

OUR MASS TIMES

Tue & Fri: 9.15am Mass
Wed & Thurs: 9.15am (Communion Service)
Sat: 6.00pm (Livestream)
Sun: 9.00am and 11.00am
Sun: 5.00pm **Youth Mass**

RECONCILIATION

Fri: 6 - 7pm *Adoration and Reconciliation*
Sat: 5.30pm - 5.50pm *Reconciliation*

OFFICE HOURS

Tue - Fri 9am - 4pm



OUR PRIESTS

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Jerald Mariadas (Away on holiday)
jerald.mariadas@cam.org.au

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Rev Libeesh Kuriakose
libeesh.kuriakose@cam.org.au

OUR TEAM

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Loretta Hughes
loretta.hughes@cam.org.au

PARISH COORDINATOR

Liza Jansz (Tue - Thurs)
Rowville@cam.org.au
liza.jansz@cam.org.au

PARISH SUPPORT OFFICER

Cyrrilla D'Souza (Tue - Fri)
cyrrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRAMENTS) & BAPTISM COORDINATOR

Theresa Abraham
Theresa.abraham@cam.org.au

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Melody Wells-Jansz
melody.wells-jansz@cam.org.au

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Newton Marques
Rowville@cam.org.au

**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS,
MARRIAGE PREP, FUNERALS**
Please contact our Parish Office

ANointing of the Sick
Contact the Parish Office

OUR SERVICES

PARISH CENTRE FACILITIES HIRE

Contact the Parish Office

ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Mr Tom Wursthorn - 9755 4222

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE
1800 305 330

MUSICIAN IN RESIDENCE

Andrea O'Loughlin
Available for Funerals & Weddings
Mobile: 0404 051 401

LIVESTREAMING IN RESIDENCE

Corey Payton
Available for Funerals & Weddings
Mobile: 0498 185 295

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN NOTICES
Wednesday 4.00pm

St Simon the Apostle Parish

A compassionate community celebrating and living in Christ
2 Taylors Lane, ROWVILLE VIC 3178 | melbcatholic.org/s/rowville



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 17/18 JANUARY 2026 | YEAR A



**John 1:29-34 | 'Look, there is the lamb of God
that takes away the sin of the world'**

Sometimes the most important moments in life happen when someone helps us recognise what truly matters. In today's reading, John stands in the crowd and points beyond himself. He does not claim answers or authority of his own; instead, he draws attention to another and says, in effect, "This is worth noticing." It is an act of humility and courage, because stepping aside is often harder than stepping forward.

John admits that he did not fully understand what he was seeing at first. Recognition came gradually, through attentiveness and trust rather than certainty. That experience is familiar to many of us. We do not always recognise meaning, purpose or direction immediately. Often it becomes clear only when we remain open, patient and willing to listen.

The image of taking away "the sin of the world" can be understood as the lifting of what weighs humanity down — fear, division, injustice, and the tendency to draw sharp lines between "us" and "them." The reading challenges the idea that goodness, truth or belonging are reserved for a select group. Instead, it suggests a vision of life that is generous, inclusive and outward-looking.

John's role is simply to point the way. He reminds us that our lives, too, can serve as signposts for others. We do this not through loud declarations, but through the way we live: by acting with integrity, treating others with dignity, and choosing compassion over self-interest. In quiet and ordinary ways, such choices can help others recognise hope, direction and meaning — perhaps without even realising where it began.

With Blessings, Fr Jerald Mariadas

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Preparation Classes for the
Sacrament of Reconciliation has
begun for children in
Grade 3 & above
in non-Catholic schools.
Classes begin on Tue 3 Feb, 4.00pm
at St Simon's Parish Centre
Please scan the QR code to register
or call the Parish office.



**To access our
livestreamed Masses
please scan the QR Code**

(03) 9764 4058 rowville@cam.org.au



Farewell to Fr Libeesh

We share the news that Fr Libeesh will conclude his appointment at St Jude's and St Simon's and begin ministry at St Mary's Church, Greensborough on 3 March 2026. Over the year he has become part of the parish through his care, ministry and dedication. Farewell Masses: 14-15 Feb, St Simon's; 28 Feb-1 Mar, St Jude's. We wish him blessings and assure him of our prayers.



