

OUR MASS TIMES

Tue & Fri: 9.15am Mass

Wed & Thurs: 9.15am(Communion Service)

Sat: 6.00pm (Livestream)

Sun: 9.00am and 11.00am

Sun: 5.00pm **Youth Mass**

RECONCILIATION

Fri: 6 - 7pm *Adoration and Reconciliation*

Sat: 5.30pm - 5.50pm *Reconciliation*

OFFICE HOURS

Tue - Fri 9am - 4pm



OUR PRIESTS

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Jerald Mariadas (Away on holiday)

gerald.mariadas@cam.org.au

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Rev Libeesh Kuriakose

libeesh.kuriakose@cam.org.au

OUR TEAM

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Loretta Hughes

loretta.hughes@cam.org.au

PARISH COORDINATOR

Liza Jansz (Tue - Thurs)

Rowville@cam.org.au

liza.jansz@cam.org.au

PARISH SUPPORT OFFICER

Cyrilla D'Souza (Tue - Fri)

cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS

EDUCATION

(SACRAMENTS)

& BAPTISM

COORDINATOR

Theresa Abraham

Theresa.abraham@cam.org.au

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Melody Wells-Jansz

melody.wells-jansz@cam.org.au

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Newton Marques

Rowville@cam.org.au

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS,

MARRIAGE PREP, FUNERALS

Please contact our Parish Office

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Contact the Parish Office

OUR SERVICES

PARISH CENTRE

FACILITIES HIRE

Contact the Parish Office

ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mr Tom Wursthorn - 9755 4222

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE

1800 305 330

MUSICIAN IN RESIDENCE

Andrea O'Loughlin

Available for Funerals & Weddings

Mobile: 0404 051 401

LIVESTREAMING IN RESIDENCE

Corey Payton

Available for Funerals & Weddings

Mobile: 0498 185 295

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN NOTICES

Wednesday 4.00pm

St Simon the Apostle Parish

A compassionate community celebrating and living in Christ

2 Taylors Lane, ROWVILLE VIC 3178 | melbcatholic.org/s/rowville



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 31 JAN / 1 FEBRUARY 2026 | YEAR A

Matthew 5:1-12 |

*Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.*



In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is presented as a "new Moses," teaching from the mountain just as Moses once did. But instead of giving a list of rules, Jesus speaks to the heart. In the Beatitudes, He shows us what life with God really looks like—not on paper, but in everyday living.

For people in Jesus' time, these words would have sounded strange. The world then, as now, valued strength, success, and status. Jesus blesses the poor, the gentle, the grieving, and those who are treated unfairly. He is not saying that suffering is good, but that God is especially close to those who struggle, and that faithfulness often comes with a cost.

This message still challenges us today. We live in a culture that encourages self-reliance, comfort, and approval. The Beatitudes call us in a different direction—toward humility,

mercy, kindness, and a hunger for justice. They remind us that being a disciple is not about looking perfect or following rules to the letter, but about allowing God to shape our attitudes and actions from within.

When Jesus says, "Rejoice and be glad," He is reminding us that when we try to live with integrity, compassion, and faith—even when it is difficult—our lives are firmly in God's hands. The Beatitudes offer reassurance that God sees the quiet efforts of ordinary people who try to live the Gospel each day.

They remain a practical guide for living faithfully, lovingly, and hopefully in the world as it is today.

**With Blessings,
Fr Jerald Mariadas**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ST SIMON'S SCHOOL FAMILIES

As we begin the new academic year, we warmly invite our school community to join us in prayer at Mass.

- **Staff Commissioning & Prep Welcome Mass**
Sunday, 8 February 2026, 11.00am with a Sausage Sizzle after Mass
- **Beginning of School Year Mass, Friday, 13 February 2026, 9.15am**

*All parishioners are warmly invited to join us
as we welcome and support our growing school community.*

Now open for 2026



Our parish is blessed to journey with families as children prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Each of these Sacraments is an encounter with God's grace, deepening their faith and drawing them closer to Jesus Christ and His Church.

To register your child or to obtain further information, please email or contact the Parish Office.

We look forward to accompanying our young parishioners and their families.



**SACRAMENTAL
REGISTRATIONS**

PARISH LENTEN PROGRAM 2026

Our 2026 Lenten Program is **Compassio**, developed by the Archdiocese of Wollongong. This well-established program invites parishioners into a deeper Lenten journey through Scripture, prayer, reflection, and shared discussion, helping us grow in faith and live the call to compassion more fully. Each session provides a welcoming space to pause with God's Word and



support one another as we prepare our hearts for Easter. Parishioners of all ages and stages of faith are warmly encouraged to take part.

