

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.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26 July 2026

Last Saturday’s Gathering at St. Margaret’s School

As the emotionally-charged gathering was nearing an end, I addressed those present, firstly offering Acknowledgements, then some words about Vision, and finally offering my Thanks.

Over the closure of St. Margaret’s Church in Maribyrnong, I acknowledge and recognise shock, sadness, disappointment and anger, aware of the strength of these emotions. I have heard and/or read other reactions, such as betrayal and dissatisfaction with the process. I apologise to those who feel let down by me.

I make two points, not wanting to be overly defensive: i) about process, and ii) about communication. About process: carefulness regarding process has been and is of very high importance to me. About communication: consistency in the communication of information has been and is a priority for me (it is – and has been – communication that seeks engagement with and from parishioners).

Shortly after I began in St. Mary’s Parish, I established the Future Directions Working Party. I believe there is a need for the Parish as a whole to grapple with the “big picture”. A major reason relates to the parish being, as the Archbishop wants, that parishes be viable, vital, and vibrant. The big picture is in the process of being represented in the Parish masterplan. The masterplan, however, is not complete because of what belongs to the Parish at Maribyrnong and the decisions still to be made.

There is a place for imagination, generosity of heart, trust and prayer. I feel for the history of St. Margaret’s worshipping community, and for the present, and what might be memorialised and given as gift within St. Mary’s Parish. Naturally, there is a strong feeling of concern for the school community of St. Margaret’s, especially the children. St. Margaret’s School has its masterplan, which is still to be fully realised and as anticipated will incorporate a fitting gathering space. Fortunately, St. Margaret’s School has been very successful in attracting Government funding for the recently completed building project as well as the project completed early in 2023. This raises the question about how long can it be reasonably expected before more funding will be granted to the school? How many years??

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 1/2 AUGUST 2026

Parish Counters: V Colicchia; T Peters

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 Hoshun		M Ginn	
8.30 am		P McLoughlin		J Gilmartin
10.30 am	G Kearney		L Venuto	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 616

Offertory: CWBII 293

Communion: CWBII 608

Reflection: CWBII 484

Recessional: CWBII 368

Recently Deceased:

Sandra Sammut; Andrew Keep; Jonathan Glover; Sr Marie Kehoe

Anniversaries:

Giuseppe Raffaele; Kathleen Frances Ward

Feast Days:

29 July: Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus

31 July: St Ignatius of Loyola

1 Aug: St Alphonsus Liguori

Readings Next Week:

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Vigil: 1 Cor 11:23-25

1 Kg 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

I thanked those who were present for their attendance, Judeline and Jacqui of the Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal, Melissa of the Property & Infrastructure Office, the Principal of St. Margaret's School and members of staff who were present. I expressed my gratitude to members of the Parish Advisory Board, particularly Bosko (chairperson) and Melanie for all they had done in preparation and being part of the planning committee, together with Gerald, Matthew and Judeline. Finally, I also expressed my thanks to the Parish Masterplan Reference Group, and, in particular, to Richard, its facilitator, who presented at the gathering.

Further communications will be provided in the coming weeks.

Fr Desmond J Moloney

Baptisms

We warmly welcome the children being baptised this Sunday.

Thomas Paul Kennedy

Francesco Carbone



The World Day for Grandparents is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Pope Leo has chosen "I will never forget you." as the theme this year.

We keep all our grandparents and elderly people in prayer.



Please use the QR code if you wish to contribute to our parish church. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you.



Young Discipleship INTRODUCTION

The Melbourne Synod is an invitation to our local Church to listen attentively to the Holy Spirit and to discern how we are called to proclaim the Gospel more

faithfully in our time and place. The purpose of this synod is to help shape our evangelical and missionary priorities for the years ahead. This synodal journey will focus on three themes: Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, and Formation and Participation.

This paper has been prepared to assist with reflection on the theme of Young Discipleship. As we reflect on this theme, we are encouraged to ponder: Where is the Holy Spirit leading our Archdiocese at this time? How are we being called to accompany our young people in faith more intentionally? How might we reflect the face of Christ more clearly in our local Church?

This paper aims 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 CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

The call to discipleship—to follow Jesus—is shaped by the Gospel. The Gospel invites every person to follow Jesus Christ and to share in the mission of building God's kingdom. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ invite people of faith to encounter the living God. Jesus, through his preaching, teaching and healing, reveals God's love and seeks to heal and restore creation. This encounter invites every person into relationship, transformation and mission.

To be a disciple, a follower of Jesus, is to keep company with Jesus, to be 'called ... out of the darkness into his wonderful light' (1 Peter 2:9) and to live in an intimate relationship with him (2 Corinthians 5:15).

Discipleship is a lifelong journey. It unfolds through the daily walk of lived experience in faith, in the sacramental life of the Church and with the support of a community that accompanies, nurtures and sustains. This accompaniment not only supports people in their faith journey; it also equips them to share it. Disciples are called to become missionary disciples—people who bring the Good News of God's healing and forgiveness to the world.

At the heart of discipleship is the call to believe. Faith is more than an agreement with ideas; it is the discovery of being personally chosen and loved by God: 'You did not choose me, but I chose you' (John 15:16). Discipleship continually draws us back to Jesus—to learn from him, follow his example and live as he lived. True discipleship rests on three essential pillars:

- encounter: meeting Jesus personally
- engage: a commitment to growing more deeply in faith
- embark: a commitment to living a life of mission.

Vocations Expo with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

Saturday 1 August 2026, 9.00am–1.00pm

Greg Craven Centre, Level 7, St Teresa of Kolkata Building, Australian Catholic University

115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy

ACU Campus Ministry and Vocations Melbourne invite you to come and explore what life looks like in Catholic religious orders, diocesan priesthood and married life.

Free event Book via - trybooking.com/DNKHK



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.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING

1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 118

R. Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.

The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. (R.)

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.

Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. (R.)

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.

That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. (R.)

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.

The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose

specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord

