

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
Assistant Priest / Lithuanian Chaplain:	Rev Fr Joseph Deveikis
Presbytery / Parish Office:	123 St Leonards Rd, Ascot Vale (Postal: PO Box 468 Ascot Vale 3032)
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Office Hours:	Tue & Fri, 10am – 3pm. Secretary: Carmen D'Rosario
Principal, St Mary's School:	Mr Paul Hogan 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)

Live streaming of our 10:30

Sunday Mass is continuing,
accessible on our parish website.

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

Group baptisms recommence
on 7 March: 12:00 every Sunday
till 27 June. Until March, we are
having baptisms for individual
babies, with up to two
ceremonies every weekend.

Baptism Information Sessions
are held in St Mary's Church at
7:30 pm on the first Thursday of
each month. Those interested in
the baptism of their child should
attend one of these sessions.

Weddings at St Mary's

For information on weddings
please ring the parish office.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – 10 January 2021

On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we customarily reflect on different aspects of the Sacrament of Baptism. One way of gaining a deeper understanding is by looking at some of the laws of the Church concerning Baptism, as laid down in the current *Code of Canon Law* (as revised after Vatican II and promulgated by Pope St John Paul II in 1983). www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/cic_index_en.html

THE SACRAMENTS

(Canons 840 – 1165)

Canon 840 The sacraments of the New Testament were instituted by Christ the Lord and entrusted to the Church.

Can. 842 §1 A person who has not received baptism cannot be admitted validly to the other sacraments.

§2 The sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and the Most Holy Eucharist are interrelated in such a way that they are required for full Christian initiation.

Can. 845 §1 Since the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and orders imprint a character, they cannot be repeated.

§2 If after completing a diligent inquiry a prudent doubt still exists whether the sacraments mentioned in §1 were actually or validly conferred, they are to be conferred conditionally.

Can. 846 In celebrating the sacraments the liturgical books approved by competent authority are to be observed faithfully; accordingly, no one is to add, omit, or alter anything in them on one's own authority.

Can. 848 The minister is to seek nothing for the administration of the sacraments beyond the offerings defined by competent authority, always taking care that the needy are not deprived of the assistance of the sacraments because of poverty.

BAPTISM

(Canons 849 – 878)

Can. 849 Baptism, the gateway to the sacraments and necessary for salvation by actual reception or at least by desire, is validly conferred only by a washing of true water with the proper form of words. Through baptism men and women are freed from sin, are reborn as children of God, and, configured to Christ by an indelible character, are incorporated into the Church.

CHAPTER I : THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Can. 850 Baptism is administered according to the order prescribed in the approved liturgical books, except in case of urgent necessity when only those things required for the validity of the sacrament must be observed.

Can. 851 The celebration of baptism must be prepared properly; consequently:

1/ an adult who intends to receive baptism is to be admitted to the catechumenate and is to be led insofar as possible through the various stages to sacramental initiation, according to the order of initiation adapted by the conference of bishops and the special norms issued by it;

2/ the parents of an infant to be baptised and those who are to undertake the function of sponsor are to be instructed properly on the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations attached to it. The pastor [parish priest] personally or through others is to take care that the parents are properly instructed through both pastoral advice and common prayer, bringing

several families together and, where possible, visiting them.

Can. 852 §1 The prescripts of the canons on adult baptism are to be applied to all those who, no longer infants, have attained the use of reason.

§2 One who is incapable of personal responsibility is regarded as an infant even in regard to baptism.

Can. 853 Apart from a case of necessity, the water to be used in conferring baptism must be blessed according to the prescripts of the liturgical books.

Can. 854 Baptism is to be conferred either by immersion or by pouring.

Can. 855 Parents, sponsors, and the pastor are to take care that a name foreign to Christian sensibility is not given.

Can. 856 Although baptism can be celebrated on any day, it is nevertheless recommended that it be celebrated ordinarily on Sunday or, if possible, at the Easter Vigil.

Can. 857 §1 Apart from a case of necessity, the proper place of baptism is a church or oratory.

§2 As a rule an adult is to be baptised in his or her parish church and an infant in the parish church of the parents unless a just cause suggests otherwise.

CHAPTER II : THE MINISTER OF BAPTISM

Can. 861 §1 The ordinary minister of baptism is a bishop, a presbyter [*priest*], or a deacon.

§2 When an ordinary minister is absent or impeded, a catechist or another person designated for this function by the local ordinary [*ordinary: e.g. bishop*], or in a case of necessity any person with the right intention, confers baptism licitly. Pastors of souls, especially the pastor of a parish, are to be concerned that the Christian faithful are taught the correct way to baptise.

CHAPTER III : THOSE TO BE BAPTISED

Can. 864 Every person not yet baptised and only such a person is capable of baptism.

Can. 865 §1 For an adult to be baptised, the person must have manifested the intention to receive baptism, have been instructed sufficiently about the truths of the faith and Christian obligations, and have been tested in the Christian life through the catechumenate. The adult is also to be urged to have sorrow for personal sins.

§2 An adult in danger of death can be baptised if, having some knowledge of the principal truths of the faith, the person has manifested in any way at all the intention to receive baptism and promises to observe the commandments of the Christian religion.

