

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 PRIEST

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Jerald Mariadas
jerald.mariadas@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

Cyrilla D'Souza (Tue - Fri)
cyrilla.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
Email: cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au



St Simon the Apostle Parish

A compassionate community celebrating and living in Christ

2 Taylors Lane, ROWVILLE VIC 3178 | <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/rowville>



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT | 7/8 MARCH 2026 | YEAR A

John 4:15 | *'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty ...'*

Today's Gospel gives us one of the most personal encounters in Scripture. Jesus is tired. He sits at a well. A woman arrives at midday — alone, perhaps avoiding others. And Jesus begins a conversation.

He crosses boundaries: Jew and Samaritan, man and woman, teacher and outsider. He asks for a drink. In doing so, he makes himself vulnerable. Then he offers something greater — "living water," a spring that wells up to eternal life.

The Samaritan woman arrives carrying a water jar. She leaves without it. Instead, she carries something new — hope. After meeting Jesus, she becomes a missionary to her own people: "Come and see." The one who seemed on the margins becomes the voice that brings others to Christ.

As we move toward our Synod in Melbourne, this Gospel is deeply important. A synodal Church is a Church that sits at the well. It listens. It speaks

honestly. It is not afraid of real conversations. Jesus does not begin with judgement; he begins with dialogue. He listens to her story. He reveals truth with compassion. And transformation follows.

The woman's question echoes the question from Exodus: "Is the Lord with us or not?" At the well, we see the answer clearly — God is with us, meeting us in our thirst.

Our Church today is thirsty: thirsty for renewal, for unity, for deeper faith. The Synod invites us to put down our jars — our assumptions, our divisions — and listen again to Christ.

If we truly listen to him, living water will flow — not only in us, but through us, for the life of the world.

**With Blessings,
Fr Jerald Mariadas**

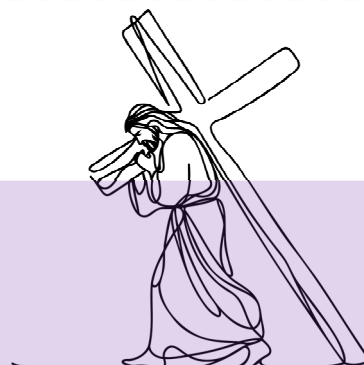
Pray for Peace

In these troubled times, when many around the world are living in fear and uncertainty, we hold in prayer all who are suffering because of War. We remember the innocent lives lost, families forced from their homes, and those who find themselves stranded and vulnerable in the midst of travel disruptions, including in airports and transit points.

Let us also pray for the leaders of all nations. May the Spirit of God grant them wisdom, right judgment, and the courage to work tirelessly for peace—seeking solutions that protect life, uphold human dignity, and avoid the tragedy of war.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we lift up all those affected by the ongoing war. Please protect the innocent, comfort the grieving, and give strength to those living in fear. Soften the hearts of leaders and guide them toward peace, wisdom, and understanding. May violence cease, may healing begin, and may hope rise even in the darkest places. Grant safety, unity, and lasting peace to all. Amen.



Every Friday in Lent

Combined **Stations of the Cross** at
St Simon's at 7pm after 6pm Adoration

Our Volunteers make a REAL difference!

**Serving is a chance to grow in faith,
build community, share your gifts.**

Even an hour a month can make a difference. Your presence matters.

Add your name to the list at the Welcome Desk, or call the Parish Office on 9764 4058

or email: cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au.
You don't need experience —just an open heart and a willingness to serve.

Serve | Belong | Grow in faith

...
**EASTER SUNDAY DAWN MASS
BREAKFAST CONTRIBUTIONS ARE
MOST WELCOME.**

**PLEASE NOTE YOUR NAME AND
PREFERENCE ON THE SHEET IN
THE CHURCH FOYER**
...

PARISH NOTICE

Fr Jerald will be overseeing weekday Masses at both parishes for the time being. During this transition, the weekday schedule at **St Simon's**:

**Tuesday & Friday — Holy Mass
Wednesday & Thursday —
Communion Service only**

We thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued support during this time.