AUSTRALIA DAY COMBINED PARISH MASS



There will be
NO MASS at
St Simon's
Church

St Jude's and St Simon's warmly invite you to a special Combined Parish Mass as we come together in faith, friendship, and community.

- ☐ Monday 26 January 2026
- ☐ 10:00am
- ☐ St Jude the Apostle Church, Scoresby

Let's celebrate Australia Day by uniting our two parish communities and strengthening the bonds that bring us together.

Everyone is welcome — come and share in prayer, fellowship, and joy.

Together we celebrate



We will offer the **Compassio Lenten Program 2026**, developed by the Archdiocese of Wollongong, through Lent.

This well-established program invites parishioners into a deeper Lenten journey through Scripture, prayer, reflection, and shared discussion, helping us grow in faith and live the call to compassion more fully.

Each session provides a welcoming space to pause with God's Word and support one another as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

Parishioners of all ages and stages of faith are warmly encouraged to take part.

Sessions will be held at the following times, in the Parish Meeting Room/Chapel, and you are welcome to attend whichever session best suits your schedule:

Monday 16 February: 7.00 – 8.30pm

Tuesday 17 February: 7.30 – 9.00pm

Thursday 19 February: 10.00 – 11.30am, 7.00 – 8.30pm

Friday 20 February: 10.00 – 11.30am

Please register via the sign-on sheets at the Welcome Desk. This is a wonderful opportunity to journey together as a parish during Lent, grounded in prayer, tradition, and shared faith. All parishioners are most welcome.

PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM 2026

“Is God inviting you to take the next step – or help someone else take theirs?”

For all Bulletin Notices, please email cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Jubilee Year to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. In a decree published 10 Jan by the Franciscan Friars, the Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary announced that the Year of St Francis will run from 10 Jan 2026 to 10 Jan 2027, following the conclusion of the Church's Jubilee Year. The decree notes that 2026 will culminate decades of Franciscan centenary commemorations. <https://www.ncronline.org/news/pope-sets-jubilee-mark-800th-year-st-francis-death-saints-body-be-displayed>

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Contact Ash: 0413 913 619

PARISH GARDENS

Do you enjoy being outdoors, getting your hands in the soil, and making a difference in your community?

Our parish gardening group is looking for a few more friendly volunteers to help care for our beautiful church grounds and gardens.

By giving just a few hours on **Thursdays**, you'll be helping create a welcoming and peaceful space for everyone who visits our parish. No gardening experience is needed — just a positive attitude, a willingness to help, and a love for nature.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or simply enjoy being outdoors, we would love to have you join us!

Interested? Please contact **Liza** at liza.jansz@cam.org.au for more information.

Thank you for your generosity and support — together we can keep our parish looking its very best.



Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Rowville Conference, we sincerely thank you for your ongoing support and generous donations to our Winter and Christmas Appeals.

We are very grateful for your monetary gifts, as well as your donations of food and clothing. Your selfless generosity has made a meaningful difference in the lives of those less fortunate throughout 2025.

Once again, thank you on behalf of the SVDP Rowville Conference team. Your kindness truly reflects the spirit of our parish community.

May God's blessings be upon you and your loved ones.

Warm regards,

St Vincent de Paul, Rowville Conference



Are you being called to grow in faith, friendship, or service?

Do you have a compassionate heart or a listening ear?

WE REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

For those who have died recently and those whose memories are sacred to us at this time especially Frank de Rango, Andrew Kelaart, Daniel Malepa, Elizabeth Hung Leng Chuo, Yvonne Misso, Gaudencio Natividad, Francesca Bertone, Bernadette Madden, Maggie Sloan, Carmen Labutte

For the Sick: Bill Leane, Yana Jong, Perry Law, Brooke Hiho, Bente Jobsz, Jenny Liston, Sam Russo, Jay Russel, Adrien Cerdor, Nigel Quadros, Anita Crowley, Gillian Elias, Lisette & Noah Vissenjou, Bernadette and Murray Ukena, Paul Dusdale, Flora Palleschi, Alex Zunica, Lisette Visenjoux, Ruevin Serrand, Elenor Augustus, Benedict Lim, Noelle Parsons, Jonathan Salerno, Barbara Kirsch, Mark Bramich, Charles and Daniel.