Can. 866 Unless there is a grave reason to the contrary, an adult who is baptised is to be confirmed immediately after baptism and is to participate in the eucharistic celebration also by receiving communion.

Can. 867 §1 Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks; as soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it.

§2 An infant in danger of death is to be baptised without delay.

Can. 868 §1 For an infant to be baptised licitly:

1/ the parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent;

2/ there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion; if such hope is altogether lacking, the baptism is to be delayed according to the prescripts of particular law after the parents have been advised about the reason.

§2 An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptised licitly in danger of death even against the will of the parents.

Can. 869 If there is a doubt whether a person has been baptised or whether baptism was conferred validly and the doubt remains after a serious investigation, baptism is to be conferred conditionally.

CHAPTER IV : SPONSORS

Can. 872 Insofar as possible, a person to be baptised is to be given a sponsor [*godparent*] who assists an adult in Christian initiation or together with the parents presents an infant for baptism. A sponsor also helps the baptised person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfil faithfully the obligations inherent in it.

Can. 873 There is to be only one male sponsor or one female sponsor or one of each.

Can. 874 §1 To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1/ be designated by the one to be baptised, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;

2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;

3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;

4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptised.

§2 A baptised person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a Catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness to the baptism.

CHAPTER V : THE PROOF AND REGISTRATION OF THE CONFERRAL OF BAPTISM

Can. 877 The pastor of the place where the baptism is celebrated must carefully and without any delay record in the baptismal register the names of the baptised, with mention made of the minister, parents, sponsors, witnesses, if any, the place and date of the conferral of the baptism, and the date and place of birth.

Pope Francis has declared a 'Year of St Joseph', from 8 December 2020 until 8 December 2021.
We continue to read his Apostolic Letter 'Patris Corde' ('With a father's heart') promulgated for the occasion.

APOSTOLIC LETTER PATRIS CORDE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

4. An accepting father

Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words. "The nobility of Joseph's heart is such that what he learned from the law he made dependent on charity. Today, in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident, Joseph appears as the figure of a respectful and sensitive man. Even though he does not understand the bigger picture, he makes a decision to protect Mary's good name, her dignity and her life. In his hesitation about how best to act, God helped him by enlightening his judgment". (Pope Francis *Homily*, 8 September 2017)

Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow.

The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning. We can almost hear an echo of the impassioned reply of Job to his wife, who had urged him to rebel against the evil he endured: "Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" (*Job* 2:10).

Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.

Jesus' appearance in our midst is a gift from the Father, which makes it possible for each of us to be reconciled

to the flesh of our own history, even when we fail to understand it completely.

Just as God told Joseph: "Son of David, do not be afraid!" (*Mt* 1:20), so he seems to tell us: "Do not be afraid!" We need to set aside all anger and disappointment, and to embrace the way things are, even when they do not turn out as we wish. Not with mere resignation but with hope and courage. In this way, we become open to a deeper meaning. Our lives can be miraculously reborn if we find the courage to live them in accordance with the Gospel. It does not matter if everything seems to have gone wrong or some things can no longer be fixed. God can make flowers spring up from stony ground. Even if our heart condemns us, "God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything" (*1 Jn* 3:20).

Here, once again, we encounter that Christian realism which rejects nothing that exists. Reality, in its mysterious and irreducible complexity, is the bearer of existential meaning, with all its lights and shadows. Thus, the Apostle Paul can say: "We know that all things work together for good, for those who love God" (*Rom* 8:28). To which Saint Augustine adds, "even that which is called evil". (*Enchiridion de fide, spe et caritate*, 3.11) In this greater perspective, faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad.

Nor should we ever think that believing means finding facile and comforting solutions. The faith Christ taught us is what we see in Saint Joseph. He did not look for shortcuts, but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.

Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (*cf. 1 Cor* 1:27). He is the "Father of orphans and protector of widows" (*Ps* 68:6), who commands us to love the stranger in our midst. (*Cf. Deut* 10:19; *Ex* 22:20-22; *Lk* 10:29-37) I like to think that it was from Saint Joseph that Jesus drew inspiration for the parable of the prodigal son and the merciful father (*cf. Lk* 15:11-32).

Baptisms

We warmly welcome into the family of God's Church, the following children being baptised this weekend in our Parish:

Anastasija Marija Lim

Evaliah Sienna Lim

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

You are encouraged to donate, either by using the envelopes at the church doors, by calling 13 18 12, or online at vinnies.org.au (A button on the home page of our parish website will take you to the donation page.)

Recently Deceased:

Giuseppe Versace; Lenin Esteban

Anniversaries:

Zena Lushington; Esteban Musni; Ernie Lingad

Feast Days:

13 January: St Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Readings Next Week:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: 1 Sam 3:3-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – READINGS (YEAR B)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

FIRST READING

Is 55:1-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Is 12:2-6

R. You will draw water joyfully
from the springs of salvation.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them know to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Jn 5:1-9

A reading from the first letter of St John

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 1:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:

This is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 1:7-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(for those unable to receive sacramentally)

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.