

## 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 PRIEST

### PARISH PRIEST

Fr Jerald Mariadas  
jerald.mariadas@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  
Email: cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au



Scan the QR code to subscribe to our Parish Newsletter

(03) 9764 4058 @ rowville@cam.org.au

# St Simon the Apostle Parish

*A compassionate community celebrating and living in Christ*

2 Taylors Lane, ROWVILLE VIC 3178 | <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/rowville>



## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 16/17 MAY 2026 | YEAR A

**Matthew 28:18** | *'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.'*

This Sunday we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, a moment that draws the Easter season toward its fullness and sends the Church forward with purpose. In the Gospel of Matthew, the risen Christ meets his disciples on the mountain. Some worship, some hesitate—yet all are sent. There is something deeply human in that detail.

Even those who are closest to Jesus experience both faith and uncertainty. And still, they are entrusted with a mission.

“Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.” These words are not given to a select few, but to the whole community of believers. Discipleship, then, is not a title we hold, but a way of life we are invited to live. It is the ongoing movement from encountering Christ to sharing Christ—sometimes with confidence, sometimes with hesitation, but always with the promise of His presence: “I am with you always, to the end of time.”

The Ascension reminds us that Jesus does not leave us abandoned; rather, He entrusts His mission to ordinary people filled with the



Holy Spirit. As we hear in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples are told not to stand still looking into the sky, but to wait for the Spirit who will empower them to go forth. Discipleship is never static. It is always outward-facing—toward the world, toward the needs of others, toward the places where hope is needed most.

St Paul, in the letter to the Ephesians, prays that our hearts may be enlightened to know the hope to which we are called. That hope is not abstract. It is lived in service, in love, in generosity, and in the quiet faithfulness of those who build up the Church day by day.

As we mark Parish Volunteer Month, we are reminded that every act of service is a form of discipleship. Whether visible or hidden, structured or simple, each offering of time and care becomes part of Christ's mission alive in our community.

To be a disciple is to go out, to serve, and to trust that Christ goes with us.

**In Christ,  
Fr Jerald**

## DISCERNING DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAMME

Over the coming weeks, our parish will focus on the Discerning Discipleship Programme—a meaningful opportunity for each of us to prayerfully reflect on our calling and respond generously to God's invitation in our lives.

Through this journey, we will hear, read, and watch the testimonies of fellow parishioners who have discovered purpose and joy in serving within our community. Their stories remind us that discipleship is not passive, but a living and active response to God's love.

We warmly invite you to take part in this time of discernment: to listen to God's voice, to consider the gifts you have been given, and to reflect on how you are called to offer, serve, and share your faith. Together, let us continue to build a vibrant parish where each person plays a vital role in witnessing Christ's love through our ministries and daily lives.

**Fr Jerald Mariadas**  
Parish priest

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### VIV's ReCare 20 May

#### A Beatles Afternoon

Enjoy a special live performance by "Players", belting out all your favourite Beatles hits you know and love!

**Time: 11:00am – 2:00pm**

With FREE morning tea, 2 course lunch, Live entertainment and Dancing! Bring your friends for a fun afternoon

**For more information:**

**Brian Crowley – 0429 090 770**



We sincerely thank all parishioners for your generous and ongoing support of our parish through the Thanksgiving Program. Your contributions are truly appreciated and help support the life and mission of our parish community.

The new sets of Thanksgiving Envelopes will be available for collection at the end of May. Please note that the current envelopes will continue through until the end of June.



*Please take a moment to pray for our Grade 3 children as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week*

### Sacraments for children attending Non-Catholic Schools



#### FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Please reach out to the Parish office via the QR code or to enroll for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation



#### WE PRAY FOR

For those who have recently died especially **Thi Xuan Dao Le, Peter Hingston** and those whose memories are sacred to us at this time **Bridget David, Micael Duc Tinh Ngo, Ondray Ephraums, Alice and Terry Redden**

**For the Sick:** Perry Law, Sam Russo, Jay Russel, Aneta Crowley, Lisette & Noah Vissenjou, Bernadette Ukena, Brooke Hiho, Noelle Parsons, Jonathan Salerno, Mark Bramich, Denzil Britto, Rvevin Serrano, Paul McCole, Silivelia Talia, Nick Brennan, Ropeti Talia, Paul Dugdale, Teresa & Paul Guiliano



### Our MOVIE Morning on 22 May showing in our Theatre at 12noon

Les Misérables Victor Hugo's stirring novel of redemption and revolution is brought to life by the artistry of director Billie August and his brilliant cast: Liam Neeson, Uma Thurman, Claire Danes, Geoffrey Rush.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Next up we have Paul—the Apostle of Christ on 29 May**



It is with deep sadness that we inform our parish community of the death of **Peter Hingston**

The Funeral Mass will be held at St Simon's, on Tuesday, 19 May 10.30am.



## Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Join us for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea as we come together in friendship and support of those affected by cancer. Enjoy a warm cuppa, sweet treats, and good company while helping raise funds for an important cause. Everyone is warmly invited to attend. Bring along a friend and share in a wonderful morning of community and care.

**Date:** Friday 29 of May 2026

**Time:** 10.00am

**Venue:** Parish Centre

**Entry Fee:** \$10.00

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church for catering purposes. We look forward to sharing this special morning with you.



**Raise a cuppa to a cancer free future.**

## PARISHIONER STORIES

Volunteering with Children's Liturgy and the Saint Vincent de Paul Society at our parish has been a truly fulfilling experience. I love being part of a community that puts faith into action, serving those in need and nurturing the spiritual growth of children. I've found lifelong friends among fellow volunteers who share my passion for making a difference.

There was a time I almost had to step back due to juggling full-time work and managing my own health. But the support and flexibility of the parish

community made it possible for me to stay involved in ways that work for me. One moment that has had an impact on me was helping distribute Christmas hampers with the SVDP team to families in need. Seeing the genuine joy and gratitude on people's faces as they received a hamper filled with food and essentials, is a powerful reminder of why we do what we do. It wasn't just about the food - it was about dignity, compassion, and letting people know they're seen and valued. But honestly, volunteering is a great way to focus on the positive instead of dwelling on things that we cannot

change and are in God's hands. I'd encourage anyone thinking about volunteering to start small. You don't need to be perfect or have a lot of time. Just show up, be willing to serve, and be open to being changed. You'll be amazed at what you receive in return - friendships, perspective, and a sense of purpose that doesn't come from anywhere else. Trust me, it's worth it. I'm so grateful to be part of this caring community, and I'm humbled by the opportunity to contribute in my own small way.

**Gillian**



## TAKE UP YOUR BAPTISMAL CALL TO BE A WITNESS TO JESUS

Who is God sending you to?

Invite someone to church



St Simon the Apostle Parish, Rowville

**EXPERIENCE A NEW PENTECOST**  
YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT  
SAT 23RD MAY

This is not just a retreat. This is an **ENCOUNTER**.

"He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."  
(Matthew 3:11)

What if the fire of God... is meant for **YOU?**

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

- Real encounters with the Holy Spirit
- Feel the personal embrace of God's love
- Testimonies of Faith
- Silence and reflection
- Prayer Ministry

SCAN ME

BOOK NOW!

Led by Fr Tony Alex MGL  
A day that's real, raw & Spirit-led  
Organised by Mission Warriors YAG Rowville

Ages: 16-35yrs | Saturday 23rd May (Pentecost Eve)  
10am - 4pm | St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna VIC 3152  
\$59pp | Lunch Provided

Contact: Kim 0403 323 353 | Dinelle 0416 810 541  
**DON'T JUST BELIEVE IN GOD ENCOUNTER HIM.**

## SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

A safeguarding professional from the Archdiocese will be visiting **St Jude's Parish** to deliver an **Essential Safeguarding Training Session:**

