

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
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
Email: cyrrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au

St Simon the Apostle Parish

A compassionate community celebrating and living in Christ

2 Taylors Lane, ROWVILLE VIC 3178 | melbcatholic.org/s/rowville



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT | 21/22 FEBRUARY 2026 | YEAR A

Matthew 4:1-11 | ... Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness ...



Today's Gospel takes us with Jesus into the wilderness, a place that is quiet, empty, and challenging. After forty days of fasting, when he is tired and hungry, the devil tempts him. Each temptation tries to pull Jesus away from trusting God — to rely on himself, to seek power, or to take an easier path. Yet Jesus refuses every time. He answers with the words of Scripture, holding firmly to what he knows is true: that life comes from God, that God is not to be tested, and that only God is worthy of worship.

This story speaks to our own lives. We all have "wilderness" moments — times when we feel worn down, uncertain, or discouraged. These are often the moments when temptation is strongest: the temptation to give up, to choose what is easy instead of what is right, or to put ourselves before God. Jesus understands these struggles because he faced them too.

What stands out most is not just that Jesus was tempted, but how he responded. He did not argue, panic, or lose hope. He stayed grounded in God's word and trusted the Father completely. In doing so, he shows us that temptation itself is not a failure; giving in is. With God's help, we can stand firm.

Lent invites us into our own quiet desert — a time to pray more deeply, listen more carefully, and trust God more fully. Like Jesus, we are reminded that we are never alone in our struggles, and that faithfulness leads us toward new life.

**With Blessings,
Fr Jerald Mariadas**



Every Friday in Lent

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

Parish Notice

As Fr Libeesh concludes his ministry with us **this week 23 February** and prepares to begin his new appointment. Fr Jerald will be overseeing weekday Masses at both parishes for the time being. During this transition, the weekday schedule at **St Simon's** will be:

Tuesday & Friday — Holy Mass

Wednesday & Thursday — Communion Service only

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

*Do you have
a road worthy
car, that you
do not use?*

**HELP US FIND
A CAR FOR ...**

Please call the
parish office on
9764 4058

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

Our Volunteers make a *REAL* difference!

Our parish invites new volunteer members — to join our ministry teams. Serving is a chance to grow in faith, build community, share your gifts, and help make our parish a welcoming home.

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.

- Hospitality & Welcomers ●
- Musicians Sunday 5pm ● Funeral Setup ● Cleaning of the church
- Gardening Group



Serve | Belong | Grow in faith

PARISH EMAIL UPDATE

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to stricter controls by email providers such as Microsoft, bulk emails are increasingly being blocked. In some cases, sender IP addresses are blacklisted, affecting all outgoing emails.

As a temporary measure, PACEM—our parish management provider, will pause sending bulk newsletter emails to @hotmail, @outlook and @live accounts, as these are currently being blocked. This step will help restore normal delivery.

PACEM will keep the parish informed of outcomes and any rectifications, and we thank parishioners for their patience and understanding during this time.



Music Ministry for Sunday 5pm Mass

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.

Lenten Taize' Prayer 2026

Join the Salesian Sisters' Community for a prayer experience



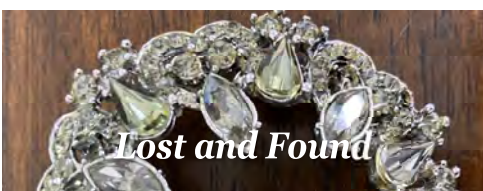
On Wednesdays during Lent 7.00pm – 8.00pm

@ 43 George St. Scoresby

WE PRAY FOR

For those who have recently died especially **Andrew Saunders, George Cagliarini** and those whose memories are sacred to us at this time especially William Lee, Jeanette D'Rozario, Mariella Casey, Nounouche Frederic, Alain Frederic, Adrian Scrimizzi, Doug Comerford

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



Lost and Found

If you have lost a piece of jewellery at the church please get in touch with the parish office on 03 9764 4058

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Save the Date

Our traditional Ecumenical Way of the Cross on Good Friday 10am starts from the Rowville Community Center



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, 2026
TIME: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

RIDES • FOOD • MUSIC
TRASH & TREASURE • FUN FOR ALL AGES

WE NEED YOU!

JOIN THE FETE COMMITTEE AND BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL.

