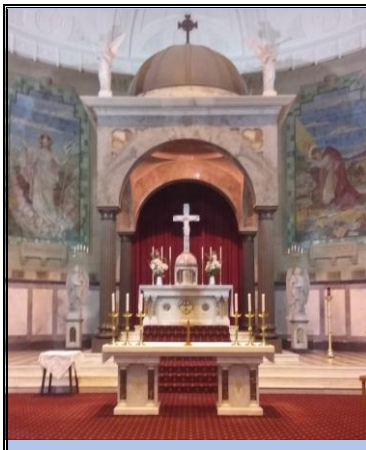




# PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

## 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:                                | <a href="http://www.melbcatholic.org/ascotvale">www.melbcatholic.org/ascotvale</a> |
| Email:                                  | <a href="mailto:ascotvale@cam.org.au">ascotvale@cam.org.au</a>                     |
| 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.

## 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – 24 August 2025

### Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage

#### Visit local Pilgrim Places

Local Pilgrim Places will welcome visitors from February 2025 to 6 January 2026. Pilgrims will receive a commemorative postcard, monthly reflections, and a Pilgrim Passport (available for a small donation) to be stamped at each location.

#### Northern Region

##### **St Luke’s, Lalor**

##### **Polish Marian Shrine, Aberfeldie**

##### **St Mary Magdalen’s, Trentham**

One or two parishioners are willing to coordinate a visit to local Pilgrim Places for St Mary’s Parishioners. Any interested parishioners are asked to call or email the Parish Office.

The parish will need to:

- advertise the pilgrimage,
- set a date,
- make their selection of pilgrimage places (no more than 2 is suggested unless an very early start and a late finish)
- decide logistics (travel, refreshments)

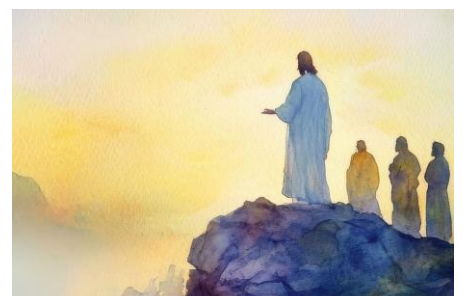
Judeline, Animation Consultant Northern Region from Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal, has offered help with initial liaison only, between the pilgrimage places/shrines.

*Fr Desmond J Moloney*

### The Archbishop's Campaign – this weekend

This weekend you will requested to contribute to the 2025 Archbishop’s Campaign. We ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Donations can be made via the

QR code, via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends.



## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 30/31 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               | N Familiari |               | F Pinto                                   |               |
| 8.30 am               |             | S Varghese    |                                           | J Gilmartin   |
| 10.30 am              | D Cutinho   |               | R Rotunno                                 |               |

**Hymns:**

**Entrance:** CWBII 448

**Offertory:** CWBII 594

**Communion:** CWBII 509

**Reflection:** CWBII 579

**Recessional:** CWBII 616

**Recently Deceased:**

Adoracion Cagampang

**Anniversaries:**

Emilio Sessarego; Maria Presti; Sabestiano Labruna; Pilar Ramos; Florence Cecilia Chamberlain; Eduarda Dancel; Kevin Joseph Blackmore; Kevin Daniel Blackmore; Margaret Ellis; Lidia Oppedisano; Rocco Conte

**Feast Days:**

**27 Aug:** St Monica

**28 Aug:** St Augustine, bishop, doctor

**29 Aug:** The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr

**Readings Next Week:**

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Sir 3:17-20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24; Lk 14:1, 7-14

### Baptisms

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

**Margot Olivia Broadhurst**

**Daisy Klemm**

**Matteo Abela**

**George Peter Venosta**

**Alfie Edward Newton**

**Stella Lily Nicol**

**Easton Douglas Brownjohn**

**Jamieson Douglas Brownjohn**



### Next Parish Ministers Rosters

As the next rosters are being finalised for September to December 2025, if you have not already done so, can we request all those who are currently on the rosters to advise the parish office via email if you wish to make any changes before they are prepared. Thank you.

### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process will resume for 2025-2026 on Wednesday, 24th September at 7.30pm in the Presbytery. The following Wednesday will be missed with the second gathering taking place on Wednesday, 8th October. While the upcoming process remains open to additional enquirers, a big number has already contacted the Parish Office to enquire about Sacraments for Adults.

### 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.**

## A Tree Filled With Monkeys

The Indian mystic Sri Ramakrishna, who lived in Bengal in the nineteenth century, used to describe the mind as a mighty tree filled with monkeys, all swinging from branch to branch and all in an incessant riot of chatter and movement.

Prayer is not a matter of adding to this confusion by trying to shout it down and covering it with another lot of chatter. The task of meditation is to bring all this mobile and distracted mind to stillness, silence and concentration, to bring it, that is, into its proper service. This is the aim given us by the psalmist: 'Be still and know that I am God' [Ps 46:10].

One of the first great lessons in humility is that we come to wisdom and stillness and pass beyond distraction, only through the gift of God. His prayer is his gift to us and all we have to do is to dispose ourselves by becoming silent. Silence is the essential human response to the mystery of God, to the infinity of God.

It is this understanding that had led so many today to the threshold of real prayer. The way of prayer is a way of ever deeper, ever more generous silence. *John Main, OSB*

## How to do Christian Meditation

Sit down. Sit still with your back straight. Close your eyes lightly. Then interiorly, silently begin to recite a single word – a prayer word or mantra. We recommend the ancient Christian prayer-word "Maranatha". Say it as four equal syllables. Breathe normally and give your full attention to the word as you say it, silently, gently, faithfully and – above all – simply.

Stay with the same word during the whole meditation and in each meditation day to day. Don't visualise but listen to the word, as you say it. Let go of all thoughts (even good thoughts), images and other words. Don't fight your distractions: let them go by saying your word faithfully, gently and attentively and returning to it as soon as you realise you have stopped saying it or when your attention wanders.

Meditate twice a day, morning and evening, for between 20 and 30 minutes. It may take a time to develop this discipline and the support of a tradition and community is always helpful.

from the World Community for Christian Meditation website [wccm.org](http://wccm.org).

Check [wccmaustralia.org.au](http://wccmaustralia.org.au) to see the link for Find A Group

**Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)** is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Bishops more than ten years ago.

Run over three days, the Festival provides young people from all across Australia with the opportunity to come together to connect, deepen their relationship with Jesus. The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is hosting ACYF from 30 November – 2 December 2025 and is looking forward to welcoming thousands of young people to Melbourne.



## Requirements of Parishes (Archdiocese of Melbourne)

**Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick, Musicians and Choir Members, and all other volunteers**

**Working with Children Check (WWCC):** a valid WWCC is a requirement for all parish volunteers in St. Mary's Parish. Go online at [service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children](http://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children)

Registered teachers are exempt from requiring a WWCC. Notify WWCC by going online as above.

**Child Safeguarding Training:** this Training is required and needs to be renewed every three years. You may undertake this training online as below.

<https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fs%2F>

The **Code of Conduct Declaration:** the signing of this Declaration is required and needs to be renewed every three years.

## 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

### FIRST READING

Is 66:18-21

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

*The word of the Lord.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 39

**R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.**

O praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples! (R.)

Strong is his love for us; he is faithful for ever. (R.)

### SECOND READING

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

*The word of the Lord.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Lk 13:22-30

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed. 'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!" 'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

