

## OUR MASS TIMES

Tue -Fri: 9.15am Mass— Please see parish Calendar for up to date calendar details.

Fri: 6 - 7pm Adoration and Reconciliation

Sat: 6.00 pm (Livestream)

Sun: 9.00 and 11.00am

Sun: 5.00pm **Youth Mass**

## RECONCILIATION

Fri: From 6 - 7pm

Sat: From 5.30pm - 5.50pm

## OFFICE HOURS

Tue to Fri 9am - 4pm



## OUR PRIESTS

### PARISH PRIEST

Rev Jerald Mariadas  
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

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

### AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRAMENTS) & BAPTISM COORDINATOR

Mrs 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

### WEDDINGS, MARRIAGE PREP, FUNERALS

Please contact our parish office

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

By private arrangement on  
97644058 Or contact St Jude's  
Parish Office on 9763 7302

## OUR SERVICES

### PARISH CENTRE FACILITIES HIRE

Please Contact 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*

Address: 2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178 | Telephone: (03) 9764 4058 | Email: rowville@cam.org.au

YouTube Channel: tinyurl.com/s36hstf Website: https://www.melbocatholic.org/s/rowville



## 4th Sunday of Advent - 20th and 21st of December 2025 - Year A

### Gospel Reflection – Matthew 1:18–24

#### Advent: Candle of Love

In today's Gospel, we are invited into the quiet and deeply human moment of Joseph's life. Faced with confusion, fear, and uncertainty, Joseph chooses compassion over judgment. He resolves to act gently and honourably, even before fully understanding God's plan. It is in this space of trust and openness that God speaks to him.

Joseph's response is not one of loud proclamation, but of faithful action. When the angel reassures him, Joseph listens, believes, and acts. He takes Mary into his home and accepts the child Jesus as his own. In doing so, Joseph becomes a powerful witness to love lived through obedience, courage, and self-giving care.

As we light the Candle of Love this Advent, we are reminded that love is at the heart of the Christmas story. God's love enters the world quietly, through ordinary people who are willing to trust. The love we see in Joseph is steady and faithful — a love that protects, nurtures, and makes room for God's presence, even when the path ahead is unclear.

This Gospel invites us to reflect on how we respond when life does not unfold as expected. Like Joseph, we are called to love generously, to trust God's guidance, and to welcome Christ into our lives and our homes.

May the light of this Advent candle remind us that God's love is already at work among us — gentle, steadfast, and transformative — preparing our hearts to receive Emmanuel, God-with-us.  
With Blessings, Fr Jerald

#### Morning Mass

Please note, there will be no morning Mass on Wednesday the 24th of December. Normal weekday masses will resume on Friday the 26th of Dec.

### Parish Solidarity and Prayer for Peace

Our parish extends its deepest condolences to the Jewish community following the tragic events of the recent Bondi shootings. We hold in prayer all those who have lost their lives, those who have been injured, and their families and loved ones.

As a parish community, we stand in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters and with all who are grieving. We pray for healing, peace, and unity in our community and recommit ourselves to being people of compassion, respect, and hope.

### Parish Office – Christmas and New Year Closure

Please note that the **parish office will be closed** on the following dates:

- **24th to 26th December 2025**

- **1st January 2026**

We wish all our parishioners a **blessed and joyful Christmas** and a **peaceful New Year**.

The office will reopen on normal operating hours from the 6th of January onwards

### Brian Dalton

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Brian Dalton, a much-loved and long-standing member of our parish community, who went home to God on Wednesday, 17 December. Brian gave generously of his time and talents to the parish, serving faithfully on the Finance Committee, caring for our Memorial Wall, and being part of the gardening team. His quiet dedication and love for the parish will be greatly missed.

Funeral details will be shared with the community as they become available. We commend Brian to God's loving mercy and keep his family and loved ones in our prayers at this time.



## ST JUDE'S AND ST SIMON'S CHRISTMAS MASSES

We invite you to come and join us for our Christmas Celebrations



### ST JUDE'S MASS TIMES

#### Christmas Eve

**Wednesday 24th December 2025**

6:00pm Children's Mass (5:30pm Carols)

9:00pm Vigil Mass (8:30pm Carols)

#### Christmas Day

**Thursday 25th December 2025**

8:30am Mass

10:30am Mass (10:00am Carols)

#### New Year's day

**Thursday 1st January 2026**

10:00am Mass

### ST SIMON'S MASS TIMES

#### Christmas Eve

**Wednesday 24th December 2025**

6:00pm Children's Mass (5:30pm Carols)

9:00pm Vigil Mass (8:30pm Carols)

12:00am Midnight Mass (11:30pm Carols)

#### Christmas Day

**Thursday 25th December 2025**

10:00am Mass (9:30am Carols)

#### New Year's Eve

**Wednesday 31st December 2025**

Midnight Mass (11:30pm Adoration)

#### New Year's day

**Thursday 1st January 2026**

10:00am Mass



## 2026 Sacramental Program for primary and secondary school students

We are now taking enrolments for the 2026 sacramental program for families with children in primary and secondary schools who wish to have their child Baptised, receive Holy Communion, & Confirmation.

