



PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

ST MARY'S CHURCH, 123 ST LEONARDS ROAD, ASCOT VALE
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, BARB STREET, MARIBYRNONG

Parish Priest:	Rev Fr Justin Ford
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Mass

Public Masses are currently suspended in Melbourne, until 19 August. Livestreaming of our 10:30 Sunday Mass continues, accessible from the parish website. Priests continue to offer Masses personally for the praise and worship of God, for the needs of the faithful and the world, especially the alleviation of the current crisis.

Reconciliation (Confession)

By appointment - no name required. Arrangement will be made for the confession to be anonymous, not face-to-face, with suitable distancing.

Baptisms at St Mary’s

Our normally scheduled Baptisms remain on hold. Baptism will be administered if there is urgent and grave need.

Baptism Information Sessions are also still on hold.

To discuss a future baptism, please ring the parish office during office hours.

Weddings at St Mary’s

6 months’ notice required. For information on weddings please ring the parish office during office hours.

Private prayer in our churches

Our churches are not currently open for private prayer.

Parish Bulletin

The Bulletin, containing the Sunday readings for your reflection, will be uploaded to the parish website the Saturday afternoon prior.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 2 August 2020

**‘Nothing can ever come between us
and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.’** (Rom 8:39)

St Paul writing to the Romans in today’s Second Reading speaks of the incomparable value and power of Christ’s love for us. We reflect on some teachings of the Church and of the Saints on this theme:

‘Jesus knew and loved us each and all during his life, his agony and his Passion, and gave himself up for each one of us: “The Son of God. . . loved me and gave himself for me.” (Gal 2:20) He has loved us all with a human heart. For this reason, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pierced by our sins and for our salvation, (Cf. Jn 19:34) “is quite rightly considered the chief sign and symbol of that. . . love with which the divine Redeemer continually loves the eternal Father and all human beings” without exception. (Pope Pius XII, Encyclical Letter on Devotion to the Sacred Heart *Haurietis aquas* (“You will draw water”) (1956))’

Catechism of the Catholic Church n. 478

‘The soul’s entire holiness and perfection lies in love for Jesus Christ, our God, our highest good, our Redeemer. Charity is the bond and safeguard of all the virtues which perfect man.

‘Does not God deserve all our love? He has loved us from eternity: “Consider well”, he says to us, “that in loving I was first. You had not yet come forth into the light, not even the world itself had come into existence, when already I was loving you. Throughout my eternal existence I have loved you.”

‘Since God knew that man is attracted by favours, he willed by his gifts to bind man to love of himself. “I wish”, he said, “to draw men to love me with those very cords by which they allow themselves to be ensnared – that is, with the ties of love.” And all the gifts he bestowed on man have this aim: having given him a soul made in his own image, endowed with memory, intellect and will, and a body equipped with senses, he also created for him heaven and earth with its plenty: through love for man he created all these things, so that all those creatures should serve man, and that man in gratitude for so many gifts should return love for love to his Creator.

‘But he was not satisfied with giving us all these beautiful things. He went to such lengths to win our love that he gave himself wholly to us. The Eternal Father gave us even his only Son. When he saw all of us dead in sin and deprived of grace, what did he do? Compelled by his great love, or rather, as the apostle says, by the excess of his love for us, he sent his beloved Son that he might make satisfaction for us, and recall us to the life which sin had taken away.

‘By giving us his Son whom, in order to spare us he did not spare, he gave us everything: grace, love, heaven; for all these indeed are less than his Son. “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?” (Rom 8:32) ’

St Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)

*Founder of the Redemptorists, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Confessors and Moral Theologians
Reading from the Liturgy of the Hours for his feast day, 1 August*

'A man can bear all things provided he possesses Christ Jesus dwelling within him as his friend and affectionate guide. Christ gives us help and strength, never deserts us and is true and sincere in his friendship. It is clear to me that if we wish to please God and to receive graces in abundance from him, it is God's will that these graces should come to us through the hands of Christ in his most holy humanity, that humanity in which his Majesty has proclaimed that he is well pleased.'

'Apart from the fact that God himself has told me this, time and again I have noticed it in my own experience; I say it again, I have seen with my own eyes that it is by this door that we must enter if we wish his Supreme Majesty to reveal to us great and hidden mysteries. No other way should be attempted, even by those who have reached the heights of contemplation. But this way may be safely embarked upon without any fear. This Lord of ours is the one from whom and through whom all good things come to us. He will teach us. If we consider his life, we shall never find any better or more perfect example for our imitation.'

