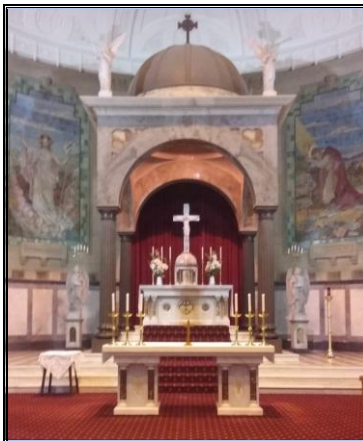




PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

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.melbcatholic.org/ascotvale
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 John Rudd 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.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 12 July 2026

St. Margaret’s Church

A Gathering for Prayer, Reflection, and Discussion

Next Saturday 18th July, between 2:00-4:00pm, the Parish and the Archdiocese will be jointly hosting a gathering of parishioners to reflect on the history of St. Margaret’s, and to discuss how we as a community of Faith can walk together as we seek to understand how we can compassionately approach the closure of the building.

Most importantly, we invite parishioners to bring to the gathering photos and other memorabilia that can be digitally captured for posterity, to ensure that in this period of change, sadness, and loss, there is continuity of the spirit of Faith and community which St. Margaret’s has nurtured for so long.

The location of this gathering will be at the multi-purpose room at St Margaret’s school. Should you wish to attend, please do so, but RSVPs would be appreciated for logistical purposes. If you wish to RSVP, please email feedback.stmargarets@gmail.com.

Background Q&A and **FAQ** papers are both on the Parish website and copies are available to collect.

I repeat what I wrote for 21st June Sunday bulletin that I had largely accepted the recommendations presented by the Parish Masterplan Reference Group, which were shown on the front page of the bulletin. The word “largely” is to be noted because as I added “further discussions are to be held concerning the timeline as well as what may occur with the land”.

So, there are a number of unknowns at this stage, including ...

- the consideration of a suitable time for the cessation of Masses (required prior to the Archbishop receiving the letter petitioning the close of the church)
- the cost of demolishing the church
- a plan for the treatment of the altar and sacred elements and goods.
- an optimal time for the demolition work (due to the asbestos removal) since this would require the school to be closed, making school holiday periods a reasonable target

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 18/19 JULY 2026**Parish Counters: R Aparo; 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	R Boyer		P Bonnici	
8.30 am		B Dwyer		A Laughton
10.30 am	D Cutinho		R Bonvino	

Hymns:**Entrance:** CWBII 490**Offertory:** CWBII 592**Communion:** CWBII 552**Reflection:** CWBII 459**Recessional:** CWBII 494**Recently Deceased:**

Elmas Findik; St Margaret Mary Olsen fcj; Fr Tadeusz Ziolkowski SChr

Anniversaries:

Louis & Rosie Menezes; Caterina Trimboli

Feast Days:**15 July:** St Bonaventure**Readings Next Week:**

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

Q Size of the land:

The Property & Infrastructure Office of the Archdiocese has responded to this question as follows:

Given St Margaret's Church and School share the same land title, and in accordance with the RULBA Schedule 3, which indicates that only the Church and the strips of land between the building and Barb St & The Esplanade are listed as Owner Facility, then the size of this area is 750m², or approximately 46x17m.

Fr Desmond J Moloney

Summary of St Margaret's feedback so far...please contribute to the feedback line feedback.stmargarets@gmail.com. The responses are.

The Parish is acting responsibly in closing St Margaret's Church given the building's physical condition. However, there is as well an overwhelming sadness (some very upset) over this necessary step. Fear that history will be lost.

Concern over St Margaret's School children and opportunities for them to experience Mass- how can this happen? The demolition restricts the school's ability to deliver the Mass.

Some people call for more written information than has appeared in the Bulletin before they can form any judgment- eg, the Master Plan. Also, confusion over the groups working on St Margarets' future in our Parish, their exact function and who is on them.

Concern over money paid by St Margaret's community over the years on the understanding that money would go towards maintenance and possible upgrade of St Margaret's Church premises.

Fear that money raised in the sale of land will be used by St Mary's "side" of the Parish.

Don't sell the land- build a school hall for the school that could be used for school Mass and Sunday Mass. Fear that land will end up as residential apartments.

St Margaret's school community need more information. A feeling of unrest among parents. They feel they are losing a great resource.

Fear that the Gathering will not be helpful.

PLEASE NOTE

No 10.00am Mass at St Mary's Church on Monday, 13 July 2026.

Baptisms

We warmly welcome the children being baptised this Sunday.

Stella Bella Colandrea

George Bryn Whiter



Melbourne synod 2026 – Theme Paper Release

The Synod theme papers are an important step in our journey of listening and discernment as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to foster a spirit of hope and imagination—trusting that, as we walk together, God is calling us into a future marked by faithfulness, renewal, and deeper communion. The suggested reflection process is a 'Conversation in the Spirit' or a Spiritual Conversation. This method is based in prayer and allows people to come together to both speak and to listen. Different from a discussion, it is an attentive listening process that aims to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. At the conclusion of each theme paper, there are prompt questions for reflection. Responses to these prompt questions can be provided via the QR code which is at the end of each paper.

5. Regional consultation opportunities

To complement the parish/community consultation, we are also offering an opportunity to gather as regions. In July and August there will be Synod Consultation sessions held in each region of the Archdiocese. I warmly invite your parish to nominate **two representatives** to participate in your regional Synod Consultation Session, with at least one representative being a lay person. These gatherings, hosted by Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli, are an important opportunity to prayerfully listen, discern and another way we can contribute to the Archbishop's consultation with the People of God across the Archdiocese. By ensuring each parish is represented, we hope to hear a broad range of voices, strengthen awareness and engagement with the Synod, and foster a shared commitment to the missionary future of our local Church. We encourage you to prayerfully select representatives who will participate actively in the conversation and bring back the fruits of the consultation to your parish community.

Saturday 25 July 2026	Northern Region (morning)	Western Region (afternoon)
Saturday 8 August 2026	Southern Region (morning)	Eastern Region (afternoon)

Stella Maris – Sea Sunday 12 July 2026

When we pray especially for all seafarers who travel the seas bringing our goods, often enduring great hardships and loneliness.

Please think about becoming a volunteer at Stella Maris, 600 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

For more information about this great missionary work, please contact 96297494.



STELLA MARIS

SUPPORTING SEAFARERS AND FISHERS
AROUND THE WORLD

Mass for Marriage Anniversaries – St Patrick's Cathedral This Sunday 12 July 2026, 11.00am–12.00pm

Married couples and their families are cordially invited to join us as we celebrate the gift of marriage and family. Couples celebrating the following anniversaries—5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years and above. Contact the Proclaim team, 9926 5761 or at proclaim@cam.org.au.



Legion of Mary - For member enquiries and home visitations please contact: 9346 7900.

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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING

Is 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: '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

Ps 64

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. (R.)

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. (R.)

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding.

So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears, understand with their heart,
and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who

hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.' *The Gospel of the Lord*