

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)
Telephone:	9370 6688
Website:	www.stmaryschurch.org.au
Email:	ascotvale@cam.org.au
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

Baptisms at St Mary's

Our normal schedule of
Baptisms remains on hold.
However, we are resuming
Baptism ceremonies for
individual babies, with up to
two ceremonies every weekend.

We are also resuming our
Baptism Information Sessions
in St Mary's Church at 7:30 pm
on the first Thursday of each
month, re-commencing 7
January. 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.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 27 December 2020

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH: 8 DECEMBER 2020 – 8 DECEMBER 2021



PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation,
and having implored the help of your most holy spouse,
we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you
to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God
and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus,
we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance
which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,
and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful Guardian of the Holy Family,
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;

O most loving father, ward off from us
every contagion of error and corrupting influence;
O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us
in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril,
so now protect God's Holy Church
from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;
shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection,
so that, supported by your example and your aid,
we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness,
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.

For the Year of St Joseph, a plenary indulgence is granted (under the usual conditions) for reciting this prayer in honour of St Joseph, on 19 March [Feast of St Joseph]; on 1 May [Feast of St Joseph the Worker]; on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; on the 19th of each month; and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the saint.

For the 150th Anniversary of Saint Joseph being named Patron of the Universal Church, 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

ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF SAINT JOSEPH AS PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

A tender and loving father

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour" (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: "he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him" (cf. Hos 11:3-4).

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him" (Ps 103:13).

In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love, (Cf. Deut 4:31; Ps 69:16; 78:38; 86:5; 111:4; 116:5; Jer 31:20) who is good to all, whose "compassion is over all that he has made" (Ps 145:9).

The history of salvation is worked out "in hope against hope" (Rom 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realised in and despite our frailty. Thus Saint Paul could say: "To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness'" (2 Cor 12:7-9).

Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy. (Cf. *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013), 88, 288)

The Evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. Rev 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the Evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. Lk 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: "This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (v. 24).

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

1 January 2021: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Friday, New Year's Day, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mass will be at St Mary's at 9:15 am as normal. What better way to begin 2021 than asking God's blessings on the New Year, honouring Our Lady and asking her prayers?

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.)

Baptism at St Mary's

We warmly welcome into the family of God's Church **Ariana Angela Gullace**, baptised at St Mary's this weekend.

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.

<u>Hymns:</u>	Entrance – CWB 255 (<i>Verses 1, 2, 4</i>)	Angels we have heard on high
Offertory – CWB 417	Sing we of the blessed Mother	Communion – CWB 269
Reflection – CWB 258	Behold, a rose e'er blooming	Once in royal David's city
<u>Recently Deceased:</u>	Milagros Aringorin	Recessional – CWB 262
<u>Anniversaries:</u>	Rita Riccio; Leo De Maria; Marciano Carreon	Hark! the herald angels sing
<u>Feast Days:</u>	28 December: Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs	29 December: St Thomas Becket, Martyr
	31 December: St Sylvester I, Pope	1 January: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
	2 January: Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church	
<u>Readings Next Week:</u>	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12	

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

Plenary Indulgences for the Year of St. Joseph

(adapted from *Vatican News*)

For the Year of St Joseph, the Apostolic Penitentiary (the department of the Roman Curia that deals with indulgences) has granted the following plenary indulgences (under the ‘usual conditions’), by mandate of the Holy Father Pope Francis:

