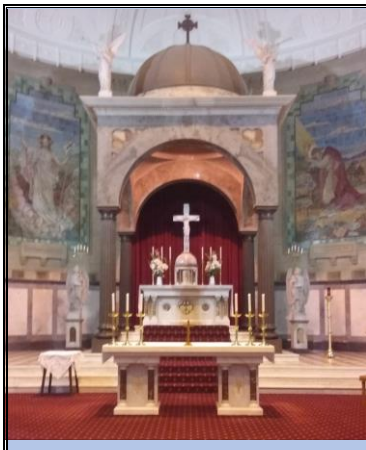




PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.stmaryschurch.org.au
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 Gavin Brennan 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.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – 24 March 2024

Celebrating Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum

Holy Thursday 28 March	7.30 pm	Mass of the Lord’s Supper	St Mary’s
Good Friday 29 March	11.00 am	Stations of the Cross	St Mary’s
	3.00 pm	Celebration of the Passion of the Lord	St Mary’s
Holy Saturday 30 March	8:00 pm	Easter Vigil	St Mary’s
Easter Sunday 31 March	8.30 am	Easter Sunday Mass	St Margaret’s
	10.30 am	Easter Sunday Mass	St Mary’s
	6:00 pm	Easter Sunday Mass (Spanish)	St Mary’s

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Lent

Normal confession times Saturdays 10:00-10:30am, 5:30-5:45pm

Confessions will also be available at the following time:

Wednesday 27 March St Mary’s Church 7:30 – 8:00pm (following 7:00pm Mass)

No confessions Holy Saturday 30 March

Parish Community Group

The community group will be holding their first meeting for 2024 on Tuesday 16 April at 7:30pm. We are looking for any parishioners who may wish to join our group, you would be most welcome. We organise the morning teas, soup nights etc, being a member of the group is not arduous, we do have laughs and friendship along the way.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Marie on 9372 0307. Thank you

Baptisms

We welcome into the family of God’s Church the children who will be baptised at St Mary’s this weekend.

Thalia Anna Cook	Sebastian Christopher Cook	Rafael Giodan Giansiracusa
Clara Grace Devlin	Penelope Xindaras	Theodore Joseph Bryant
Briana Georgina Steenkamp		Charlotte Adelaide Steenkamp
Emilia Caroline Steenkamp		

The Melbourne Passion Play

Good Friday, 29 March, at 10.00am

Holy Cross Centre, 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe

For more information and to register your interest, contact Director, Robert Durai, on 0422 130 014 or at robertodurai@yahoo.com.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 30/31 MARCH 2024

SPECIAL EASTER ROSTER

Easter Sunday Hymns: Entrance: CWBII 346

Offertory: CWBII 540 vs 3,5

Communion: CWBII 484

Reflection: CWBII 346 vs 1,3

Recessional: CWBII 360

Recently deceased: Wendy Basnett; Milagros Revina

Anniversaries: Edgardo Bunque; Pietro & Teresa Medici; Michael, Carmine, Lucia & Angelo Di Lisio; Tony Staropoli; Pino Acquaro; Pina & Vince Staropoli; Pasquale Anastasio

Readings Next Week: **Sunday of the Resurrection:** Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

Working with Children Checks—A reminder that all parish volunteers need to have a valid WWCC with the Parish listed as one of the places where you undertake child related work. That means all Readers Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Ministers of Communion to the Sick Musicians & Choir Members Church Cleaners need to have a WWCC—if you are unsure, please contact the Parish Office or speak to one of the priests. Registered teachers are exempt from requiring a WWCC but are required to notify WWCC if they engage in child-related work other than their teaching.

Child Safeguarding Training—All volunteers need to undertake safeguarding training. You may undertake this training online [Online Safeguarding Training](#).

Code of Conduct Declaration—Thanks to all those who have completed their Code of Conduct Declaration. Again, this is a requirement of all volunteers. Please contact the parish office via email if you are yet to complete the declaration.

