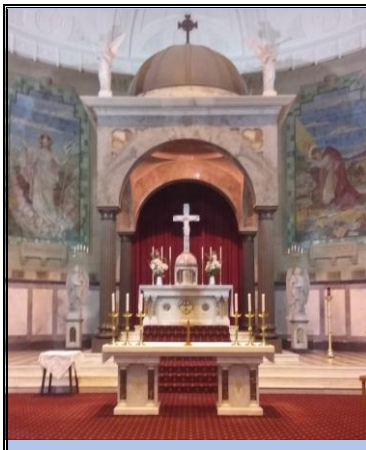




PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.

Third Sunday of Advent – 14 December 2025

Extra times for individual Reconciliation in Advent

In addition to our normal Confession times of
10:00-10:30 am and 5:30-5:45 pm every Saturday,

St Mary’s Tuesday 16 December 9:30-9:50am

during Holy Hour of Adoration

St Mary’s Wednesday 17 December 7:30-8:30pm with the Second Rite

St Mary’s Sunday 21 December 10:00-10:20am

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24 December		Christmas Day Thursday 25 December	
9.00 am	St Mary’s	(no 8:30 am Mass)	
6:00 pm	St Mary’s	10:30 am	St Mary’s
8:00 pm	St Margaret’s		
12:00 Midnight	St Mary’s		
	Carols from 11:30		



PLEASE NOTE

Mass Times changes between Christmas and New Year

26 December, Friday – **No Mass**

27 December, Saturday – No Morning Mass 6.00 Vigil - As normal

28 December, Sunday – As Normal

29 December, Monday – **No Mass**

30 December, Tuesday – 9.00am

31 December, Wednesday – No Morning Mass 7.00pm Mass

New Year’s Day: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Thursday (1st January) - Mass at 9.00am at St. Mary’s

Volunteers for new Rosters:

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Welcomers, Counters

The next rosters for St Mary’s & St Margaret’s commencing January to April 2026 are being prepared. If you wish to be part of any of these wonderful ministries please contact Fr Desmond. 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. Thank you.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 20/21 Dec 2025

Parish Counters: V Colicchia, T Peters

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	J Escano		P Bonnici	
8.30 am		P McLoughlin		A Laughton
10.30 am	A Fogarty		L Venuto	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 242

Offertory: CWBII 490

Communion: CWBII 603

Reflection: CWBII 251

Recessional: CWBII 240

Recently Deceased:

Mary Considine; Gerardo Palma; Patrick O'Connell

Anniversaries:

William Henry Ward; Philbert Dancel; Angelina Raffaele; Francesco Casamento; Vittorio Abatescianni; Maria Antonia DeMaria; Leah Anne Doran

Readings Next Week:

4th Sunday of Advent (Year A) Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Baptisms

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

Xavier Rotunno

Grace Jacqueline Swift

Ollie Daniel Kelb

Arthur Liam Briggs

Noah John Christensen



St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

We are grateful for the support of our schools and parishioners have given us over the years, but we still face growing demand for people struggling to afford basic needs, particularly food, rent and utility costs. While some benefits and wages have gone up, they have not all kept pace.

From July to November this year we have spent over \$36,000 in the Ascot Vale area.

We have been told that the poor are always with us, so please remember that any small amount you can afford to donate to this appeal will go to help.

There are envelopes at the church doors with instructions for payment.

Special Announcement by Archbishop Comensoli

Archbishop Peter Comensoli has written a letter to announce formally the calling of an **Archdiocesan Synod to be held in 2026**. The Archbishop has chosen today, the **Third Sunday of Advent**. He describes this announcement as a significant moment in the life of our Archdiocese. Following this announcement, broader notification will be distributed to Religious, Parishes, Archdiocesan staff, Catholic agencies and the wider community. In due course, details will be provided regarding the purpose, process, and how this important journey for the People of God in Melbourne will unfold.

Archbishop Peter asks for our prayers as we begin to prepare for this significant undertaking, so that this Synod may be for our Archdiocese a time of deep listening, renewed faith, authentic encounter and, God willing, rich fruit and flourishing. Copies of the Archbishop's letter are available.

Fr Desmond J Moloney

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.

Advent Prayer for Joy

This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

Father, you offer that same joy to us now if we know you and recognize Jesus as our Savior and Lord. You gave us a reason to celebrate when you gave us the unspeakable gift of Jesus Christ. You came to dwell among us. You went to Calvary's cross for us. You overcame death and rose from the dead for us. You forgive our sins and give us eternal life when we believe in you.

Our joy doesn't come from our jobs, our family, our relationships, our finances, or our success. Our joy doesn't come from what we have on earth or who we are with. Our joy is a gift. It is the gift that you gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Savior, King Jesus. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

Hope Bollinger

Advent Carol Service at St Patrick's Cathedral

Sunday 21 December 2025

3.00pm–6.00pm at St Patrick's Cathedral

The renowned choir of St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne presents its 51st Advent Carol Service (music, readings and prayers)



A Door Opened, A Door Closed

In December 2024, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in St Peter's, marking the beginning of the Jubilee. The task of closing that door now falls to his successor, Pope Leo XIV.

The Jubilee Year 2025 ends on **January 6, 2026**, the Feast of the Epiphany, closing with the sealing of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica after beginning on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, marking a year of spiritual renewal, pilgrimage, and grace.

The mission of the Church never closes.

'Crossing the Holy Door means assuming the responsibility to bring hope where it is missing,'

The Holy Year has brought the 'dimension of the pilgrimage back to the centre' and that among the fruits of the Jubilee that 'will accompany the Church in the coming decade' is the 'rediscovery of personal responsibility in the faith that is strengthened by hope'.

'The "Pilgrims of Hope" return to their dioceses with a stronger sense of belonging and, above all, with the awareness that daily witness is the first place of evangelisation,'

Archbishop Fisichella

Celebrating the Closure of Jubilee 2025



Sunday 28 December 2025, 10.00am–12.00pm

Our Lady of Lavang Shrine, 225 Hutton Road, Keysborough

Join us as we celebrate the closure of the Jubilee Year! Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will be leading Mass at Our Lady of Lavang Shrine. Mass will also be celebrated in Vietnamese. Tea and coffee will be provided afterwards.

Third Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING Is 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145 **R. Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the
precious fruit of the ground until it has had the
autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have

to be patient; do not lose heart, because the
Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make
complaints against one another, brothers, so as
not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the
Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.
For your example, brothers, in submitting with
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon
me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was
doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are
you the one who is to come, or have we got to
wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back
and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see
again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed,
and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life
and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor;
and happy is the man who does not lose faith in
me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to
talk to the people about John: 'What did you go
out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in
the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to
see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those
who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces.
Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he
is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before
you; he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of
women, a greater than John the Baptist has never
been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven
is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

