



# 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](http://www.melbcatholic.org/ascotvale)  
**Email:** [ascotvale@cam.org.au](mailto: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.

## 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 27 July 2025

### **Towards a Masterplan**

The latest concept plan from Harmer Architecture shows (see page 3) and is presented with the following comments:

- a reconfigured presbytery with a double garage off St Leonards Road
- a cross-driveway as an asset for drop off to the parish office and parish centre for visitors, deliveries and people with disabilities
- the gathering space [No. 3] might be a tallish structure with a roof, but outdoors like a big porch, leading to the Parish Centre [No. 4]
- the design for the space between the Church and new Parish Centre can be developed in more detail later.

### **Parish Music Ministry**

*HAVE YOU* thought of contributing?

as an *ORGANIST AND/OR SINGER* in St. Mary’s Parish?

The parish choir is relied upon for our major celebrations. The choir, though, doesn’t do it all. Apart from the choir, the parish also values individual cantors or vocalists as well as the organists who support the singing by the choir and cantors. If you feel moved to contribute to our music ministry, please contact the Parish Office by phone or email.

The ministry of music is a service throughout the liturgy encouraging the assembly to sing the song of praise which binds us to Christ and to one another.

### **Sacraments of Initiation**

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, Samuel Doan will be Baptised, Confirmed and celebrate his First Holy Communion within the 10.30am Mass. This will be a wonderful occasion for Samuel, his family, St. Mary’s Parish and the Church. Samuel, a teenager, has had a deep desire to come to these Sacraments and has undergone a concentrated period of preparation. May we join together in witness, prayer and support for Samuel and his journey in faith.

*Fr Desmond J Moloney*

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 2/3 Aug 2025

Parish Counters: J & S Crooks

| 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               | M Ginn    |               | F Pinto                                   |               |
| 8.30 am               |           | James Ryan    |                                           | R Turnbull    |
| 10.30 am              | J Regan   |               | R Bonvino                                 |               |

**Hymns:**

**Entrance:** CWBII 503

**Offertory:** CWBII 594

**Communion:** CWBII 582

**Reflection:** CWBII 595

**Recessional:** CWBII 625

**Recently Deceased:**

Sebastiano La Bruna

**Anniversaries:**

Kathleen Frances Ward; Giovanna Amato

**Feast Days:**

**29 Jul:** Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus      **31 Jul:** St Ignatius of Loyola

**1 Aug:** St Alphonsus Liguori

**Readings Next Week:**

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Eccl 1:2, 2:21-23; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21

### Please Note while Fr. Joseph is away

There will be **no 10.00am Mass** on Monday 28th July and 4th August 2025.

### Baptisms

We warmly welcome **Audrey Isabelle Del Rio** being baptised this Sunday.



### Soup Night Thank You

Thank you to everyone who attended our Soup Evening on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> July. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and chatting with fellow parishioners.

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation

Friday 9:15am, St Mary's      (School Mass – all welcome)

Friday 12:15pm, St Margaret's      (School Mass – all welcome)

Friday 7:00pm, St Mary's

### Blessed Carlo Acutis Relic and International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition Tuesday 29 July 2025, 3.00pm – Wednesday 6 August 2025, 9.00pm

St Luke the Evangelist Church, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South  
St Luke the Evangelist Church, Blackburn South, and St Timothy's, Forest Hill, warmly invite you to experience the first-class relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis and the International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition, which was put together by Carlo himself.



### 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.**

## **Excerpts – Homily Of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV**

### **XVI Sunday in Ordinary Time, 20 July 2025**

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

I am very happy to be here to celebrate today's Eucharist in this beautiful Cathedral. In this Mass, both the first reading and the Gospel invite us to reflect on hospitality, service and listening (cf. *Gen 18:1-10; Lk 10:38-42*).

First, God visits Abraham in the figure of "three men" who arrive at his tent "in the heat of the day" (cf. *Gen 18:1-2*). The scene is easy to imagine: the blazing sun, the stillness of the desert, the intense heat, and the three strangers seeking shelter. Abraham is seated "at the entrance of his tent," the position of the master of the house, and it is moving to see how he exercises this role. Recognizing the presence of God in the visitors, he gets up, runs to greet them, and prostrates himself on the ground imploring them to stay. Thus the whole scene comes to life. The afternoon's stillness is filled with gestures of love which involve not only the Patriarch, but also his wife Sarah and the servants. Abraham is no longer seated, but stands "by them under the tree" (*Gen 18:8*), and it is there that God gives him the best news he could have hoped for: "your wife Sarah shall have a son" (*Gen 18:10*).

The dynamics of this encounter lead us to reflect on how God chooses the path of hospitality in order to enter into the lives of Sarah and Abraham and announce that they would have a child, which they had long desired but had given up hope of receiving. Having visited them before in many moments of grace, God returns to knock on their door, asking for hospitality and trust. The elderly couple respond positively, despite not yet understanding what will happen. They recognize God's blessing and his presence in the mysterious visitors, and offer them what they have: food, company, service and the shade of a tree. In return, they receive the promise of new life and descendants.

While the circumstances are different, the Gospel also teaches us about God's way of acting. Here too, Jesus appears as a guest at the house of Martha and Mary. This time, however, he is not a stranger: he comes to his friends' house in the midst of a festive atmosphere. One of the sisters welcomes him by serving him, while the other sits at his feet, listening as a disciple would her teacher. As we know, Jesus responds to the first sister's complaints that she would like some help with the tasks at hand by inviting her to recognize the value of listening (cf. *Lk 10:41-42*).

It would be incorrect, however, to see these two attitudes as mutually exclusive, or to compare the merits of the two women. Service and listening are, in fact, twin dimensions of hospitality.

Our relationship with God comes first. Although it is true that we must live out our faith through concrete actions, faithfully carrying out our duties according to our state of life and vocation, it is essential that we do so only after meditating on the Word of God and listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to our hearts. To this end, we should set aside moments of silence, moments of prayer, times in which, quieting noise and distractions, we recollect ourselves before God in simplicity of heart. This is a dimension of the Christian life that we particularly need to recover today, both as a value for individuals and communities, and as a prophetic sign for our times. We must make room for silence, for listening to the Father who speaks and "sees in secret" (*Mt 6:6*).

Serving and listening do not always come easily; they require hard work and the ability to make sacrifices. For instance, it takes an effort in listening and serving in order to be faithful and loving mothers and fathers raising their family, just as it requires effort for children to respond to their parents' hard work at home and at school. It also requires effort in order to understand each other when there are disagreements, to forgive when mistakes are made, to help when someone is sick, and to comfort one another in times of sadness. But it is precisely by making an effort that something worthwhile can be built in life; it is the only way to form and nurture strong and genuine relationships between people. Thus, with the foundations of everyday life, the Kingdom of God grows and manifests its presence (cf. *Lk 7:18-22*).

## **17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **FIRST READING**

Gen 18:20-32

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

*The word of the Lord.*

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 137

**R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)

I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Though I walk in the midst of affliction  
you give me life and frustrate my foes. (R.)

You stretch out your hand and save me,  
your hand will do all things for me.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,

discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

### **SECOND READING**

Col 2:12-14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

*The word of the Lord.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father. Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL**

Lk 11:1-13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy,  
your kingdom come;  
give us each day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.  
And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*