WE PRAY FOR

For those who have recently died especially Giuseppe D'Angelo, Patricia Dwight, Bernard Alexander, Roydon Fernandez and those whose memories are sacred to us at this time especially Andrew Saunders, Anthony Joel Selvanayagam, Rose Nugara, Rienzie Nugara, Precilla Perera, Prem Perera, Lincoln Perera, David Perera, Karuna Perera, Padma Perera, Peter Wong, Gaetana Bufalino, Jude Labutte, Defelice Family, Attard Family

For the Sick: Bill Leane, Jenny Liston, Perry Law, Sam Russo, Jay Russel, Aneta Crowley, Lisette & Noah Vissenjou, Bernadette and Murray Ukena, Lisette Vissenjou, Brooke Hiho, Noelle Parsons, Jonathan Salerno, Barbara Kirsch, Mark Bramich, Charles, Daniel, Denzil Britto, Sonani Cramer, Rvevin Serrano, Jenny Liston

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has formally convoked a Synod for the **Archdiocese of Melbourne**. This important step continues our journey of listening, discernment, and renewal — a synodal way of being Church, walking together in faith under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In the months ahead, parishes and communities across the Archdiocese will be invited to gather in prayer and conversation to reflect on how we are called to proclaim the Gospel more faithfully in our time and place.

The Synod will focus on three key themes: **Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, and Formation and Participation.**

We are encouraged to ask:

Where is the Holy Spirit leading us?

Who are we called to accompany?

How can we reflect the face of Christ more clearly?

The Synod Assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the Synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026.

Please keep this journey in your prayers as we move forward together with hope and confidence in the Lord.

ST SIMON'S EASTER CALENDAR

Reconciliation (Second Rite)	26 March	7.30pm
Holy Thursday	2 April	8.00pm
Ecumenical Stations of the Cross @Rowville Community Centre	3 April	10.00am
Good Friday Passion of the Lord	3 April	3.00pm
Easter Sunday Dawn Mass	5 April	6.00am
Easter Sunday Mass	5 April	9.00am
Easter Sunday Mass	5 April	11.00am



Support **St Simon's Project Compassion walk** with the QR Code and help turn compassion into clean water and hope.

I CAN ... YOU CAN ...

WE CAN ALL WALK FOR A COMPASSIONATE WORLD



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2026

Appliance Repairs & Installation Service

We specialize in the repair of:

- ♦ Washing Machines
- ♦ Dishwashers
- ♦ Dryers
- ♦ Electric Ovens
- ♦ Microwaves
- ♦ Cooktops / Range hoods
- ♦ Fridges / Freezers
- ♦ Test / Tag Services

Contact Ash: 0413 913 619



Calling all singers and musicians

Music ministry training will be held on **Sunday 8 March 3-5pm** meeting in the Parish Centre

The session will be hosted by **John Ighalo**

John is a passionate youth and music minister currently serving with the Archdiocese of Melbourne as the Discipleship Specialist for Young Adults. With over 20 years of musical experience, John has ministered internationally across multiple countries and brings a wealth of pastoral and musical leadership. He has also led music at Mass at St Simon's Parish on several occasions.

A CELEBRATION OF
VENERABLE MARY
OF THE
SACRED HEART GLOWREY

THANKSGIVING MASS, PRESENTATION AND REFLECTIONS:
The Catholic Women's League of Victoria & Wagga Wagga, together with the Mary Glowrey Museum, warmly invite you to a celebration of Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey, following Pope Leo XIV's recognition of her heroic virtues. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026
5PM: Mass, St Patrick's Cathedral
6PM: Presentation and reflections at Cathedral hall, 20 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.
All welcome. More information: melb.cath.org/maryglowrey
REGISTER FOR PRESENTATION: www.trybooking.com/DIWCI
RSVP: 10 March 2026

IMAGE: MARY GLOWREY COLLECTION

Do you have a road worthy car?
THE MGL PRIESTS WHO SERVE US ARE IN NEED OF A ROADWORTHY CAR
Please call the Parish Office 9764 4058

You can bring the water that transforms a child's life



Please collect your Project Compassion box from the foyer and transform a life!

