Pia Pagotto	
Children's Liturgy	Malaika deM & Gillian E	Elysia G & Sebastian H	No Children's Liturgy	

Flowers	Melanie Jacobs	**Altar Society**	Melanie Jacobs & Yvonne Muspratt	**Church Cleaning**	Sharon Melder, Danusha Ladd & Asela Angammana	Thabesan family