

# 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.

## 2nd Sunday of Lent – 25 February 2024

### **RCIA Re-Starts this Wednesday**

The resumption of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) takes place on the coming Wednesday, 28th February, at 7.30pm in the lounge room of the Presbytery. I am delighted to announce and very grateful that Anthony Higgins and Ana Laughton will share the coordinating leadership of the process. At the present time, the Parish Office has a record of four people who have expressed interest in the RCIA. It is not unusual for enquirers to be accompanied by someone who may be their sponsor. Though as pointed out in recent bulletin messages it may be that parishioners, choosing to be supportive of the process by attending the meetings, assume the role of sponsor. The whole parish community, of course, is meant to be supportive of the RCIA process, at least in the way of prayer.

### **What does it mean to be a Sponsor?**

To be a sponsor means that to serve as companion, guide, model and witness. The RCIA should not be seen as just involving a chosen few, or just as another parish organisation. It is an expression of the Church, and as such, touches all of us. The RCIA really is a way of being Church. It requires participation, involvement and celebration.

### **St. Mary’s Parish Music and Singing**

In coming to St. Mary’s Parish, it had been arranged that Shanti Michael would lend support in the role of Music Coordinator. I am grateful that Shanti willingly undertook this role and thereby serve the parish community both at St. Margaret’s and St. Mary’s. It may be quite widely known that Shanti is the Director (Executive and Artistic) of Chorus Ecclesiae Australia. Chorus Ecclesiae has been engaged from time to time by St. Mary’s to assist the parish liturgy and did so most recently on the Solemnity of the Assumption last year. As at the end of January, Shanti’s term as Music Coordinator was concluded. This has given way to Teresa Trinh and Sr. Diane Moore sharing the coordinating role with regard to the parish music and singing. Our sincere gratitude is paid to both Teresa and Sr. Diane for this undertaking and energetic commitment. May we all join enthusiastically with the efforts of Sr. Diane and Teresa in seeking to enhance the spirit and quality of the liturgical celebrations in St. Mary’s Parish ... helping to promote the full, conscious and active participation of all.

*Fr Desmond J Moloney*

### **Please Note while Fr. Joseph is away:**

**There will be no 10.00am Mass on Monday 26 February, 4 March & 11 March. Also, Friday morning 9.15am Masses will be at St Margaret’s only on Friday 23 February, 1 March, 8 March and 15 March.**

## ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 2 /3 MARCH 2024

Parish Counters: V Colicchia ; J Dawson

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	J Escano		P Stanley	
8.30 am		B Port		R Turnbull
10.30 am	F Pinto		R Rotunno	

**Hymns:**

**Entrance:** CWBII 295

**Offertory:** CWBII 291

**Communion:** CWBII 633

**Reflection:** CWBII 290

**Recessional:** CWBII 647

**Recently deceased:**

Janice Piacentini; Philomena Fernandez; Annuziata Gallucio

**Anniversaries:**

Danilo Dancel; Mamerto & Francisco Mallari; Antonia Trimboli

**Readings Next Week:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent:** Ex 20: 1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

### Baptisms

We warmly welcome into the family of God's Church, **Dexter Hugh Morfesse; Max Donald Morfesse; Archer Patrick Hiller Thomas; Camilla Maree Alama;** being baptised this weekend in our Parish.

### Sacramental Program

*Does your child attend a non-Catholic school in Year 6 or older and needs to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**? Classes are running weekly (except school holidays), on **Thursdays 4pm**, at St Mary's school, for approx. 8 weeks. If your child has received First Reconciliation and First Communion and would like to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year, email the Parish Office: [AscotVale@cam.org.au](mailto:AscotVale@cam.org.au) OR, [rosecalandra22@gmail.com](mailto:rosecalandra22@gmail.com) to enrol for these classes. For any enquiries, feel free to call Rose, the Catechist on mob: 0411 040 669.*

**Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent, 7:00pm** - This is a wonderful way to prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

### Special Collections 2024

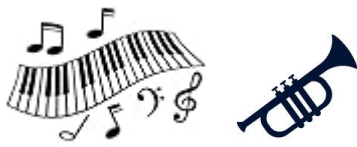
Every year, there are a number of special collections held in all parishes of the Archdiocese. To enable people to make long-range choices about how they allocate their contributions to third collections, listed below are the collections for 2024.

<b>14 February – 28 March</b>	LENT – PROJECT COMPASSION
<b>29 March</b>	GOOD FRIDAY – HOLY PLACES
<b>4 &amp; 5 May</b>	CATHOLICCARE
<b>1 &amp; 2 June</b>	MASS FOR THE POOR (WINTER APPEAL: ST VINCENT DE PAUL)
<b>2 June - 28 July</b>	PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
<b>29 &amp; 30 June</b>	PETER'S PENCE: ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY FATHER
<b>17 &amp; 18 August</b>	THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN
<b>2 September</b>	PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION
<b>19 &amp; 20 October</b>	WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
<b>9 &amp; 10 November</b>	PASTORAL CARE APPEAL

**St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 1800 305 330, Mon – Fri, 10am – 3pm**

## Easter Is In Our Sights

Do we have a trumpeter? – a flautist? – other musicians?



Do we have additional singers? Please contact the Parish Office via email [ascotvale@cam.org.au](mailto:ascotvale@cam.org.au)

## Celebrating 50 years of Worldwide Marriage Encounter in Australia: 'Love and respect' formation day

Inviting all "Encountered Couples/Spouses/Priests" to join us in Celebrating 50 years of WWME in Australia, Saturday 16 March 2024 at St John's Parish, Mitcham [Enter via Elizabeth St]

A Formation Day "Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires; the Respect He Desperately Longs for" (A light lunch will be provided) & an evening of celebration starting at 6pm

Catered Spit Roast Dinner BYO Drinks and a Wedding Photo.

For further details and to register <https://www.trybooking.com/COSSN> or contact Steve & Sue Hollowood 0431 477 556/ 0412 130 845.



## Six30 Holy Hour at St Patrick's Cathedral

Every Thursday, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Join with young Catholics from across the city for a time of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, music and an opportunity for confession.

For more information, email [udisciple@cam.org.au](mailto:udisciple@cam.org.au) or call 9926 5677.



## Second Sunday of Lent 24 & 25 February



**Ronita** is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

### Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



## 2nd Sunday of Lent

### **FIRST READING** Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

*A reading from the book of Genesis*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

*The word of the Lord.*

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 115

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
in the land of the living.**

I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. (R.)

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

### **SECOND READING**

Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

*The word of the Lord.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Matt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### **GOSPEL**

Mark 9:2-10

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