CARITAS AUSTRALIA
PROJECT COMPASSION

WOMEN'S GROUP
Will meet on 12 March, 10am, at Stonez Restaurant

MARY MAGDALENE
The Musical

Catch this uplifting and inspiring new production bringing to life the story of Mary Magdalene — a journey of redemption, grace, and hope. Featuring a talented cast from COG Theatre Group, under the direction of acclaimed director Beth Mondragon Williams, this moving performance is a celebration of faith through art and music.

When: Friday & Saturday, 13–14 March at 7:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday, 14–15 March at 1:00 pm

Where: Renaissance Theatre, High Street, Kew



Our parish is blessed to journey with families as children prepare to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

To register your child or learn more, please scan the QR code, email **Theresa.Abraham@cam.org.au** or contact the Parish Office.

IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK						
MON 9 MAR	TUE 10 MAR	WED 11 MAR	THUR 12 MAR	FRI 13 MAR	SAT 14 MAR	SUN 15 MAR
OFFICE CLOSED	9.15am Mass (Fr Jerald)	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Mass (Fr Jerald)	5.30pm (Church) Reconciliation	9.00am Mass (Fr Jerald)
7.00pm (Parish Centre PC) Lenten Program	1.30pm (PC) Craft Group		10.00am (PC) Lenten Program	10.00am (Meeting Room) Lenten Program	6.00pm Mass (Fr Jerald)	11.00am Mass (Fr David Le)
7.00pm (Meeting Room) SVDP	3.30pm (PC) Sacramental Program		10.00am Women's Coffee Meeting (Stonez Restaurant)	6.00pm (Church) Eucharistic Adoration		12.30pm (Church) Baptisms
7.30pm (via ZOOM) Lenten Program	7.30pm (PC) RCIA		5.00pm (Church) SSS Choir Practice	7.00pm (Church) Stations of the Cross		12.30pm (PC) Chaldean Catechism
	7.30pm (Meeting Room) Lenten Program		7.00pm (Meeting Room) Lenten Program	8.00pm (PC) 11am Choir Practice		2.00 - 4.30pm Chaldean Community
				8.30pm (Church) Chaldeans Stations of the Cross		5.00pm Youth Mass
						6.00pm Sts Simon & Jude Warriors (PC)

Third Sunday of Lent, 7/8 March 2026

First Reading: *Exodus 17:3-7*

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm 94

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: *Romans 5:1-2. 5-8*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a

good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: *John 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42*

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty

again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Will we avoid the well? Or will we sit down with Christ and begin the conversation?

PLEASE NOTE THE PARISH CALENDAR IS ON PAGE 3

**For all Bulletin Notices, please email cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au
Deadline Wednesday 4pm**

NEXT WEEKEND		Fourth Sunday of Lent — 14/15 MARCH 2026 — 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41			
MASS TIMES	14 MAR, SATURDAY 6.00PM	15 MAR, SUNDAY 9.00AM	15 MAR, SUNDAY 11.00AM	15 MAR, SUNDAY 5.00PM	
Commentator	Alden/Sam D'Couto	Margaret Ng	Estela Banac	Damon	
Reader 1	Stephen White	Dorothy Stack	Ingrid Kertesi	Saniru	
Reader 2	Saniru Perera	Enakshi Jayamanne	Maria Pirotta	Zara	
Welcome Desk	Bernie Fernando	Enakshi Jayamanne	Josie Fanti		
Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	Elsa L		
Flowers	Beatrice Polydor	Altar Society	Lidwin & Samuel Hudson	Church Cleaning	Jeanette Wallis, Vicki Bowers, Phil Mawdsley
					Volunteer Needed