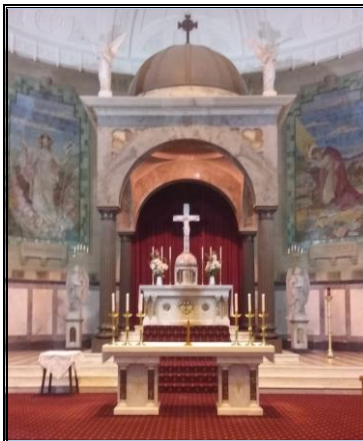




PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 7 September 2025

Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage

Visit local Pilgrim Places

A Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage will take place on **Saturday 11 October** which includes two of our local pilgrim places.

St Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne

Polish Marian Shrine, Aberfeldie

Clipboards are available at our churches, if you wish to be part of the pilgrimage. For further information please contact Anne via email annefogarty2010@hotmail.com.

Parish Offertory Programme – June 2025

Outcome

The Development and Philanthropy Team, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne assisted St. Mary’s Parish this year in holding a renewal programme concerning parish planned-giving. A marked difference from renewal campaigns in the past is that through this new team in the Archdiocese the parish was not charged for the programme.

For this campaign the number of Ongoing Givers who increased their Giving is 25. The number of New Givers is 10. The most outstandingly positive aspect has been the attention given to supporting the Presbytery Account. Actual pledged contributions to the Presbytery Account is a most welcome new development.

Fr Desmond J Moloney

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process will resume for 2025-2026 on **Wednesday, 8th October 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.

Parish Sacramental Program

Our Sacramental Program for **1st Reconciliation (Grade 3) and Holy Communion (Grade 4)**, commences on **Thursday 11 September 2025 at 4.00pm**. Classes run after school, at St Mary’s school. Anyone with eligible children who have been validly baptised are welcome. Contact Rose 0411 040 669 or via email catechist.rc@gmail.com.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 13/14 Sept 2025

Parish Counters: R Aparo; D McAleer

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		B Dwyer		R Turnbull
10.30 am	G Kearney		R Bonvino	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 543

Offertory: CWBII 645

Communion: CWBII 618

Reflection: CWBII 595

Recessional: CWBII 625

Wedding Anniversary: Prayerful congratulations to Renzo & Ida Zanella on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Death Anniversaries: Margherita Schepis; Allegri Alma Mezzanini Alfonso; Clementi Agostina Zanella Natale; Mary & Bill Sheargold; Thomas Flood

Feast Days: **8 Sep:** The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

13 Sep: St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor

Readings Next Week: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Year C) Num 21:4-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Bishops.

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, be empowered to live their faith in the world and experience the breadth of the Church in Australia.

Who: Year 9 to 25 years of age

Where: St Patrick's Cathedral and Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre

When: 30 November – 2 December 2025

The parish of St Mary's is looking to send a group to ACYF. Please express your interest by filling the form below to be involved and receive updates.

The link and qr code to the Expression of Interest form are found on this page.

Link <https://forms.gle/nuzryRwSzXB4xwJt6>



ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

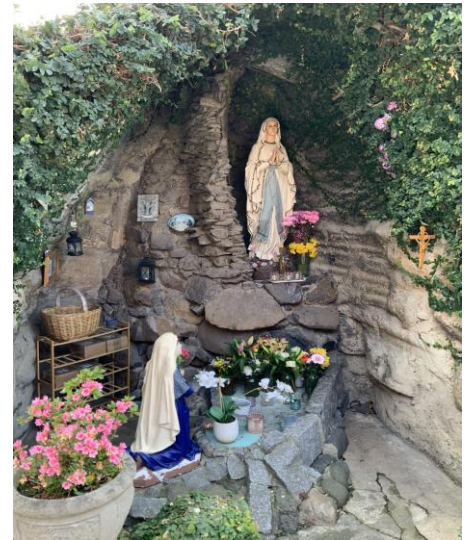
The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate. Online Diaconate information meeting **Tuesday, 23 September 2025 beginning 19:00 – 20:00 Location: via ZOOM.** Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au. In the week before the ZOOM link will be sent.



