

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 **Charismatic 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

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN NOTICES

Wednesday 4.00pm

Email: cyrilla.dsouza@cam.org.au



To access our
livestreamed
Masses
please scan the
QR Code



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>



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

11/12 JULY 2026 | Year A

Matthew 13:19 | *When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart*

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the familiar parable of the sower, reminding us that God's Word is generously scattered into every heart. The question is not whether God speaks, but whether we are ready to receive what He is saying.

The different types of soil represent the many ways we respond to God's invitation. At times, life's distractions, disappointments, or worries can prevent His Word from taking root. We may hear the Gospel each week, yet struggle to allow it to shape the way we live. Jesus encourages us to look honestly at the condition of our hearts and to ask what might be preventing His love from bearing fruit within us.



The good news is that the sower never stops sowing. God does not give up on us. He patiently continues to offer His grace, inviting us to deepen our faith and trust in Him. Even hearts that have become hardened or weary can be renewed by His love.

As disciples, we are called not only to receive God's Word but to live it. Through simple acts of kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and service, the

seed grows and bears fruit in our families, our parish, and our community.

May we prepare the soil of our hearts through prayer, openness, and a willingness to listen, so that God's Word may flourish within us and bring forth a rich harvest for His Kingdom.

In Christ,
Fr Jerald

Discerning Discipleship



The parable of the sower reminds us that God continually plants the seed of His Word in our hearts. As disciples, we are invited to nurture that seed so it may grow and bear fruit in our daily lives.

Discipleship is not simply about knowing the Gospel—it is about allowing the Gospel to shape who we are. Every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, every moment of forgiveness, and every opportunity to serve becomes a sign that God's Word is alive within us.

The rich soil Jesus speaks of is a heart that is open, generous, and willing to respond to His call. As we continue our Discerning Discipleship journey, may we ask ourselves: **How is God inviting me to bear fruit for His Kingdom?** Even the smallest response, offered with faith and love, can become a blessing that touches the lives of many.

Have you discovered our monthly Potluck Dinner?

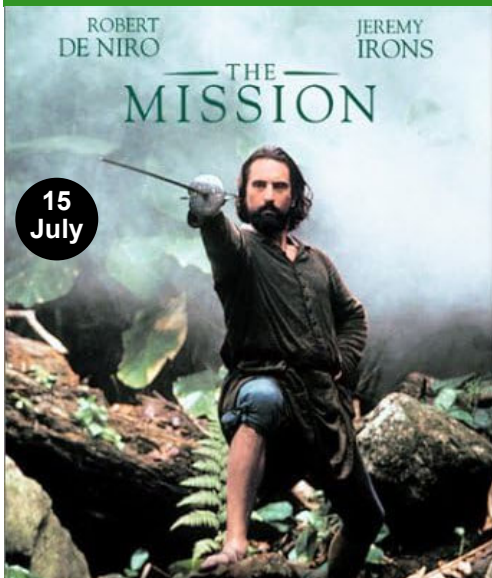
Bring along your favourite dish to share and enjoy an evening of friendship, laughter and relaxed conversation.

Whether you're new to the parish or have been part of St Simon's for years, everyone is warmly welcome. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow parishioners, make new friends, and feel more connected to our parish family.

Friday 17 July, 7pm,
Parish Centre

**Bring a plate to share—
we'd love to see you there!**

UPCOMING EVENTS



15 July 10.30am and 7pm

A Parish Movie from the MOVIE Club

The Mission

Featuring a majestic score by Ennio Morricone and lush Oscar-winning cinematography by Chris Menges. It won the top prize at Cannes in 1986 and was nominated for a Best Film Oscar.

St Simon's Cinema

Please book your spot at our Helpdesk



MOVIE CLUB

New Members Welcome

Interested in joining our Movie Club? Help choose the movies and enjoy fellowship through film.

Please **register your name** in the book at the helpdesk.

Sessions are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.30am and 7.00pm.

