

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.melbourne.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.

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 2 March 2025

St. Mary’s Parish – Growing into greater **VIBRANCY**

64 Responses were given in connection to two Self-Reflection tools: *Growing Vital Parishes* and *Growing Vibrant Parishes*. Taken as a percentage of last year’s average attendance per Sunday 64 represents about 13%. The Parish Masterplan Reference Group is gratefully acknowledged for the following interpretation of the responses.

Survey results reflect a mixture within the parish. Here’s an overall interpretation of the survey results across the various categories.

Fr Desmond J Moloney

1. Worship (Average: 3.73)

Interpretation: The parish has a solid foundation in its liturgical life. Parishioners generally feel that the Mass and devotional prayers are spiritually nourishing, and there is an overall sense of good engagement in worship. However, the score suggests that there is room to enhance the liturgy, perhaps by making it even more spiritually enriching or by creating additional opportunities for people to engage with prayer outside of Mass.

Takeaway: Focus on maintaining the strengths of your liturgical practices while also seeking areas for deeper spiritual engagement, whether through improved music, deeper homilies, or additional prayer initiatives.

2. Evangelization (Average: 2.75)

Interpretation: This category has the lowest score, suggesting that the parish may not yet have a clear or effective plan for evangelization. There seems to be a lack of visible and structured efforts to engage with those outside the parish or bring new people into the faith. The parish might be in the early stages of developing or implementing an evangelization strategy.

Takeaway: Evangelization is an area that needs urgent attention. The parish should focus on developing a clear and actionable plan for outreach, communication, and bringing in new disciples. Training and equipping parishioners for evangelization could also be a key focus.

3. Fellowship (Average: 3.50)

Interpretation: While there is a desire to create a welcoming and inclusive parish environment, this score indicates that the parish has made progress but still needs work in the area of consistent fellowship. There might be some informal efforts to welcome newcomers and promote fellowship, but these efforts are not as organized or consistent as they could be.

Takeaway: Strengthen the sense of community by implementing a structured welcome program for newcomers. Encourage parishioners to actively invite others to parish activities and ensure that the social atmosphere is inclusive and vibrant.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 8/9 Mar 2025

Parish Counters: J & S Crooks; J Balzan

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	R Boyer		F Pinto	
8.30 am		R Turnbull		R Turnbull
10.30 am	J Regan		M DeMaria	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 598

Offertory: CWBII 291

Communion: CWBII 651

Reflection: CWBII 555

Recessional: CWBII 494

Recently Deceased:

Antonio Trimboli

Anniversaries:

Nicola Mirenda; Domenico Gianmpino; Vincenzo Ialuna; Antonia Trimboli

Readings Next Week:

1st Sunday of Lent (Year C) Deut 26: 4-10; Rom 10: 8-13; Lk 4:1-13

4. Formation (Average: 3.23)

Interpretation: The formation category shows that while the parish offers some formation opportunities, they may not be frequent or robust enough to support continuous growth. Parishioners might not have clear pathways for ongoing spiritual development or discipleship.

Takeaway: There is a need for more structured and consistent formation programs. Offering ongoing faith development initiatives such as Bible studies, spiritual workshops, and leadership training can help parishioners grow as disciples and contribute to a stronger, more mission-focused community.

5. Service (Average: 3.47)

Interpretation: The parish has some service and social justice programs in place, but participation is limited to a smaller group of parishioners. This score suggests that the parish is somewhat outward-focused, but the service efforts are not reaching the entire community. The parish also needs to cultivate a stronger culture of service and social justice.

Takeaway: Increase the visibility and accessibility of service and social justice programs, and encourage broader participation. Building a culture of service can be achieved by integrating social justice initiatives more deeply into parish life and encouraging parishioners to serve as part of their discipleship.

Overall Interpretation:

Strengths: The parish has solid worship practices, and there are efforts in all areas, including fellowship and service. Parishioners generally appreciate the spiritual nourishment they receive from liturgies and Mass, and there is an underlying desire to serve others and grow in discipleship.

Areas for Improvement: Evangelization and formation need more intentional development. The parish needs to focus on creating clear strategies and opportunities in these areas to foster both spiritual growth for individuals and outreach to the larger community.

General Observations:

There is a positive desire for growth and deeper engagement in faith and service, but the parish may be at a crossroads where deeper, more structured efforts need to be implemented.