'What more do we want than to have at our side a friend so loyal that he will never desert us when we are in trouble or in difficulties, as worldly friends do? How blessed is the man who genuinely and sincerely loves him and holds on to him! Consider the case of the glorious apostle, Saint Paul. It seemed that he could do no other than speak about Jesus continually, because he had Jesus engraved and printed upon his heart.'

'When I perceived this, I made further careful investigations and learnt that holy contemplatives like Francis, Anthony of Padua, Bernard and Catherine of Siena advanced by no other way than this one. We should feel perfectly free, then, in walking along this way, abandoning ourselves entirely into the hands of God. Should he wish to raise us to the ranks of those who are his household servants and his confidential helpers, then let us be eager to obey him.'

'But whenever we think of Christ, let us always bear in mind that love of his which drove him to bestow upon us so many gifts and graces. Let us bear in mind too how great is the love God has shown us, since he has given us in Christ such a pledge of that love which he has for us; for love calls for a return of love. Let us therefore try to keep this pledge always before our minds, and in this way stir up our love for him. For if God once granted us the grace that his love be deeply imprinted upon our hearts, then all things will be easy for us, and quickly and without difficulty we will do great things for him.'

St Teresa of Avila (1515-82)

*Reformer of the Carmelite Order, Doctor of the Church
Reading from the Liturgy of the Hours for her feast day, 15 October*

'Remember that our Lord Jesus Christ is your true head and that you are one of his members. He is to you as the head is to the members of the body; all that is his is yours. His spirit, his heart, his body, his soul, all his faculties, all are to be used by you as if they were your own, so that serving him you may praise him, love him, glorify him. For your part, you are to him as a member to the head, and he earnestly desires to use all your faculties as if they were his own for the service and glorification of his Father.'

'Not only is he yours; he wishes to live and exercise dominion in you, just as the head lives and rules in the members of the body. He desires that all that is in him may live and hold sway in you: his spirit in your spirit, his heart in your heart, all the powers of his soul in those of your soul, in such a way that these words may be fulfilled in you, 'Glorify and carry God in your body', (1 Cor 6:20) and, 'Let the life of Jesus be manifested in you'. (2 Cor 4:10)

'Moreover, you belong to God's Son: you should, therefore, be in him what members of a body are to the head. All that is in you must be grafted on to him, so that from him you may draw life and by him be ruled. True life is nowhere to be found by you except in him, who is the only source of life. Apart from him you will find nought save death and destruction. Let him be the only principle of all your actions, emotions, powers.'

'You must live by him and for him, and so fulfil the words of the apostle: 'None of us lives to himself and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.' (Rom 14:7-9)

'You are one with Jesus as the members are one with the head, so you must have with him one spirit, one soul, one life, one will, one intention, one heart. It is he himself who is to be spirit, heart, love, life, everything for you. In the life of a Christian all these marvels have their origin in baptism, are increased and strengthened by confirmation and the good use of the other graces in which God makes him share, and are perfected above all by the holy Eucharist.'

St John Eudes (1601-80)

*Founder of the Order of Our Lady of Charity
and the Congregation of Jesus and Mary
Reading from the Liturgy of the Hours for his feast day, 19 August*

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A – READINGS

FIRST READING

Is 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me,

and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;

listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 144

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us,
he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.

You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. (R.)

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ,
even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted,
or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even

attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph,
by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no
angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to
come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any
created thing, can ever come between us and the love
of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's
death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where
they could be by themselves. But the people heard of
this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So
as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he
took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and
said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped
by; so send the people away, and they can go to the
villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied,
'There is no need for them to go: give them something
to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have
with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here
to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to
sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and
the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the
blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to
his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all
ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the
scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate
numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of
women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

<u>Hymns:</u>	Entrance	–	CWB 518 (verses 1, 3)	Here I am, Lord
	Offertory	–	CWB 619	The Lord is my shepherd
	Communion	–	CWB 516 (verses 1-3)	You are mine
	Recessional	–	Blessed be the Lord God Almighty	

<u>Feast Days:</u>	3 August: St Dominic, priest	4 August: St John Vianney, priest
	6 August: Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord	
	8 August: Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, virgin	

