

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.melbourne.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.

3rd Sunday of Lent – 23 March 2025

Jubilee Year of Hope – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

From Letter of St Paul to the Romans ... we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and **hope does not disappoint us**, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. 5:2a-5



Fiat is from Friday 28th March to Sunday 30th March when the Archdiocese of Melbourne will unite in a weekend of prayer. **Fiat** is inspired by the Feast of the Annunciation when Mary, the model disciple, listened to the call of God and gave her

wholehearted ‘yes’ to his mission. We are invited as communities, families and individuals to set this time aside to listen to what the Lord may be asking of us, and to pray for the grace to embark on and do his will for the year ahead.

St. Mary’s Parish **HOPE of PRAYER** will be on Saturday 29th March from 10.00am – 11.00am in St. Mary’s Church.

Masterplan: Vision and Mission

If you have any feedback on the vision and mission statement, please feel free to contact Stephanie Houten on 0481 388 215, or via email sstraube@gmail.com. We would appreciate that you submit any feedback before 7/4/2025.

Fr Desmond J Moloney

Calendar for March/April 2025

Friday 28 Mar	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 29 Mar	6.00pm Vigil	First Holy Communions
Friday 4 Apr	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
Sunday 6 Apr	10.30am	Morning Tea after Mass
Friday 11 Apr	7.00 pm 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross Confessions
Sunday 13 Apr	9.30am	Confessions (St Margaret’s)

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 29/30 Mar 2025

Parish Counters: R Aparo; D McAleer

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	N Familiari		P Barbaro	
8.30 am		Family Mass		R Turnbull
10.30 am	M Doran		M DeMaria	

Hymns:

Entrance: CWBII 295

Offertory: CWBII 470

Communion: CWBII 459

Reflection: CWBII 290

Recessional: CWBII 587

Recently Deceased: Cristina Carreon Simeon

Anniversaries: Edgardo Bunque; Mae Claire Jabines

Feast Days: **25 March:** The Annunciation of the Lord

Readings Next Week: 4th Sunday of Lent (Year C) Josh 5:9-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Lent

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world.

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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COMPASSION



Morning Tea after Mass

The Parish Community Group will be holding morning tea after 10.30am Mass at St. Mary's on Sunday, 6th April. We would like to invite everyone to come along and have a cuppa and something to eat, while chatting with fellow parishioners. It is always good to say hello to a person you haven't met before, as well as chat to other parishioners whom you do know.

If you would like to bring a plate of food to share, that would be a boost for catering and we will be very grateful. Everyone is welcome, so please come along!

Melbourne Rosary Pilgrimage with the Dominican Sisters of St Cecelia

Sunday 30 March – 10.00am – 3.00pm

The day begins with Mass at St Mary Star of the Sea at 10am, 33 Howard St, West Melbourne, followed by a 5-kilometre pilgrimage around Melbourne's CBD, stopping to pray at some of the most beautiful Marian shrines in the city. Stops will include St Patrick's Cathedral, St Francis, St Mary MacKillop's birthplace, St Mary Star of the Sea and more. Contact melbourne@op-tn.org

Baptisms

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

Mia Zumbo

Sofia Esposito

Matteo Douglas Caccamo

Addison Orr

Olivia Adeline Olsen

Noah Bellefemine

River Kai Holloway

Emerson Orr

Bianca Tandinegara

Meadow Blossom Jennifer Charman

'Dilexit nos' – encyclical letter of Pope Francis on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ, 24 October 2024

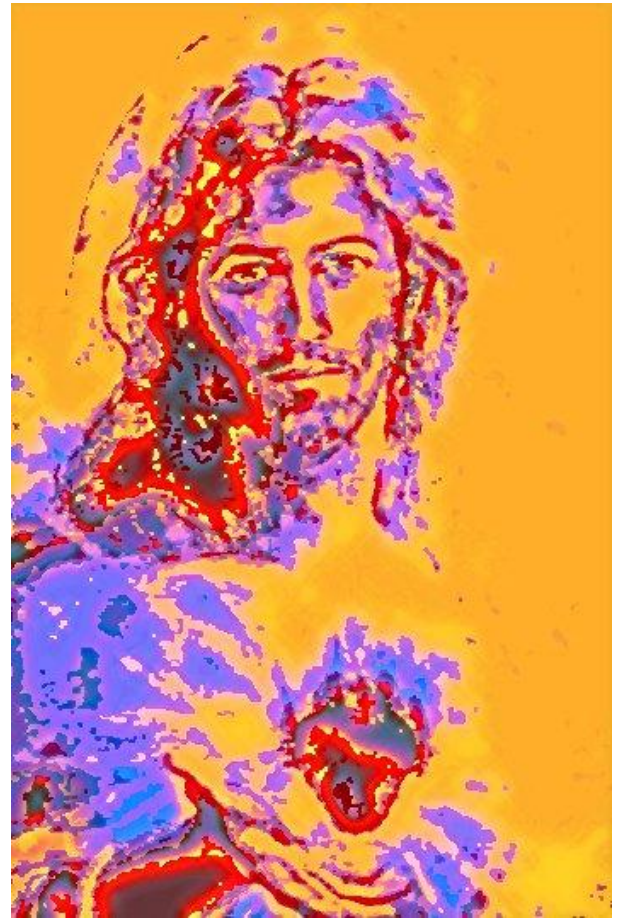
The encyclical is divided into five chapters.

Chapter 3

THIS IS THE HEART THAT HAS LOVED SO GREATLY

Devotion to the heart of Christ is not the veneration of a single organ apart from the Person of Jesus. What we contemplate and adore is the whole Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, represented by an image that accentuates his heart. That heart of flesh is seen as the privileged sign of the inmost being of the incarnate Son and his love, both divine and human. More than any other part of his body, the heart of Jesus is "the natural sign and symbol of his boundless love". [\[28\]](#)

It is essential to realize that our relationship to the Person of Jesus Christ is one of friendship and adoration, drawn by the love represented under the image of his heart. We venerate that image, yet our worship is directed solely to the living Christ, in his divinity and his plenary humanity, so that we may be embraced by his human and divine love.



Whatever the image employed, it is clear that the living heart of Christ – not its representation – is the object of our worship, for it is part of his holy risen body, which is inseparable from the Son of God who assumed that body forever. We worship it because it is "the heart of the Person of the Word, to whom it is inseparably united". [\[29\]](#) Nor do we worship it for its own sake, but because with this heart the incarnate Son is alive, loves us and receives our love in return. Any act of love or worship of his heart is thus "really and truly given to Christ himself", [\[30\]](#) since it spontaneously refers back to him and is "a symbol and a tender image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ". [\[31\]](#)

For this reason, it should never be imagined that this devotion may distract or separate us from Jesus and his love. In a natural and direct way, it points us to him and to him alone, who calls us to a precious friendship marked by dialogue, affection, trust and adoration. The Christ we see depicted with a pierced and burning heart is the same Christ who, for love of us, was born in Bethlehem, passed through Galilee healing the sick, embracing sinners and showing mercy. The same Christ who loved us to the very end, opening wide his arms on the cross, who then rose from the dead and now lives among us in glory.

It is understandable, then, that the Church has chosen the image of the heart to represent the human and divine love of Jesus Christ and the inmost core of his Person. Yet, while the depiction of a heart afire may be an eloquent symbol of the burning love of Jesus Christ, it is important that this heart not be represented apart from him. In this way, his summons to a personal relationship of encounter and dialogue will become all the more meaningful. [\[33\]](#) The venerable image portraying Christ holding out his loving heart also shows him looking directly at us, inviting us to encounter, dialogue and trust; it shows his strong hands capable of supporting us and his lips that speak personally to each of us.

3rd Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING

Ex 3:1-8. 13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.' *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 102

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the

earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall. *The word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt:4:17

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

The Gospel of the Lord.