The parish is in a transition phase where it is recognizing areas of potential and needs to focus on laying a stronger foundation for evangelization, service, and ongoing formation. This may involve creating clearer pathways for spiritual growth, providing more consistent opportunities for engagement, and developing a culture that invites everyone to actively participate in mission and service.

Next Steps for Improvement

1. Develop and Communicate an Evangelization Strategy: Create a detailed plan that includes outreach efforts, formation for discipleship, and ways to engage new people. Train parishioners in evangelization and equip them with tools to invite others into the faith.

2. Strengthen Fellowship Programs: Formalize and communicate the welcome programs. Foster a culture of inclusivity where all newcomers feel valued. Focus on creating ongoing social opportunities to help parishioners build meaningful relationships.

3. Enhance Formation Pathways: Establish clear, consistent opportunities for spiritual formation and growth. Offer programs that span different stages of faith development, and focus on fostering missionary discipleship.

4. Increase Service and Outreach: Foster a culture of service by making service opportunities more visible and accessible. Encourage parishioners to be actively involved in social justice and community service, and create leadership opportunities for those who are passionate about these causes.

By addressing these areas with a holistic and structured approach, the parish can move toward becoming a more vibrant, mission-oriented community that not only nurtures spiritual growth but also engages actively with the wider world in service and evangelization.

Parish Masterplan Reference Group

Lent begins next Wednesday, 5 March 2025

Parish Mass Times for Ash Wednesday

9:15 am St Margaret's (with school; all welcome)

11:45 am St Mary's (with school; all welcome)

7:00 pm St Mary's

Please note: No 9.00am Mass at St Mary's on Wednesday 5 March 2025.

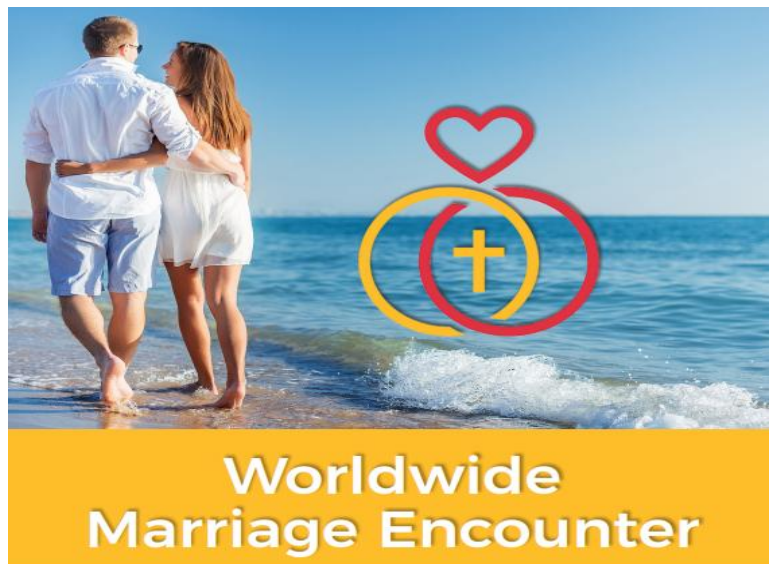
Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence.

Project Compassion - Project Compassion boxes/envelopes are available for collection in both churches.

Stations of the Cross at St Mary's

Fridays of Lent at 7:00pm – starts next Friday 14 March 2025

Marriage Encounter is a world-wide Catholic movement providing these special weekends in around 100 countries throughout the world. A Marriage Encounter weekend experience is for married couples and priests and focuses on deeper communication skills and growing intimacy in our spousal relationships. It is an opportunity to focus on our most important relationship/s and come away from the weekend feeling revitalised and more strongly connected.



A ministry in the Catholic Church offering couples a weekend of discovery for their marriage.

Enhance communication and rekindle the passion in your marriage!

For additional information contact us:

☎ 0409 183 676

✉ vicbookings@wwme.org.au

🌐 wwme.org.au



Marriage refers to the Catholic understanding of the spousal relationship between a man and a woman.

**Our next weekend is scheduled for
25-27 April 2025**

St Paul's Retreat Centre in Wantirna South.

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

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING

Sir 27:4-7

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 91

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)

The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)

Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Cor 15:54-58

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. 'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

