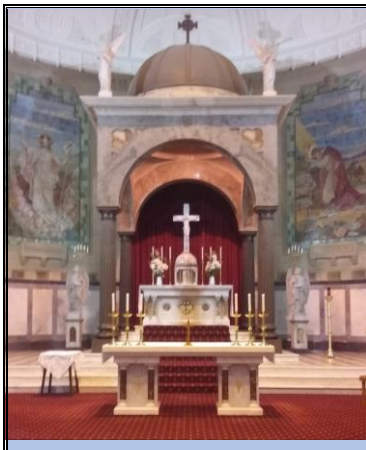




PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.melbcatholic.org/ascotvale
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 John Rudd 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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 21 December 2025

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24 December		Christmas Day Thursday 25 December	
9.00 am	St Mary’s	(no 8:30 am Mass)	
6:00 pm	St Mary’s	10:30 am	St Mary’s
	Carols from 5:30		
8:00 pm	St Margaret’s		
12:00 Midnight	St Mary’s		
	Carols from 11:30		



PLEASE NOTE

Mass Time changes between Christmas and New Year

26 December, Friday – **No Mass**

27 December, Saturday – No Morning Mass 6.00 Vigil - As normal

28 December, Sunday – As Normal

29 December, Monday – **No Mass**

30 December, Tuesday – 9.00am

31 December, Wednesday – No Morning Mass 7.00pm Mass

New Year’s Day: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Thursday (1st January) - Mass at 9.00am at St. Mary’s

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Welcomers, Counters Rosters

The next rosters for St Mary’s & St Margaret’s commencing January to April 2026 will be emailed this week. Thank you to all who support these ministries.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

We are grateful for the support of our schools and parishioners have given us over the years, but we still face growing demand for people struggling to afford basic needs, particularly food, rent and utility costs. While some benefits and wages have gone up, they have not all kept pace.

We have been told that the poor are always with us, so please remember that any small amount you can afford to donate to this appeal will go to help. There are envelopes at the church doors with instructions for payment.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 27/28 Dec 2025

Parish Counters: No Count

Ministers of the Word			Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	
Time	St Mary's	St Margaret's	St Mary's	St Margaret's
6.00 pm	R Hoshun		F Pinto	
8.30 am		M Zoleta		R Turnbull
10.30 am	M Doran		M Andronaco	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 242

Offertory: CWBII 616

Communion: CWBII 603

Reflection: CWBII 251

Recessional: CWBII 240

Anniversaries:

Maria Gracia Ruberto; Giuseppe & Domenico Catanzariti; Anna Carbone; Antonio, Rosa, Giuseppina & Stefano Esposito

Feast Days:

25 December: Christmas Day

26 December: Feast of St Stephen

27 December: Feast of St John

Readings Next Week: Feast of the Holy Family: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Friday Mass at St Mary's Church

With the start of school holidays, 9.15am Friday Mass will be at St Mary's church until school recommences next year in February 2026.

Special Announcement by Archbishop Comensoli

In his letter announcing an Archdiocesan Synod, Archbishop Peter Comensoli writes: "... I have initiated preparations for a Synod to be held in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2026. I have asked Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ to assist me in leading this process, drawing on the Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod 2025-2028, endorsed by Pope Leo XIV. I have also appointed Ms Cathy Jenkins as Synod Program Lead.

Three themes will be taken up in the Synod process:

- **Young Discipleship**
- **Missionary Leadership**
- **Formation and Participation**

Archbishop Peter asks for our prayers as we begin to prepare for this significant undertaking, so that this Synod may be for our Archdiocese a time of deep listening, renewed faith, authentic encounter and, God willing, rich fruit and flourishing. Copies of the Archbishop's letter are available.

After ACYF, Archbishop Comensoli has written – To the People of God in Melbourne – Parishioners, Families, and Staff, my prayerful greetings to you in the Lord this Advent season. (11th December)

In this letter, the Archbishop writes:

"... Throughout the Festival, we witnessed a Church deeply alive: young people singing with joy, kneeling in reverence, seeking God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and uniting in the Eucharist with profound love. Their faces reflected hope, their hearts radiated faith, and their voices echoed the joy of knowing Christ. It was a living encounter – a testimony that the Church is truly alive in the midst of His people. ...

To those who could not attend: seek out someone who did. Ask them what they saw, heard and felt. Let their stories renew your own faith. ..."

Fr Desmond J Moloney

Reflecting on The Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025:

Following the end of November, five young pilgrims, including myself from the St Mary's Youth Group, had the privilege of attending the 2025 Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF). These three days welcomed young people across the nation to witness the vibrancy and passion of our Catholic community.

Each day brought a diverse range of activities, including the Pilgrimage walk, daily plenaries, workshops, seminars and masses. Before attending this gathering, I often took a quiet and contemplative approach to devotion. As a result, during moments of Eucharistic adoration, the collective silence and reverence that radiated from the room allowed for an instant connection with our Lord, making it possible to observe how Christ lives amongst and within us.

When we first discovered that praise and worship sessions were present at the festival, some of us were naturally hesitant about whether we would enjoy the experience. This was largely because the performances utilised contemporary music styles, bands and elements such as coloured lights which resembled live music events. However, upon reflection, I have come to appreciate how the power and joy of music also act as an expression of Faith. By the final plenary, the group from St. Mary's fully embraced singing, clapping, and raising their hands high as a form of rejoicing.

The wide array of keynote speakers was another insightful aspect of this festival. These figures openly shared their personal experiences and testimonies, from their successes to the adversities they had overcome through Faith in action. Particularly, Sister Mary Grace from the Sisters of Life shared a speech that deeply resonated with me, and as a young Catholic, I felt seen and understood. She emphasises how "God is 100 per cent for you" and how we were called to the "Great Adventure of Love". From her words, I gathered the significance of fully opening your heart to God and placing Faith in the center of our lives. It was a beautiful message that many young people needed to hear, understanding that there is beauty and value in every human life. Since then, this has also shifted the way I encounter Christ through the Sacraments and daily prayer.

The event officially came to a close with the commissioning mass celebrated by Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli. This marked sending forth the attendees home as Pilgrims of Hope and sharing in the mission of the Church.

Therefore, I would like to conclude by thanking Father Desmond and the Parish community for their support, encouragement, and generosity in sending the St. Mary's Youth Group on this journey of Faith. For our young parishioners, I strongly encourage you to keep an eye out for the next ACYF in 2028! It is truly a transformative and memorable experience - you enter the festival as one person and depart as a different one. Bonds are formed among your fellow peers. Yet, more importantly, this event presents the opportunity to strengthen the genuine, profound relationship and love we share with God. - *By Malia Jabines*

Celebrating the Closure of Jubilee 2025



Sunday 28 December 2025, 10.00am–12.00pm

Our Lady of Lavang Shrine, 225 Hutton Road, Keysborough

Join us as we celebrate the closure of the Jubilee Year! Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will be leading Mass at Our Lady of Lavang Shrine. Mass will also be celebrated in Vietnamese. Tea and coffee will be provided afterwards.

Legion of Mary - For member enquiries and home visitations please contact: 0435 095 998.

St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 1800 305 330, Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING

Is 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".'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 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.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