**Date: Sunday, 24 May, 11:45am**

**Location: St Jude's Church**

- For all volunteers from **St Jude's and St Simon's** who have NOT completed safeguarding training in the past 3 years
- Archdiocesan compliance requires all volunteers to complete their training every 3 years

**Contact to register or for more information:**

St Jude's Scoresby – 9763 7302  
St Simon's Rowville – 9764 4058

Save the Date  
St Simon's Parish

**DANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
5 SEPTEMBER 2026  
@7PM

## Appliance Repairs & Installation Service

We specialize in the repair of:

- Washing Machines
- Dishwashers
- Dryers
- Electric Ovens
- Microwaves
- Cooktops
- Range hoods
- Fridges
- Freezers Test
- Tag Services

Contact Ash: 0413 913 619

Our NEXT Men's Group  
Will be meeting on  
Wednesday, 27 May @7pm

## IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

MON 18 MAY	TUE 19 MAY	WED 20 MAY	THUR 21 MAY	FRI 22 MAY	SAT 23 MAY	SUN 24 MAY
OFFICE CLOSED	9.15am Mass (Fr Jerald)	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Mass (Fr Jerald)	11.00am (Church) Eucharistic Ministers Training	9.00am Mass (Fr Jerald)
7.00pm (PC) Chaldean Community	10.30am Funeral of Peter Hingston	11.00am (PC) Viv's ReCare	5.00pm (Church) SSS Choir Practice	12.00pm (Theatre) Movie <i>Les Miserables</i>	5.30pm (Church) Reconciliation	11.00am Mass (Fr Jerald)
	1.30pm (PC) Craft Group		6.00pm (Church) Warriors Outreach	6.00pm (Church) Eucharistic Adoration	6.00pm Mass (Fr Jerald)	12.30pm—4.30pm Chaldean Community
	2.00pm (PC) Shawl Group		6.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation	8.00pm (Church) 11am Choir Practice		5.00pm Youth Mass
	3.30pm (PC) Sacramental Program					6.30pm (PC) SSJ Youth Group

**First Reading: Acts 1:1-11**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

**Responsorial Psalm 46**

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23**

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the

Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

**Gospel Acclamation: Matt 28:19-20**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

“ **What is Jesus asking of you right now?**  
**Not someday. Not when life slows down. Today** ”

**Seminary Enquiry Day Invitation**

Young men (18+) who may be discerning a vocation to the priesthood are warmly invited to attend a **Seminary Enquiry Day on Saturday, 23 May 2026 at Corpus Christi College.**



**SAVE THE DATE  
14 NOV 2026**



**Eucharistic Minister Training**

**will be held at St Simon's Church on 23 May @11am.**

Please register at the Welcome Desk on the Volunteer Registration Forms. **Share your gifts and continue the work of Jesus.**

**Where is God calling you.  
Are you called to serve?**

**PLEASE NOTE THE PARISH CALENDAR IS ON PAGE 3**

NEXT WEEKEND		Pentecost Sunday — 23/24 MAY 2026 — Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23			
<b>MASS TIMES</b>	<b>23 MAY, SATURDAY 6.00PM</b>	<b>24 MAY, SUNDAY 9.00AM</b>	<b>24 MAY, SUNDAY 11.00AM</b>	<b>24 MAY, SUNDAY 5.00PM</b>	
<b>Commentator</b>	Tineke Edwards	Phil Mawdsley	Ildi Cilter	Paige	
<b>Reader 1</b>	Thabesan Family	Enakshi Jayamanne	Christina Liew	Gloria	
<b>Reader 2</b>	Thabesan Family	Dorothy Stack	Jan Richards	Chantal	
<b>Welcome Desk</b>	Bernie Fernando	Enakshi Jayamanne	Pia Pagotto	—	
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Julie F & Alicia C	Elysia G & Sebastian H	No Children's Liturgy		
<b>Flowers</b>	Nilmini Fernando	<b>Altar Society</b>	Lidwin & Samuel Hudson	<b>Church Cleaning</b>	Marina Ruffolo, Diana Paul-Anna, Kim Phoon
				Volunteer Needed	