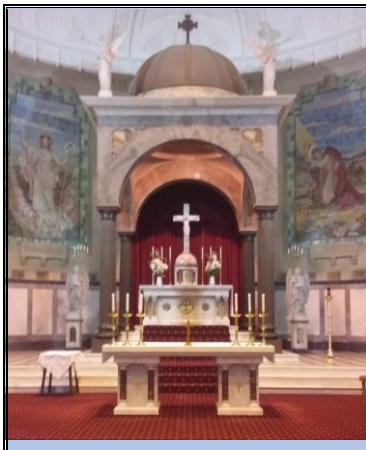


PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.

Fifth Sunday Of Easter – 28 April 2024

From our Pope Francis. The Rosary in May

‘Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home with the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually, you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key of doing this is always simplicity and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayer to follow. I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you.

Dear brothers and Sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me, I thank you and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Prayer

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey
As a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,

Who, at the foot of the Cross,

Were united with Jesus’ suffering

And preserved in your faith.

Protectress of the Roman people,

You know our needs,

And we know that you will, provide,

So that, as at Cana in Galilee,

Joy and celebration may return to

After this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

To conform our ourselves to the will of the Father

And to do what Jesus tells us,

For he took upon himself our suffering,

And burdened himself with our sorrows

To bring us through the cross,

To the joys of the Resurrection. *Amen.*

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 4/5 MAY 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 | M Bonnici | | P Stanley | |
| 8.30 am | | Family Mass | | R Turnbull |
| 10.30 am | F Pinto | | M Andronaco | |

Hymns: **Entrance:** CWBII 368
Offertory: CWBII 549
Communion: CWBII 484
Reflection: CWBII 477
Recessional: CWBII 360

Recently Deceased: Jose Salcedo

Anniversaries: Antonietta Sufi; Doris & Anthony D’Rosario; Joe Bonnici; Caterina Trimboli

Feast Days: **29 April:** St Catherine of Siena
2 May: St Athanasius
3 May: Sts Philip and James

Readings Next Week: **6th Sunday of Easter:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17

In the Month of May

5 May 2024: **St Margaret’s School Family Mass**

At 8.30am Mass next Sunday, all Year 6 students from St Margaret’s School will make a commitment in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and all Prep families will be welcomed. All are invited to morning tea after Mass.

5 May 2024: **Morning Tea**

The Parish Community Group will be providing morning tea after 10.30am Mass at St. Mary’s. We would like to invite everyone to come along and have a cuppa and something to eat, while chatting with fellow parishioners. It is always good to say hello to a person you have not met before, as well as chat to other parishioners whom you do know. Everyone is welcome, so please come along!

Parish Confirmation Masses:

11 May 2024: 6.00pm Vigil Mass, St Mary’s School

30 May 2024: 6.00pm St Margaret’s School/children from the Sacramental Programme

Baptisms

We welcome into the family of God’s Church the children to be baptised in our parish this weekend.

Mila Fratantaro

Hazel Eve Hibbert

Sebastian Paul Scerri

Sophie Louise Veldhoen

Isabel Marie Veldhoen

Alfred Joseph Kelly

Ruby Joy Kelly

Ellie Jay McCrystal

Alexander Demetrios Neos

Lenny John Livingstone

Wedding at St Mary’s

We congratulate **Natalie Galletta & Michael Pennisi** who were married at St Mary’s on Saturday.

Information Session for the permanent diaconate

Do you feel called to serve? The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. Come and see!

Saturday 4 May 2024 – 10.00am – 11.45am

Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

ALPHA IS COMING TO ESSENDON PARISHES

There's a seat for you at the table! Now starting on Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 7:00pm. Registration is essential so call the office on 9401 6330. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore life faith and meaning. The Alpha talks are designed to engage people from all walks of life and inspire conversation. They explore the big issues of life and faith and unpack the basics of Christian belief, addressing questions like "Who is Jesus?", "Why and how do I pray?" and "How does God guide us?" Find out more about Alpha at alpha.org.au



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Catholic Theological College

Sign up for one of 9 short, online sessions.

Engaging Your Faith: May 2024

*Theology, Scripture, Meditation,
Spirituality, Science & Faith.*

Choose what interests you from \$25 per session.

For more information and to register:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

Pope Francis ahead of World Children's Day: 'be united to Jesus'

On 25 May 2024, the Church around the world will mark its first ever World Children's Day. There will be a gathering in Rome of children with their families to mark the occasion, but in the lead-up, [Pope Francis has shared a message](#) for children everywhere, telling them they are 'precious in God's eyes' (Isaiah 43:4).

In the message, the Pope encourages children to 'pay attention to the stories of grown-ups', especially those of their parents and grandparents who, through terrible hardship, may give voice to the 'tenacious yearning for goodness that endures in the hearts of those who have truly seen the horror of evil'.

He also urges them to remain close to Christ, saying that 'it is not enough to be united with one another; we need, above all else, to be united with Jesus. From him we receive a great deal of courage.'

Prayer fills our hearts with light and warmth; it helps us to do everything with confidence and peace of mind.

Working with Children Checks—A reminder that all parish volunteers need to have a valid WWCC with the Parish listed as one of the places where you undertake child related work. That means all Readers Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Ministers of Communion to the Sick Musicians & Choir Members Church Cleaners need to have a WWCC—if you are unsure, please contact the Parish Office. Registered teachers are exempt from requiring a WWCC but are required to notify WWCC if they engage in child-related work other than their teaching.

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

5th Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING

Acts 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 21

**R. I will praise you, Lord,
in the assembly of your people.**

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

(R.)

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: "These things the Lord has done." (R.)

SECOND READING

1 John 3:18-24

My children,

our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;

only by this can we be certain

that we are children of the truth

and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,

whatever accusations it may raise against us,

because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people,

if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,

and whatever we ask him,

we shall receive,

because we keep his commandments

and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ

and that we love one another

as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments

lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us

by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,

and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that bears no fruit

he cuts away,

and every branch that does bear fruit

he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already,

by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,

but must remain part of the vine,

neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,

you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,

bears fruit in plenty;

for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me

is like a branch that has been thrown away – he

wITHERS;

these branches are collected and thrown on the

fire,

and they are burnt.

If you remain in me

and my words remain in you,

you may ask what you will

and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,

and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord.