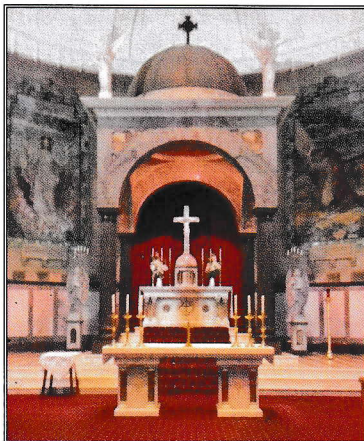




PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.

The Presentation Of The Lord – 2 February 2025

(Sunday of The Word of God)

Upcoming PARISH OFFERTORY Programme

May, 2025

The Offertory Programme in St Mary's Parish will be an opportunity to review, to consider, and to decide concerning this aspect of your involvement as a parishioner.

Parish Census - To support our pastoral leadership teams, in their role of acknowledging, guiding and empowering our parish community.

Over the next three weeks, commencing **next weekend 8/9 February, (through 15/16 February and 22/23 February)**, we invite each member of our parish to participate in our census process. By completing the census form, which will be made available during Mass, we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also enable the parish to strategically plan for important events, ministries, and other future endeavours. Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality being used solely for this parish and will not be shared. Thank you.

The Bethany Way Introductory Retreat

The Bethany Way retreat

'At the feet of Jesus: on retreat with Martha, Mary and Lazarus'

8 February 2024 – 12pm-4pm

Catholic Leadership Centre

576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

All are welcome to join for Mass at 11.30am

Lunch included.

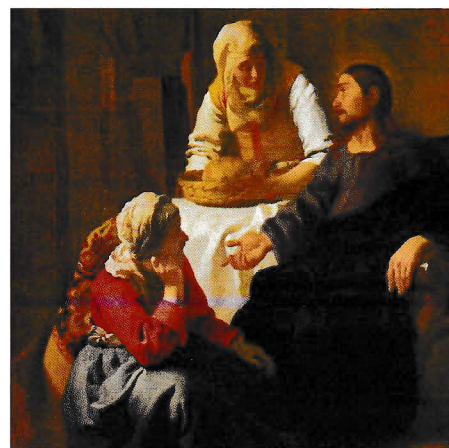
This free retreat will introduce you to The Bethany Way – a journey of being formed in the faith and assisted to be equipped to form others, particularly in one's own parish.

Any parishioner attending this retreat, please let me know as I welcome you as representing St Mary's Parish.

Registrations are open, www.trybooking.com./CXHYE

Enquiries: proclaim@cam.org.au or 99265761

Fr Desmond J Moloney



ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 8/9 Feb 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	N Familiari		F Pinto	
8.30 am		B Port		A Laughton
10.30 am	M Doran		M Andronaco	

Recently Deceased: Marianna Conidi; Paula Mascarenhas; Josephine Scott; Ricki Seiuli; Maryanne Burgess; Dr Jean Low; Olivia Hussey; Margaret Sutherland

Anniversaries: Alla McMahon; Ronald Balangue; Manuel Dancel; Esteban Musni; Antonia Sgambellone

Feast Days: **5 February:** St Agatha

6 February: St Paul Miki

Readings Next Week: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) Is 6:1-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

First Friday & First Saturday devotions

This Friday is the 1st Friday of the month, with devotions after the morning Mass.

Saturday is the 1st Saturday: we will have devotions at Holy Hour after 9:30am Mass.

Sacramental Program

*Does your child attend a non-Catholic school in Year 6 or older and needs to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**?* Classes are run weekly (except school holidays), commencing 20th February 2025, **Thursdays 4pm**, at St Mary's school, for approx. 8 weeks. If your child has received First Reconciliation and First Communion and would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, email, rosecalandra22@gmail.com or the Parish Office: ascotvale@cam.org.au to enrol for these classes. For any enquiries, feel free to call Rose, the Catechist on mob: 0411 040 669.

Our monthly report

DECEMBER 2024 – Offertory donations

Envelopes/Loose	\$ 6240.00
Credit card	\$ 1395.00
Direct debit	\$ 5107.00

TOTAL **\$12742.00**

A reflection for the start of the Jubilee Year

As the Jubilee Year begins, Pope Francis has encouraged everyone to reflect on how they can bring light, hope and kindness into the lives of others:

- How can I open a window of light in my environment and in my relationships?
- Where can I be a glimmer of light that let's God's love pass through?
- What practical actions can I do today, this term, this year in my school, home, world? (2025).

The Jubilee Year of 2025 offers a profound opportunity for renewal, unity and hope. Let us step forward as pilgrims of hope, embracing God's call to transform our world with love and compassion.

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

Jubilee of Families Pilgrimage 2025 - Tuesday 20 May 2025 – Wednesday 4 June 2025

Registrations for the Archdiocese of Melbourne's 2025 Jubilee of Families pilgrimage will close on 7 February 2025. The pilgrimage, which coincides with the Jubilee of Families, Grandparents and the Elderly, is open to all parishioners. Harvest Journeys is the pilgrimage provider, Fr Andrew McCarter will accompany the pilgrims as their chaplain.

For more information, contact Harvest Journeys at info@harvestjourneys.com, or call 1800 819 156.

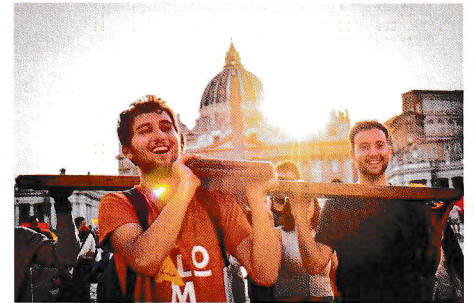


Jubilee of Youth Pilgrimage 2025 - Monday 21 July 2025 – Tuesday 5 August 2025

This pilgrimage is open to Catholics aged between 18 and 30 years. Fr Jude Johnson will accompany the pilgrims as their chaplain.

This graced and hope-filled journey will take in the towns and cities of Italy, the homes of great saints like St Francis and St Clare—and soon-to-be canonised saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati—before culminating in a visit to the Eternal City of Rome, where we will walk through the Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica and participate in the Jubilee celebrations.

For more information, contact Harvest Journeys at info@harvestjourneys.com, or call 1800 819 156.



'Marriage' with Matt and Cameron Fradd

Thursday 6 February 2025, 6.00pm–9.30pm, ACU Cathedral Hall, 22 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

- 6pm—Live music and barbecue
- 7.30pm—Marriage talk by Matt and Cameron Fradd
- 9.30pm—Finish

Cost: \$30 adults, \$20 concession/student, free for children under 10



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

A ceasefire means more aid can assist people affected in Gaza. Your support is urgently needed.



DONATE NOW

www.caritas.org.au/gaza

1800 024 413



Photo: Caritas Jerusalem

The Presentation Of The Lord (Sunday of The Word of God)

FIRST READING

Mal 3:1-4

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of Hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23

R. Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.

Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)

Who is the king of glory?

The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. (R.)

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.

Let him enter, the king of glory! (R.)

Who is the king of glory? He, the Lord or armies,
he is the king of glory. (R.)

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Christ too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia! This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 2: 22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.