B I M O N T H L Y E V E N T

Mass & Mingle

Sunday 24th of March

MASS: 10:30 AM

MINGLE: 11:30 AM - ONWARDS

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, ASCOT VALE
123 ST LEONARDS RD, ASCOT VALE



Melbourne City Churches in Action present: Way of the Cross

Friday 29 March 2024 – 2.00pm – 3.00pm

This live public event will be held through the streets of the CBD again this year.

For more information, email Fran Henderson at secretary@mccia.org.au.

A Reflection – Mercy Melbourne: Focus on the Grace of Reconciliation

Tuesday, 19th March – Solemnity of Saint Joseph

The season of Lent is well advanced; this time in which to prepare for Easter. How would it really be possible to celebrate Easter without observing Lent? How could we rejoice fully in the resurrection when we have avoided commemorating the Lord's death? We have been called into dying with the Lord, through him and in him – and thus become ready to recognise him when he appears in his resurrection.

Lent brings us to face the hard reality about ourselves, in asking the hard questions of ourselves and in pondering what penance, what self-denial, might mean for us. What are those things that need to die in me: false attachments, greed, anger, impatience, self-centredness? How much have I died with you, Lord, this Lent, really gone your way and been faithful to it?

God's mercy is greater than our sins. It is guilt, a spiritual writer points out that leads us to say: "I am too sinful to deserve God's mercy." It is the guilt that leads to introspection instead of directing our eyes to God. It is the guilt that has become an idol and therefore a form of pride. Lent is the time to break down this idol and to direct our attention to our loving Lord. The season of Lent helps us in a special way to cry out for God's mercy.

The American, Cardinal Joseph Bernadin wrote a book entitled *The Gift of Peace*. In it he wrote about the last three years of his life before his death from pancreatic cancer. Here he also described the reconciliation he had with the man who had falsely accused him of sexual abuse – a meeting the Cardinal initiated. It was in this meeting that the man, Steven Cook, dying of AIDS at the time, offered an apology, which Cardinal Bernadin gently accepted. The Cardinal described the offer of apology as simple, direct, and deeply moving. For his part, the Cardinal offered Steven a Bible in which he had inscribed words of loving forgiveness.

Each day moments can arise as moments, even celebrations of reconciliation: perhaps just saying 'I'm sorry', 'I apologise' and then knowing, receiving a gracious acceptance, in some way or other forgiveness being expressed (given).

I truly believe that the message of Divine Mercy is of and for our time – and so it is for us to open ourselves to the wondrous, boundless mercy of God. Divine mercy came to our help in Jesus dying for us on the cross and in his rising from the dead. It was Pope St. John Paul II who said the Resurrection is a "miracle of mercy", which "radically changed humanity's destiny". There is, of course, the familiar Divine Mercy image in which two beams of light are seen radiating from the heart of Jesus. These two beams are imaging "water and blood". They, therefore, take us to Jesus on the cross and the water and blood that flowed from his side. Jesus with his dying on the cross communicates Divine Mercy – God's mercy for us and for our salvation. Our celebration of Easter is a celebration that, by God's mercy, Jesus, who had died

for us and rose from the dead, brings about reconciliation. So, in celebrating Easter we celebrate a new birth for all humanity. God's gift of reconciliation comes close to us. In the form of a sacrament, the gift of mercy, the gift of reconciliation, is available to us.

Fr Desmond J Moloney

Project Compassion

With the conclusion of Lent, please bring Project Compassion boxes on Holy Thursday evening. The Mass of the Lord's Supper is unique in that the Missal states that gifts for the poor may be presented along with the bread and wine. Thank you for your generosity!

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the
wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 21

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him:
let him release him if this is his friend.' (R.)

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet,
I can count every one of my bones. (R.)

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' (R.)

SECOND READING

Phil 2:6-11

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself

to assume the condition of a slave
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:8-9

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Christ became obedient for us even to death,
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mark 14:1-15:47

