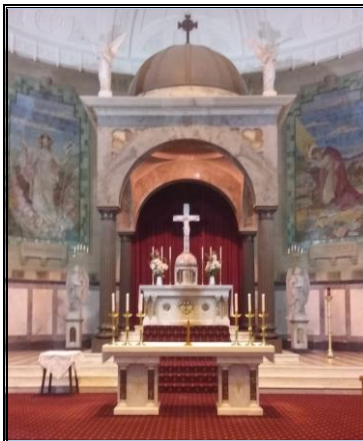




PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.

1st Sunday of Lent – 22 February 2026

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

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat.

On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

(a) **Prayer** - for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways.

(b) **Self-Denial** - for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one’s own country or elsewhere; or in other ways. Project Compassion is a major means of expressing our self-denial in Australia.

(c) **Helping Others** - for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or over-burdened; or in other ways.

- All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain (Canon 1252).

- The Season of Lent is a time of penance. During this season the faithful are exhorted to devote themselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves.

- Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled between Ash Wednesday 18 February and Trinity Sunday, 31 May 2026 unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year.

- The wonderful gift of the Lord’s merciful love is offered in a special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a most appropriate time to receive this Sacrament.

All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion are bound faithfully to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

Very Reverend Anthony Kerin JCL VG
VICAR GENERAL

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 28 Feb/1 Mar 2026

Parish Counters: V Collichia; 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		FAMILY MASS		R Tunrball
10.30 am	M Kenny		R Bonvino	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 290

Offertory: CWBII 291

Communion: CWBII 528

Reflection: CWBII 293

Recessional: CWBII 477

Recently Deceased:

Tony Smith; Emmanuel Peter Sammut; Paul Bianco

Anniversaries:

Rose Callan; Giuseppe Panetta; Vincenzo Ialuna; Joy Ann Sammut; Patricia & John Kearney; Natala Scolaro; Antonia Trimboli; Anniziata Galluccio; Mae Claire Jabines

Readings Next Week: 2nd Sunday of Lent: Gen 12:1-4; 2 Tim 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9

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 12th March 2026, **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, catechist.rc@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.

Parish Community Group Meeting

Would you like to join this group to help when we have morning tea after Sunday Mass or wine & cheese or soup after Saturday evening Mass etc.? We would love more people to be involved!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 24th February at 7.30pm. If you would like further information about the group or would like to come to the meeting, please ring Marie on 9372 0307 for details and venue.

Wine and Cheese

We will be having Wine and Cheese after the 6.00pm Mass on **Saturday, 7th March**. Everyone is invited. Come along and have a chat with other parishioners. Hope to see many of you there.

The 54th International EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028 (Sydney) In Our Sights

2026 is the Year of Prayer, inviting the Church to experience the Eucharist as a mystery to be encountered. On 1st March 2026, every parish in the country is invited to celebrate a Holy Hour following the conclusion of Mass.

In St. Mary's Parish on Sunday, 1st March there will be a Holy Hour following the 10.30am Mass.

Fr Desmond J Moloney



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

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.



THE 54TH INTERNATIONAL
EUCCHARISTIC
CONGRESS 2028
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

EUCCHARIST28 Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you
for the gift of your real presence
in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly
and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us,
so that as you gave yourself to the Father
and to us, we too may offer our lives to God
and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those
who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost.
Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become
what we have received, the Body of Christ. Amen.



First Sunday of Lent
21–22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

First Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 118

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no

law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Mt 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.