For enquiries, contact the Parish Office or Bill Walton – 0434 331 759

"DANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

Presented by
St. Simon the Apostle Parish, Rowville

Date: Sat, 5 September 2026

Time: 7pm to Midnight

Venue: The Polish Hall 'Syrena'
1325 Stud Road, Rowville

Donation: \$80 per Adult
(inclusive of Buffet Dinner)
BYO or purchased from the Bar

Live Music: Replay 6

Dress Code: Ladies After 5 | Gents Smart Casual

INQUIRIES/TICKETS:
Dawn – 0427 191 111
Shanti – 0412 259 630

Chris – 0418 576 018
Ben – 0434 506 158
Cedric – 0414 503 687

5 Sep

JULY EVENTS - MISSION WARRIORS

Thu 16: Outreach Group Cook Up - SS Parish Centre - 6pm

Fri 17: Outreach Service - Alamein Comm Centre - 5pm

Sun 19: WARRIORS MEETUP - St Simon's Parish - 6.30pm

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Beginning Sunday, 19 July, Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held each week during the **11.00am Mass** throughout the school term.

We warmly invite families with young children to join us as they encounter God's Word in a welcoming and age-appropriate setting.

Come along—we have a wonderful team ready to welcome your family.

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

Women's Group meet up 23 July, 10.00am! At Stonez Restaurant

All are warmly invited to join in the fun and chatter, have a cuppa and make a friend!



**SAVE THE DATE
14 NOV 2026**

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**

Overseas Catholic Weddings



Parishioners planning to celebrate their Catholic wedding overseas are kindly advised to begin the necessary paperwork at least three months prior to the wedding date.

All documentation must be prepared in consultation with the local parish priest and forwarded through the Archdiocese of Melbourne to the parish where the wedding will take place.

To ensure a smooth and timely process, please start early and seek guidance from the parish office.

WE PRAY FOR

Those who have recently died:

Christopher Chee Keong Wei, Suzanne d'Argent, and those whose memories are sacred to us at this time especially Pietro Cristiano, Carolina Cristiano, Terry Bowker, Ken Bowker, Warren Ithier

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, Jonny Salerno, Janaka Wijayanayake, Alex Zunica, Flora Palleschi, Vlad, Delene Jones

Prayer List Update

We are grateful for the prayers offered for those who are sick.

To ensure our Prayer List remains current, we kindly ask families to review the names of their loved ones. If someone has recovered or you would like their name removed, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for helping us continue this important ministry of prayer and care.

PARISHIONER STORIES

Growing Our Parish Home Together

When St Simon's Church was first built, a small group of parishioners saw more than a new building—they saw the beginning of a place that would become a spiritual home for generations to come. With willing hands, practical skills, and generous hearts, Fred, Ernie, Rodney, Brian, Ben, Henry, Anna Lai, Harvey, Candice and many others set about transforming the grounds into the beautiful setting we enjoy today.

Each person contributed in their own unique way. Fred lovingly brought wholesale vegetables to sell after Mass to help fund the parish gardens. Ernie



moved boulders and built retaining walls that still stand today. Ben was the dependable all-rounder, always ready to lend a hand wherever it was needed. Together, they planted trees, laid lawns, established garden beds, and later created the Memorial Walls (three) and peaceful Memorial Gardens where many parishioners now pause to pray and reflect.

That story continues today. Ernie remains part of the team, joined by Stephen, Bernard and Jenny, Leo, Glenn, Ben, and other dedicated parishioners who generously give their time and talents to care for our parish grounds. Their quiet work often goes unnoticed, yet every tree pruned, garden tended, and path maintained helps create a welcoming and prayerful place for our parish family.

As Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si'*, "*Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue.*" Caring for our parish home is one way we live out that calling.

There is always more to do, and we would love to welcome new members to our Gardening and Maintenance Team.

Is God inviting you to serve behind the scenes? Could you help our parish continue to flourish? Please stop by for a chat—we would love to welcome you. **The Gardening Team**



VMCH Wantirna Aged Care is seeking compassionate volunteers to support our residents through conversation, companionship, and assisting them to and from Pastoral Care activities.

Days and times are flexible, and training is provided.

Volunteers play a valued role in enriching the lives of our residents. Some residents use wheelchairs; however, no lifting is required, and all areas are easily accessible.