Our **Care to Connect** team offers friendship, support and companionship to parishioners who are sick, lonely, bereaved or housebound.

A simple phone call or visit can make a real difference. If you can spare some time each week, your kindness could bring comfort and hope to someone in need.

If you know someone who would benefit from a friendly call or visit, please leave their details in the **Care to Connect book at the Help Desk**.

We are also seeking volunteers to help with phone calls and visits. Please contact the Parish Office to learn more. Together, we can help ensure no one in our parish feels alone.



CARE TO CONNECT

FAREWELL COLLECTION

Fr Libeesh has a new appointment

As we prepare to farewell Fr Libeesh, we would like to present him with a small gift as a token of our gratitude for his faithful service, kindness, and dedication to our parish community.

If you would like to contribute toward this gift, donations may be made at the parish office or via the marked collection box after Mass. Your generosity, in any amount, will be deeply appreciated — but most of all, your prayers and good wishes mean just as much.

Thank you for helping us express our thanks in a meaningful way.

Sacramental Registrations are now open for 2026



Our parish is blessed to journey with families as children prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Each of these Sacraments is a special encounter with God's grace, deepening their faith and drawing them closer to Jesus Christ and His Church.

To register your child or to obtain further information, please email or contact the Parish Office.

We look forward to accompanying our young parishioners and their families.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD will resume from **8 February**.

All children up to 10 years of age are welcome

NEXT WOMEN'S GROUP

Thursday 26 February 2026 10am
in the Parish Center

Our next Men's Group will be held on Wednesday 28 January

We are very grateful for the men who continue to support and strengthen this group, and we warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Friendship | Conversation | Faith

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 17/18 January 2026

First Reading: *Isaiah 49:3. 5-6* — The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm 39

Response: Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading: *1 Cor 1:1-3*

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church

of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: *John 1:29-34*

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel



that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified



IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

MON 19 JAN	TUE 20 JAN	WED 21 JAN	THUR 22 JAN	FRI 23 JAN	SAT 24 JAN	SUN 25 JAN
OFFICE CLOSED	9.15am Mass (Fr Libeesh)	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Mass (Fr Libeesh)	5.30pm (Church) Reconciliation	9.00 am Mass (Fr Dominic)
7.00pm (Parish Centre PC) SVDP Meeting	2.00pm (PC) Craft Group		11-12pm (Church) Funeral Mass -John Vincent Faulkner	6.00pm (Church) Eucharistic Adoration	6.00 pm Mass (Fr Dominic)	11.00 am Mass (Fr Dominic)
	7.30pm (PC) RCIA Meeting		5-9.00pm (Church) SSS Choir Practice	8.00pm (Church) 11am Choir Practice	PLEASE NOTE: THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY	2.00pm (Church) Chaldean Community
						3.30-5pm (PC) Chaldean Community
Fr Jerald will be on holiday from 12 January to 6 February						5.00pm Youth Mass Fr Steve Tynan
WEEKDAY MASSES St Simon's—Tuesday and Friday St Jude's—Wednesday and Thursday COMMUNION SERVICE St Simon's—Wednesday and Thursday St Jude's—Friday						—

NEXT WEEKEND

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — 24 / 25 JANUARY 2026 — Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17, Matthew 4:12-23

MASS TIMES	24 JAN, SATURDAY 6.00PM	25 JAN, SUNDAY 9.00AM	25 JAN, SUNDAY 11.00AM	25 JAN, SUNDAY 5.00PM
Commentator	Volunteer	Phil Mawdsley	Estela Banac	Pramita Dsouza
Reader 1	Saniru Perera	Bernard Mulholland	Christina Liew	Volunteer
Reader 2	Julie Faull	Pam Comerford	Terry Redden	Volunteer
Welcome Desk	Yvonne Muspratt	Victoria Kong	Pia Pagotto	Volunteer
Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	
Flowers	Beatrice Polydor	Altar Society	Sheila Kelaart & Bernie Fernando	Church Cleaning
			Sharon Melder, Danusha Ladd & Asela Angammana	Thabesan Family