Sessions will be held at the following times, in the Parish Meeting Room/ Chapel, and you are welcome to attend whichever session best suits your schedule:

Monday 16 February: 7.00 – 8.30pm

Tuesday 17 February: 7.30 – 9.00pm

Thursday 19 February: 10.00 – 11.30am, 7.00 – 8.30pm

Friday 20 February: 10.00 – 11.30am

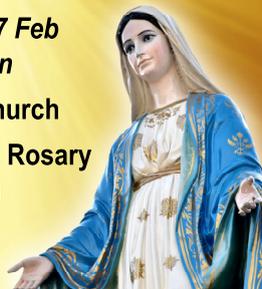
Please register via the sign-on sheets at the Welcome Desk. This is a wonderful opportunity to journey together as a parish during Lent, grounded in prayer, tradition, and shared faith. We encourage all our parishioners to join a session.

Farewell Masses for Fr Libeesh

14–15 Feb, St Simon's;
28 Feb–1 Mar, St Jude's.
We wish him blessings and assure him of our prayers.

First Saturday 7 Feb Marian Devotion

at St. Jude's Church
8:45 Adoration, Rosary
and confession
9:15 Mass



Listening for God in your life – a prayerful space to discern God's presence and invitations.

Are you seeking a deeper relationship with God, a prayerful space to reflect on your faith and life? Are you wondering where God is leading or inviting you?

If you would like a listening ear of a qualified spiritual director, I offer spiritual direction / accompaniment as a prayerful, confidential, and non-judgemental conversation, supporting you to notice God's presence and discern where the Holy Spirit may be inviting you.

If you would like to enquire, please contact Ewa (pronounced as 'ever' J) on 0425 776 083, or toomeyewa2000@gmail.com. Looking forward to hearing from you.



PREPARATION CLASSES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

have begun for children in Grade 3 & above in non-Catholic schools.

Classes begin on Tue 3 Feb, 4.00pm at St Simon's Parish Centre

Please scan the QR code to register or call the Parish office.

Are you new to St Simon's?

Welcome to our parish!

If you're new or recently joined us, please add your details to the New Parishioner Book at the welcome desk so we can stay connected.

You are very welcome here and in our prayers.

For all Bulletin Notices, please email cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au Deadline Wednesday 4pm

Super Steve's Cleaning Team

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- ◆ Test / Tag Services

Contact Ash: 0413 913 619

Looking for a way to make a real difference?

Our parish is inviting new volunteers to join our ministry teams — especially the youthful hearts who want to be more intentional in their faith and connected in community.

We're currently seeking volunteers for:

- ❑ Gardening Group
- ❑ Music Ministry
- ❑ Eucharistic Ministers
- ❑ Cleaning of the church
- ❑ Hospitality & Welcomers



Serving in ministry is a way to:

- Grow in faith
- Build meaningful community
- Share your gifts
- Help our parish be a welcoming home for all

Whether you can offer an hour a month or more, **your presence matters.** *Interested?*

Add your name to the list at the Welcome Desk, call the parish office on 9764 4058 or email: cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au.

You don't need experience — just an open heart and a willingness to serve.

Serve | Belong | Grow in faith

A Farewell collection for Fr Libeesh

As we prepare to farewell Fr Libeesh, we would like to present him with a small gift as a token of our gratitude for his faithful service, kindness, and dedication to our parish community.

If you would like to contribute toward this gift, donations may be made at the parish office or via the marked collection box after Mass. Your generosity, in any amount, will be deeply appreciated — but most of all, your prayers and good wishes mean just as much.

Thank you for helping us express our thanks in a meaningful way.



They Said by Margaret Lancefield

They said we were easy going; they said we were all laid back, whether we lived in the city or travelled a country track.

They said that we cared about nothing but sport and a drink of beer; that gambling was our only passion and partying our only cheer.

They said we were easily divided; that nothing was sacred

For the full text of this poem please collect a copy from the foyer

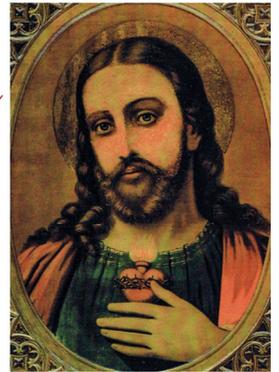


PLEASE BRING IN YOUR OLD LENTEN PALMS AND PLACE THEM IN THE BOX IN THE CHURCH FOYER BY 8 FEBRUARY

Where have you come across references to any of the Beatitudes in music, film or modern culture?