- A plenary indulgence is granted to **those who meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St Joseph.** “St Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us”, the decree reads, “to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.” *[Why go to this trouble, you may think, to gain an indulgence when ‘easier’ ones are possible? Well, God might use it to release from purgatory a soul that had a much heavier ‘debt’ of purification owing.]*
- The plenary indulgence is granted to **those who, following St Joseph’s example, perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy.** St Joseph, just and merciful, “encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties,” the decree says. *[This is an extraordinarily wide-ranging grant of indulgences. We might interpret from the wording that to gain the indulgence, the work of mercy should be intentionally carried out in imitation of St Joseph’s example, for instance of his ‘prudence and loyalty in carrying out his duties’. We might also suppose that by the Church’s intention, something more is required than some very trivial act. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy are listed in the ‘Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church’ as follows: The seven corporal works of mercy: 1. Feed the hungry. 2. Give drink to the thirsty. 3. Clothe the naked. 4. Shelter the homeless. 5. Visit the sick. 6. Visit the imprisoned. 7. Bury the dead. The seven spiritual works of mercy: 1. Counsel the doubtful. 2. Instruct the ignorant. 3. Admonish sinners. 4. Comfort the afflicted. 5. Forgive offenses. 6. Bear wrongs patiently. 7. Pray for the living and the dead.]*
- In order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family”, a plenary indulgence is granted for **the recitation of the Holy Rosary, in the family or by an engaged couple.**
- Those can obtain the plenary indulgence **who entrust their daily activity to the protection of St Joseph; or who invoke with prayers the intercession of St Joseph the Worker, that those seeking work can find employment and that the work of all is more dignified.**
- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will **recite the *Litany to St Joseph* for the persecuted Church *ad intra* and *ad extra*, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution.** Because, the decree notes, “the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment.”
- The Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will **recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honour of St Joseph, for example, ‘To you, O blessed Joseph’** especially on 19 March [Feast of St Joseph]; on 1 May [Feast of St Joseph the Worker]; the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; on the 19th of each month; and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint.
- Amid the Covid-19 crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is extended to **the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes.** They can obtain the plenary indulgences if, detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling as soon as possible the three usual conditions, they **recite an act of piety** *[such as the ‘Litany of St Joseph’, or the prayer ‘To you, O blessed Joseph’]* **in honour of St Joseph, comfort of the sick and patron of a happy death, offering with trust in God the pains and hardships of their lives.**

Recalling the meaning of indulgences: Even when a sin is forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, normally some purification remains to be temporarily undergone in purgatory after death. But a plenary indulgence remits by authority of the Church all this ‘debt’ of purgatorial punishment for past sins, the guilt of which has already been forgiven. One can apply an indulgence to oneself, or as a prayer for the souls in purgatory. (If you are frequently gaining plenary indulgences, it is more generous to offer the bulk of these for the souls in purgatory, rather than to leave them all only for yourself. Rather than having to think of this every individual time, you can express in advance to God that this is your normal habitual intention, then maybe sometimes make exceptions to this in your own favour.)

For the full indulgence, besides the specific indulgenced work, the usual three conditions must be fulfilled of Confession within 20 days before or after; Holy Communion; and prayers for the Pope’s intentions (e.g. 1 Our Father and 1 Hail Mary). Also, one must be free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin. But even if all the conditions are not fulfilled, a partial indulgence can still be obtained. (One Confession suffices for multiple plenary indulgences, but Holy Communion must be received and prayers for the Pope’s intentions recited for each indulgence. Normally only one plenary indulgence can be gained per day. We recommend reciting the indulgenced

prayers vocally, not just in one’s mind – indeed, the older law made explicit that this was actually required; but it is legitimate to alternate with others who are reciting, as in the Rosary.)

The indulgences granted for the Year of St Joseph are unusually numerous, and seem designed to enable a plenary indulgence to be easily gained every single day for those who are fulfilling the usual conditions. Thus someone who goes to the maximum extent of receiving Communion daily and going to confession at least every forty days (so that they are always within twenty days of a confession) can quite easily perform every day one of the indulgenced works, along with praying for the Pope’s intentions – and so obtain for the souls in purgatory even 365 plenary indulgences over the course of the year. (The freedom from attachment to any sin required at the time of the plenary indulgence may seem a bit more difficult – but simply ask God’s grace and make a sincere act of contrition prior to the indulgenced work, and leave the rest to God; at least a partial indulgence will be obtained.) We don’t know in exactly what manner God ‘uses’ these indulgences we offer for souls in purgatory, but (without becoming too ‘mathematical’ about it) it seems a reasonable understanding that in the year, those gaining daily plenary indulgences would thereby release 365 souls from purgatory into heaven (who would then surely become grateful ongoing intercessors for them).

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, YEAR B – READINGS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *(if no hymn is sung)* Lk 2:16
The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

FIRST READING Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3
A reading from the book of Genesis

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'. 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 104

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! (R.)

2. Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. (R.)

3. Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. (R.)

4. He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. (R.)

SECOND READING Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had

the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Heb 1:1-2
Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 2:22-40
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *(if no hymn is sung)*
Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.