If you would like to know more or to register your interest, please contact:

**St Jude's parish office on 9763 7302 or**

**St Simon's parish office on 9764 4058**



### Parking Restrictions on Taylors Lane

Please be advised that parking restrictions on Taylors Lane between 8:30 – 9:30 am (5-minute drop-off zone) are being strictly enforced. A number of fines have already been issued.

If you have received a fine, you are kindly asked to contact the council directly regarding the matter.

### Viv's RE Care — NEXT EVENT

**WED, 4th March 2026 from 11:30 am—2:30 pm Theme: Normal Theme**

FREE morning tea, lunch and entertainment. For more info. contact Brian Crowley on 0429 090 770.

We look forward to seeing you all soon!



## First Saturday Devotion to Our Lady

Let us come together to renew our devotion to Our Blessed Mother on the First Saturday of each month. Our next devotion will be held on

**Saturday, 3rd January 2026 at St Jude's Church.**

We will pray the Rosary at 8:45 AM, followed by Mass at 9:15 AM.

All are warmly invited to attend our First Saturday devotion.



### Thank You

We wanted to say a big thank you to all our parishioners that made our hope of attending ACYF 2025 possible. Without your support we wouldn't have been able to attend.

We went as pilgrims of hope and returned with our hearts full. We travelled together everyday and joined over 5000 young people, Religious, clergy and bishops from around Australia including our Australian Cardinal.

Thank you - SSJ YOUTH WARRIORS

Help Make Our Christmas Masses Shine! Our parish needs enthusiastic volunteers to serve in key ministries for our joyous Christmas Masses (Dec 24 & 25). We're

looking for Welcomers, Collectors, Communion Ministers, Altar Servers to help create a welcoming and sacred atmosphere for our community 'Be the first smile welcoming guests! Signup on the sheets at the Welcome Desk this weekend.



### Stay Connected With Our Parish Online

We are pleased to confirm that our new parish website is:

<https://www.melbocatholic/s/rowville>.

You can use the QR code to sign up for our weekly newsletter and receive important parish notices directly to your email. Stay informed and connected with everything happening in our parish community!



## JOIN OUR YOUTH CHOIR

Calling All Young Musicians and Vocalists! Are you a singer or instrumentalist? We are forming a Youth Choir for our Youth Mass and would love for you to join us! Share your musical talents, make new friends, and help lead our parish in joyful worship. For more information, please speak with Fr Jerald.



### A Heartfelt Thank You!

Our Combined Parish Carols was truly a joyful and meaningful way to celebrate Christmas this year!

We extend a big thank you to both parishes':

- Organizing teams
- Talented choir leaders and choir members
- Hospitality and refreshment teams
- Liturgy teams
- And everyone who joined us for this beautiful celebration, and who brought a plate to share

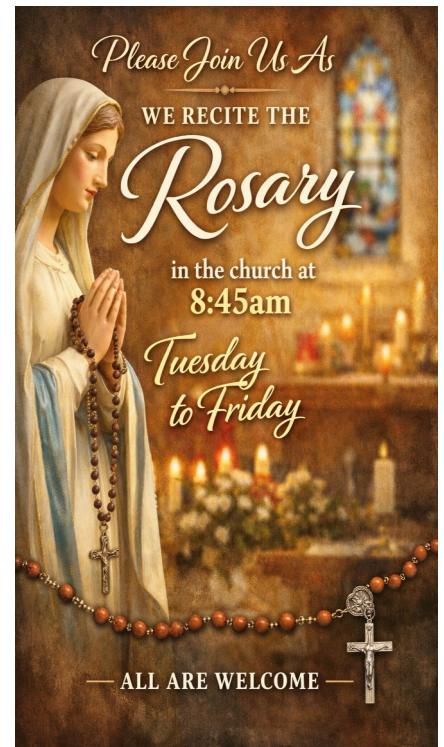
Your dedication, teamwork, and commitment to our parish communities are deeply appreciated.

This event wonderfully reflected our unity as a community of faith, joy, and love, reminding us of the true spirit of Christmas.

Thank you for making this celebration so special!

Thank you.

Fr Jerald



### Thank You to Our Children's Liturgy Team

A heartfelt thank you to all our Children's Liturgy teachers, helpers, and volunteers for your dedication, energy, and love throughout 2025. Your commitment has helped our children grow in faith, joy, and understanding of God's Word.

We hope you enjoy a well-deserved rest over the holidays. Children's Liturgy will resume in February, and we look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for another wonderful year of sharing faith with our young parishioners.