Touch of Heaven
ALAN AMES MINISTRY

ALAN AMES MINISTRY
A unique faith filled experience of the healing power of our Lord



Alan has visited 40 countries and will speak of his dramatic conversion from alcoholism and violence to a deeply prayerful and sacramental life.

10 Feb St Gregory the Great, DONCASTER

11 Feb St Simon the Apostle, ROWVILLE
12 Feb St Martin de Porres, LAVERTON

6:30pm Rosary, 7:00pm Mass followed by Alan Ames talk

Enquiries, please contact: Bernadette O'Hanlon | 0407 007 708 or Divine Mercy Publications 03 9830 4386

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD will resume from 8 February 2026



WE REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

For those who have died recently **Patria Reynolds** and those whose memories are sacred to us at this time especially Filomena Mesquita, Estelle Theodore

For the Sick: Bill Leane, Jenny Liston, Perry Law, Sam Russo, Jay Russel, Anita Crowley, Lisette & Noah Vissenjou, Bernadette and Murray Ukena, Lisette Visenjou, Noelle Parsons, Jonathan Salerno, Barbara Kirsch, Mark Bramich, Charles, Daniel, Denzil Britto, Trevor Cross, Sonani Cramer.



To access our livestreamed Masses please scan the QR Code

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 31Jan/1 Feb 2026

First Reading: **Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13**

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands.

Seek integrity, seek humility:

you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people,

and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong, will tell no lies;

and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths.

But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm 145

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Second Reading: **1 Cor 1:26-31**

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people,

or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; Your reward will be great in heaven. Alleluia!

Gospel: **Matthew 5:1-12**

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Is God inviting you to take the next step – or help someone else take theirs?

IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

MON 2 FEB	TUE 3 FEB	WED 4 FEB	THUR 5 FEB	FRI 6 FEB	SAT 7 FEB	SUN 8 FEB
OFFICE CLOSED	9.15am Mass (Fr Libeesh)	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Anointing Mass (Fr Libeesh)	5.30pm (Church) Reconciliation	9.00am Mass (Fr Jerald)
7.00pm (Church) Chaldean Community	7.30pm (Parish Centre PC) RCIA Meeting	7.30pm (Church) Baptism Prep	3.30pm (PC) Sacramental Program	10.00am (PC) Senior's Morning Tea	6.00pm Mass (Fr Jerald)	11.00am School Staff Commissioning Mass (Fr Jerald)
	7.30pm (Church) Chaldean Community		5.00pm (Church) SSS Choir Practice	6.00pm (Cinema) Warriors	7.00pm (PC) Chaldean Women's G	12.30pm (Church) Chaldean Catechism
Fr Jerald will be on holiday from 12 January to 6 February				6.00pm (Church) Eucharistic Adoration	PLEASE NOTE: THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY	2.00pm (Church) Chaldean Community
WEEKDAY MASSES St Simon's—Tuesday and Friday St Jude's—Wednesday and Thursday COMMUNION SERVICE St Simon's—Wednesday and Thursday St Jude's—Friday				8.00pm (Church) 11am Choir Practice		3.30 (PC) Chaldean Community
						5.00pm Youth Mass Fr Steve

NEXT WEEKEND

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time — 7/8 FEB 2026 — Isaiah 58:7-10, 1 Cor 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16

MASS TIMES	7 FEB, SATURDAY 6.00PM	8 FEB, SUNDAY 9.00AM	8 FEB, SUNDAY 11.00AM	8 FEB, SUNDAY 5.00PM
Commentator	Tineke Edwards	Tony Fry	Ildi Cilter	Paige
Reader 1	Marcello Martino	Margaret Ng	Pia Pagotto	Chrystom
Reader 2	Alden/Sam D'Couto	Janina Woronczak	Ingrid Kertesi	Claire
Welcome Desk	Yvonne Muspratt	Maggie Braganza	Morris Dalton	
Children's Liturgy	Gillian E & Malaika deM	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	
Flowers	Melanie Jacobs	Altar Society	Melanie Jacobs & Yvonne Muspratt	Church Cleaning
				Marius Francis, Antony Singarasa, Judy Schmidt
				Thabesan Family