Please contact us and volunteer as soon as possible
We Need Volunteers

CONTACT

BILL LEANE 0411 289319 JENNY MAXWELL +61 403 832 731

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

PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM 2026



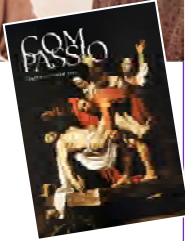
Monday 16 February:
7.00 – 8.30pm

Monday 16 February
(on ZOOM): 7.30 – 9.00pm

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 check the Parish Calendar



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year, it is ST SIMON'S turn to host the **World Day of Prayer** service for the Christian churches of Rowville and Lysterfield.

The service will be held at ST SIMON'S on **Thursday, 5 March at 7.00pm**, and will be followed by supper in the Parish Centre.

If you are able to help with supper, or can lend pictures or artefacts from the focus country, **Nigeria**, please leave your name at the Welcome Desk or contact Jeanette on 0466 261 632.



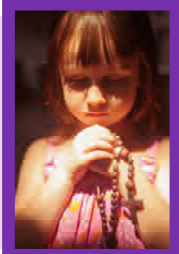
This Lent, let's support each other by joining the **Long Walk for Water** with the 292 million people who walk daily just to survive.

Please 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**



**CHILDREN'S
LITURGY
OF THE WORD**
Please check the
Parish Diary for
dates



NEXT MEN'S GROUP

Wednesday 25 February 7.30pm

We are very grateful for the men who continue to support and strengthen this group, and we warmly welcome all for **Friendship | Conversation | Faith**



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 23 FEB	TUE 24 FEB	WED 25 FEB	THUR 26 FEB	FRI 27 FEB	SAT 28 FEB	SUN 1 MAR
OFFICE CLOSED	9.15am Mass (Fr Jerald)	9.15am Communion Service (Fr Jerald)	9.15am Communion Service (Fr Jerald)	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	7.00pm (PC) Men's Group	10.00am (PC) Lenten Program	10.00am (Meeting Room) Lenten Program	6.00pm Mass (Fr Dominic)	11.00am Mass (Fr Dominic)
7.30pm (via ZOOM) Lenten Program	3.30pm (PC) Sacramental Program		10.00am Women's Group	11.00am (Church) Funeral Mass George Cagliarini		12.30pm (Church) Chaldean Catechism
	7.30pm (PC) RCIA		5.00pm (Church) SSS Choir Practice	6.00pm (Church) Eucharistic Adoration		2.00–4.30 Chaldean Community
	7.30pm (Chapel) Lenten Program		7.00pm (Meeting Room) Lenten Program	7.00pm (Church) Stations of the Cross		5.00pm Youth Mass (MGL)
				8.00pm (PC) 11am Choir Practice		6.30pm (PC) SSJ Youth Group
				8.30pm (Church) Chaldeans Stations of the Cross		

First Sunday of Lent, 21/22 February 2026

First Reading: *Genesis 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.

Responsorial Psalm 50 Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading: *Romans 5:12, 17-19*

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. 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.

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: *Matthew 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.

**Are you new
to St Simon's?**

Welcome to our parish!

If you're new or recently joined us, please add your details to the **New Parishioner Book** at the **Welcome Desk** so we can stay connected.

You are very welcome here and in our prayers.

**PLEASE NOTE THE PARISH
CALENDAR IS ON PAGE 3**

**Please collect your Project
Compassion box from the foyer and
begin your contribution today!**

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA
PROJECT
COMPASSION**

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

NEXT WEEKEND		Second Sunday of Lent — 28 FEB/1 MAR 2026 — Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9		
MASS TIMES	28 FEB, SATURDAY 6.00PM	1 MAR, SUNDAY 9.00AM	1 MAR, SUNDAY 11.00AM	1 MAR, SUNDAY 5.00PM
Commentator	Tineke Edwards	Pam Comerford	Jacqui Giuliano	Damon
Reader 1	Marcello Martino	Dorothy Stack	Terry Redden	Zara
Reader 2	Terry O'Donnell	Phil Mawdsley	Colin Maslen	Aarya
Welcome Desk	Malaika de Mel	Enakshi Jayamanne	Morris Dalton	
Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	Elsa L & Julie A	
Flowers	Nilmini Fernando	Altar Society	Melanie Jacobs & Yvonne Muspratt	Church Cleaning
			Marina Ruffolo, Diana Paul-Anna, Kim Phoon	Giselle Garcia