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

Grotto CARE

It happens that from time to time people bring pious objects (religious items, such as framed pictures, images, crosses and statues, etc.) to the Grotto to dispose of them there. Some, obviously, wrongly see the Grotto as a place for discarding these items. The repercussions are that apart from cluttering the Grotto, the prime focus is diminished, and the task of disposing of them becomes a job for someone else. We have a couple of women I see as true caretakers of the Grotto. They try to keep the Grotto clean and in good order to suit its purpose as a place of prayer. Regrettably, a sign is being considered to ward off anyone wishing to leave their unwanted religious items at the Grotto.



Fr Desmond has asked me to write a few words regarding my love and affection for Our Lady's Grotto.

I have always had a great affection to Our Lady, and I have vivid memories of visiting the Grotto on numerous occasions as a young girl in primary school at St Mary's, many, many decades ago.

That love and affection has not waned over the years. If anything, I have found that my trust in Our Lady has never let me down.

Looking back, I think what I have always loved is the simplicity of the Grotto. The statue of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette just kneeling there. As a young girl I can even remember water bubbling up from the little spout near St Bernadette. For me, there was always something very serene stepping into the Grotto, either standing (or kneeling when much younger). A serenity that is hard to find in this busy world.

I know that during COVID there were many people, who gained much solace praying before the statues of Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Lourdes in our Grotto. I'm sure that they were not all from our Parish.

I think during that difficult time, people found calmness and courage after praying to Our Lady.

I believe we are extremely lucky in our Parish to have such a wonderful public witness with both Our Lady of Fatima statues and Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

Unfortunately, now I feel that the Grotto has become rather busy, maybe busier than Bourke Street with all the religious pictures etc being placed in there. I am not against religious pictures etc, but it is the place to focus on Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette.

Oh how I would like to see it back to the simplicity that people could enjoy the stillness that Our Lady's Grotto gives.

For those who have not visited the Grotto recently, or at all, please take a few moments and just step into the gentle arms of Our Lady in there, and I am sure that you will also find the serenity that existed there.

I am convinced that I am not the only person who thinks like me, and who also LOVES Our Lady's Grotto !

Anne Fogarty

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.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING

Wis 9:13-18

What man can know the intentions of God?
Who can divine the will of the Lord?
The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable;
for a perishable body presses down the soul,
and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming
mind.
It is hard enough for us to work out what is on
earth,
laborious to know what lies within our reach;
who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?
As for your intention, who could have learnt it,
had you not granted Wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from above?
Thus have the paths of those on earth been
straightened
and men been taught what pleases you,
and saved, by Wisdom.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 89

**R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our
refuge.**

You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. (R.)

You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. (R.)

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. (R.)

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

SECOND READING

Phlm 9-10, 12-17

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is
more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am
appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father
I became while wearing these chains: I mean

Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with
him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should
have liked to keep him with me; he could have
been a substitute for you, to help me while I am
in the chains that the Good News has brought
me. However, I did not want to do anything
without your consent; it would have been forcing
your act of kindness, which should be
spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of
Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you
could have him back for ever, not as a slave any
more, but something much better than a slave, a
dear brother; especially dear to me, but how
much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a
brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in
common means anything to you, welcome him as
you would me.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your
servant, and teach me your laws. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 14:25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and
he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes
to me without hating his father, mother, wife,
children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life
too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does
not carry his cross and come after me cannot be
my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build
a tower, would not first sit down and work out
the cost to see if he had enough to complete it?
Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then
found himself unable to finish the work, the
onlookers would all start making fun of him and
saying, "Here is a man who started to build and
was unable to

finish." Or again, what king marching to war
against another king would not first sit down and
consider whether with ten thousand men he
could stand up to the other who advanced against
him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the
other king was still a long way off, he would send
envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way,
none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up
all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.