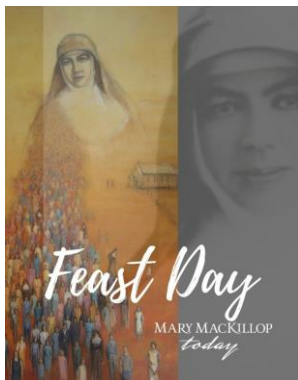
Readings Next Week: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 1 Kg 19:9,11-13; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

Recently deceased:

Antonio Martello; Ashley Gerard

Anniversaries:

Charles Zammit; Francisco Escano; Rosie Menezes; Catherine McNally

Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Saturday 8 August: 'Mary MacKillop Today'

At this time of the feast day of St Mary MacKillop, this Saturday 8 August, 'Mary MacKillop Today', the new flagship ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph (the religious congregation founded by St Mary), asks for our prayers:

Thank you for your prayers

Mary MacKillop Today supports thousands of people in Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and here in Australia, bringing hope to communities for generations to come.

Please pray for Mary MacKillop Today especially during the challenging times we all face, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vital works carrying on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop.

If you'd like to learn about Mary MacKillop Today please contact us via: Ph: (02) 8912 2777
Email: hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au or visit: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au

CatholicCare Appeal, August 2020

The annual CatholicCare Sunday Appeal is this month. As the social service agency of the Archdiocese, CatholicCare delivers family and relationship counselling, refugee and settlement support, education and school programs, and pastoral services. Donations from our parish will help care for the most vulnerable families in our community. Your support and generosity will help break barriers to social inclusion and strengthen families to live life to the full.

In present circumstances, special collections cannot be held in the normal way, but you're encouraged to make a donation either online or by phone. You can donate online at www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal (or by clicking the Donate to CatholicCare button on the home page of our parish website, which will take you to the CatholicCare website); or call 9287 5513.

The official day of the appeal is next Sunday, 9 August, but all the above channels for donating are already operational. CatholicCare has encouraged parishioners, when making a donation, to record that they're from this parish – so that CatholicCare can make a full tally of our parish contributions, and send us an acknowledgement. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

This is the time of the St Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal. In present circumstances, the normal method of collecting donations is not possible, but the needs continue, greater than ever. So you are encouraged to donate, either by calling 13 18 12, or online at vinnies.org.au (A button on the home page of our parish website takes you to the donation page.)

SAINT OF THE WEEK

3 August: St Dominic (1170-1221) The founder of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans), St Dominic was born on 8 August 1170 in Calaruega in Spain. After higher studies and priestly ordination, he became an Augustinian canon. While travelling through Languedoc in southern France in 1203, he became aware of the extent there of the Albigensian heresy, which held the dualistic view that the material world is the creation of an evil god. Dominic took up the mission of preaching to help convert the Albigensians (Cathars), and founded the Order of Preachers in Toulouse for the same purpose.

Like the Franciscan order that St Francis of Assisi (1181/2-1226) was also establishing at this very time, the Dominicans were friars (from the Latin *frater*, 'brother'), not monks. This was a radical and controversial innovation compared to the 700-year monastic tradition of the Benedictines founded by St Benedict (c. 480-547). Whereas a monk would spend his life within one self-sufficient community in a monastery away from the cities, the communities of friars were among the people in the towns, relying on alms from those they served. (Thus the orders of friars are also known as 'mendicant' orders, meaning 'begging'.) Dominic's Order of Preachers was approved by Pope Honorius III in 1216.

By tradition, the Rosary came from St Dominic, who was said to have received it from Our Lady herself in the year 1214. Church historians debate this, since we don't have contemporary documentation of it, and various aspects of the devotion can be found before Dominic's time. Possibly, led by Our Lady, Dominic adapted and brought together some of these pre-existing elements. Certainly, the Dominicans would become the great promoters of this prayer.

Dominic died in Bologna on 6 August 1221 and was canonised in 1234. The Dominicans became known as Black Friars in England, because of their black hood and cloak over their white robes. There are also Dominican nuns, sisters, and Third Order Lay Dominicans. Long before the Jesuits founded by St Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), the Dominicans became very prominent in the universities and in the intellectual life of the Church, their most famous theologian being St Thomas Aquinas (1225-74). Other Dominican saints include St Albert the Great, St Catherine of Siena, St Rose of Lima, St Martin de Porres, and St Vincent Liem. In the Universal Church, St Dominic's feast is 8 August, but in Australia this is moved to 3 August to make way for St Mary MacKillop, who died on 8 August 1909. The Dominican Priory in Melbourne is at the parish of St Dominic's, East Camberwell.