Volunteers will need to obtain (with assistance from VMCH):

- National Police Check
- Working with Children Check (WWCC)
- Current Flu Vaccination

To learn more or express your interest, please contact **John Prince or Angela Lomen**, Pastoral Care Practitioners, via email at **John.Prince@vmch.com.au or Angela.Lomen@vmch.com.au**, or phone (03) 9800 7220.



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.

- Young Discipleship
- Missionary Leadership
- Formation and Participation

For more information on the Melbourne Synod please scan the QR Code above.



CARE TO CONNECT

If you have a family member or friend who is housebound, with their permission, please leave their details in our **Care to Connect Book at the Help Desk.**

Our volunteers will be pleased to call or visit them.

IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

MON 13 JULY	TUE 14 JULY	WED 15 JULY	THUR 16 JULY	FRI 17 JULY	SAT 18 JULY	SUN 19 JULY
OFFICE CLOSED	9.15am Mass (Fr Jerald)	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Communion Service	9.15am Mass (Fr Jerald)	5.30pm (Church) Reconciliation	9.00am Mass (Bishop Tomlinson)
7.00pm (PC) Chaldean Community	1.30pm (PC) Craft Group	10.30am (Cinema) Movie—The Mission	3.30pm (PC) Confirmation Classes	3.00pm (PC) Warriors Outreach (Prep for Service)	6.00pm Mass (Bishop Tomlinson)	11.00am Mass (Fr Steve)
7.00pm (Meeting Rm) SVdP Meeting	3.30pm (PC) Sacramental Program	7.00pm (Cinema) Movie—The Mission	5.00pm (PC) SSS Choir Practice	6.00pm (Church) Eucharistic Adoration		12.30pm—4.30pm Chaldean Community
7.00pm (Zoom) Gospel Reflection			6.00pm (PC) Warriors Outreach (Group Cooking)	7.00pm (PC) Potluck Dinner		5.00pm Charismatic Youth Mass
				8.00pm (Church) 11am Choir Practice		6.30pm (PC) Warriors Meetup

First Reading: *Isaiah 55:10-11*

The 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.’

Responsorial Psalm 64

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

Second Reading: *Romans 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.

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: *Matthew 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!’



Our Parish Food Stall



Take home delicious homemade food and support our Parish Retreat!

Our talented parish cooks have prepared a wonderful selection of homemade meals and sweet treats for you to enjoy.

Available after all Masses

25 & 26 July | \$10 a box

Every purchase helps raise funds for our Parish Retreat.

Enjoy a delicious meal while supporting our parish community.

Thank you for your generosity!



A hearing loop system has been installed in the Church to assist those with hearing difficulties and support fuller participation in our liturgies.



For information on using the hearing loop, please contact the Parish Office or email: liza.jansz@cam.org.au.

PLEASE NOTE THE PARISH CALENDAR IS ON PAGE 3

Quinceañera Mass

(A Coming-of-Age Celebration in the Latin American Tradition)

The **Quinceañera Mass** is a Catholic celebration of thanksgiving marking a young woman's 15th birthday. During the Mass, she gives thanks to God for the gift of her life, renews her baptismal promises, and asks for His guidance and blessings as she enters a new stage of life.

Aaliyah Brearley warmly invites the St Simon's Parish community to join her family in celebrating this special occasion.

**Saturday 25 July at 2pm
St Simon's Church**

NEXT WEEKEND		16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — 18/19 JULY 2026 Wisdom 12:13.16-19, Romans 8:26-27, Matthew 13:24-43		
MASS TIMES	18 JULY, SATURDAY 6.00PM	19 JULY, SUNDAY 9.00AM	19 JULY, SUNDAY 11.00AM	19 JULY, SUNDAY 5.00PM
Commentator	Stephen White	Phil Mawdsley	Loretta Hughes	Paige
Reader 1	Thabesan Family	Janina Woronczak	Jan Richards	Saniru
Reader 2	Thabesan Family	Margaret Ng	Alf Kakala	Zara
Welcome Desk	Bernie Fernando	Victoria Kong	Josie Fanti	
Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy	Alicia C, Julie F & Yasinta N	
Flowers	Beatrice Polydor	Altar Society	Sheila Kelaart & Bernie Fernando	Church Cleaning
			Marina Ruffolo, Diana Paul-Anna, Kim Phoon	Volunteer Needed