Thank you once again for all that you do!

### Sacramental Registrations Now Open for 2026

Registrations are now open for all Sacraments for the year 2026.

While specific commencement dates are yet to be confirmed, we encourage families to submit their registrations early to ensure a place.

To register your child or to obtain further information, please contact the Parish Office on 03 9764 4058.

We look forward to accompanying our young parishioners and their families as they prepare to celebrate and receive these beautiful Sacraments.



### Recent Death: Brian Dalton, Robert Merry

**Anniversary of Death: Godwin Fernando, Janet Fernando, Domenica Zappa, Bernard Dalton, Fe Del Rosario.**

**Prayer 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 and Daniel.

### Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod – 2026

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli has announced that preparations have begun for an Archdiocesan Synod to be held in 2026.

This follows a season of prayer, listening, and consultation across our local Church.

The Synod will focus on three key themes: Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, and Formation & Participation. A Synod Commission will be established as the first step in this process.



*We proclaim a crucified Christ*  
1Cor1:23

Copies of the Statement is available in the foyer. Parishioners are invited to keep this work in their prayers as we journey together in hope.

### Appliance Repairs & Installation Service

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4th Sunday of Advent — 20th and 21st December 2025

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14 -

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.’ ‘No’, Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’ Then Isaiah said: ‘Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means “God-is-with-us”.’

Responsorial Psalm 23— Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the

obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God’s beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation : Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel—Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

| THIS WEEK’S PARISH DIARY—MASS SCHEDULE AND ONLY PARISH RUN MINISTRIES AND EVENTS |                             |                                                      |                                                     |                               |                                                     |                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon<br>22nd Dec                                                                  | Tue<br>23rd Dec             | Wed<br>24th Dec                                      | Thu<br>25th Dec                                     | Fri<br>26th Dec               | Sat<br>27th Dec                                     | Sun<br>28th Dec                                             |
| <u>OFFICE<br/>CLOSED</u>                                                         | 9.15am Mass<br>(Fr Libeesh) | <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u><br>CHRISTMAS EVE                | <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u><br>CHRISTMAS DAY               | <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u>          | <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u>                                | <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u><br><u>FEAST OF THE HOLY<br/>FAMILY</u> |
|                                                                                  |                             | No 9.15am Mass                                       | (Church )<br>9.30am Carols<br>10.00am Mass          | 9.15am Mass<br>(Fr Jerald)    | 5.30pm (Church)<br>Reconciliation before<br>Mass    | 9:00 am Mass<br>(Fr Jerald)                                 |
|                                                                                  |                             | (Church )<br>5.30pm Carols<br>6.00pm Children's Mass | (Church )<br>2.00pm Chaldeans<br>Christmas Day mass | 6.00pm ( Church)<br>Adoration | 6:00 pm ( Church)<br>Fr Jerald<br>Mass (livestream) | 11:00 am Mass<br>(Fr Jerald)                                |
|                                                                                  |                             | (Church )<br>8.30pm Carols<br>9.00pm Vigil Mass      |                                                     |                               |                                                     | 2.00pm (Church)<br>Chaldean Community                       |
|                                                                                  |                             | ( Church)<br>11.30pm Carols<br>12.00am Midnight Mass |                                                     |                               |                                                     | 3.30-5pm (Parish<br>Centre)<br>Chaldean Community           |
|                                                                                  |                             |                                                      |                                                     |                               |                                                     | 5.00pm Youth Mass                                           |

**NEXT WEEKEND** — Duty Rosters: Feast of the Holy Family — 27th and 28th 2025 — Sirach 3: 2-6,12-14, Collossians 3: 12-21, Matthew 2: 13-15,19-23

| Mass Times         | 27th Dec 6pm Mass     |                      | Sunday 28th Dec 9.00am             |                        | Sunday 28th 11.00am                         | Sunday 28th 5.00pm |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Commentator        | Seymon Martino        |                      | Pam Comerford                      |                        | Pia Pagotto                                 | Paige              |
| Reader 1           | Tineke Edwards        |                      | Enakshi Jayamanne                  |                        | Volunteer Please                            | Claire             |
| Reader 2           | Graham Edwards        |                      | Janina Woronczak                   |                        | Therese West                                | Volunteer          |
| Welcome Desk       | Volunteer Please      |                      | Volunteer Please                   |                        | Volunteer Please                            | -                  |
| Children’s Liturgy | No Children’s Liturgy |                      | No Children’s Liturgy              |                        | No Children’s Liturgy                       | -                  |
| Flowers            | Melanie Jacobs        | <b>Altar Society</b> | Melanie Jacobs and Yvonne Muspratt | <b>Church Cleaning</b> | Sharon Melder , Danusha Ladd, Asela Angamma | Volunteer Please   |