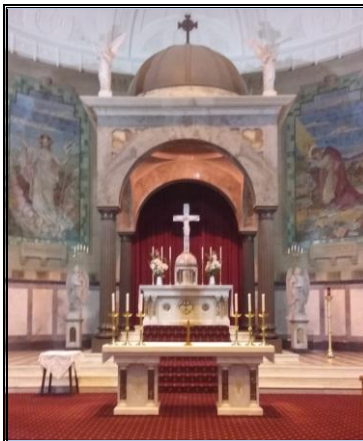




PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.

5th Sunday of Lent – 22 March 2026

Celebrating Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum

Palm Sunday 29 March

Holy Thursday 2 April 7.30 pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper St Mary’s

Good Friday 3 April 11.00 am Stations of the Cross St Mary’s

3.00 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
St Mary’s

Holy Saturday 4 April 8:00 pm Easter Vigil St Mary’s

Easter Sunday 5 April 8.30 am Easter Sunday Mass St Margaret’s

10.30 am Easter Sunday Mass St Mary’s

6:00 pm Easter Sunday Mass (Spanish) St Mary’s

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Lent

Normal Confession times Saturdays 10:00-10:30am, 5:30-5:45pm

Confessions will also be available at the following times:

Sunday 29 March St Margaret’s Church 9:30am (following 8:30am Mass)

Wednesday 25 March St Mary’s Church 7:30 – 8:00pm (following 7:00pm Mass)

Stations of the Cross at St Mary’s

Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm

Part of the homily on John 6: 37-40

at the Funeral Mass for John Balzan

... The image of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, spells out his life-saving mission that no one be lost and the hope of eternal life be fulfilled. That like a shepherd he tends his flock – gathering, holding, leading. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, calls his own by name and leads them out. Those who follow him listen to his voice. To answer the shepherd’s voice is to give a believing response.

We can certainly say that John lived a believing response. He answered the call of the Shepherd. His vocation to serve as a committed single person was faithfully lived out.

Even with the reality of God’s gift it’s a personal response that is to be made, venturing into wholehearted belief.

Saturday 28th June last year was John’s final day as a sacristan here in St. Mary’s. It’s not my intention to list everything John did, but simply to highlight two aspects: 1) that he was a pray-er and 2) that he was a practical helper.

As a man of prayer, he would pray many rosaries each day. And in keeping with his prayer life he lived a simple life. He assisted in the enabling of many liturgical celebrations: for Sundays (usually the Vigil Masses), baptisms, weddings, funerals, and so on.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 28/29 Mar 2026

Parish Counters: V Colichia; B Toomey

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	N Familiari		F Pinto	
8.30 am		FAMILY MASS		J Gilmartin
10.30 am	M Doran		R Bonvino	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 295

Offertory: CWBII 515

Communion: CWBII 530

Reflection: CWBII 450

Recessional: CWBII 587

Recently Deceased:

Vincenzo Raso; Giuseppina Condemi

Anniversaries:

Denzil & Cyril Andrews

Readings Next Week:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

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John was generous in the practical help he gave: he freely purchased items for the church, such as, rolls of paper towels and toilet paper and batteries. Even in the second half of last year on a visit to see him he gave me batteries and another torch to guide me when locking the church and coming down the steps from the sacristy. Earlier this year there was a power surge which set back the time on the church clock. He informed Carmen, parish secretary, what he would do to adjust the clock's time. I approached one of youth leaders to help with this. But before he was free to do so, the clock mysteriously was showing the correct time. He was made aware (and so he knew very well) that the Parish wanted to thank him, acknowledging his wonderful service in the name of the Lord.

Jesus' mission of saving to win us all to the full life influences our prayer for John. We pray in hope that in John the gift of life is a gift to be raised up – and to be found again in a more glorious way – a new life! – never to be threatened.



Baptisms

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

Angelo Raffaele Demasi

Luella Rose Noye

Mirabella Rae Noye

Sofia Carla Fontanini

Keanu Alfred Thomas Latu

Benjamin Xavier Grima

Zachary Heilbronn



Mass Of The Holy Oils (Chrism Mass)

The Chrism Mass will be at **St Patrick's Cathedral at 10.00am on Tuesday 31 March 2026.**



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



5. Why listening matters in the Church

Listening is not a sign of weakness. In the Christian tradition, listening is an act of humility and faith. We believe that God can speak through the experiences, joys, and struggles of His people. Synodality reminds us that listening is a form of love and a path to wisdom.

6. 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.

7. Synodality and bishops

Bishops remain shepherds and teachers of the faith. Synodality does not weaken their authority; rather, it enriches their ministry by grounding leadership in prayerful listening and communal discernment. A bishop who listens walks more closely with his people, as Christ the Good Shepherd does.

8. Synodality and priests

For priests, synodality is not an added burden but a way of exercising ministry in communion. When priests foster listening and participation, parishes become more alive, missionary, and joyful. The priest presides at the Eucharist, but the whole community contributes to the Church's mission.

9. Synodality and the laity

Synodality affirms that the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of all the baptised. Lay people are not simply helpers of clergy; they are active disciples called to witness to Christ in families, workplaces, and society. A synodal Church takes this vocation seriously.

Light into the City

The 5–10-year *Light into the City* initiative will renew St Patrick's Cathedral and reimagine its precinct as the spiritual heart of Melbourne.

For more than 125 years, the Cathedral has been a place of prayer, encounter, and belonging for generations of Catholics. It is also a treasured landmark for our wider community.

Light into the City will help ensure this sacred place continues to shine as a beacon of faith, hope and welcome for all who come to the heart of our city. I am grateful to those who have already offered their support, and I encourage you all to be part of this renewal whether as individuals, families – or as community and parish groups.

To find out more please visit: www.lightintothecity.org.au In the months ahead, we will share updates on the restoration works on the Cathedral and further plans for the precinct - along with ways you can stay involved.

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

Fifth Sunday of Lent

21–22 March 2026

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

Please donate today.

Online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413



Legion of Mary - For member enquiries and home visitations please contact: 9346 7900.

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak. (R.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.' He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him. *The Gospel of the Lord.*