

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>



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15/16 AUGUST 2026 | Year A

Matthew 15:24 | 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.'

Today's Gospel introduces us to a woman who refuses to give up. She approaches Jesus with a deep and personal plea: her daughter is suffering, and she comes seeking His mercy. At first, Jesus appears silent, and even the disciples want her sent away. Yet she remains. She continues to call out, "Lord, help me."



Her faith is remarkable because she trusts Jesus even when she does not understand what is happening. She does not demand an answer; she humbly persists in hope. Jesus ultimately recognises this faith and says, "Woman, great is your faith!" Her daughter is healed.

There is another important lesson here. The woman

was a Canaanite—an outsider to the Jewish community—yet Jesus allows her faith to become an example for His disciples. The Gospel challenges us to look beyond our familiar boundaries and recognise that God can be at work in people and places we may not expect. As a parish community, perhaps we can ask: **Whose voice might we be failing to hear? Who might God be inviting us to welcome, accompany or learn from?**

May we have the woman's courage to keep seeking Christ, and hearts open enough to recognise His presence in one another.

In Christ,
Fr Jerald

We invite Disciples to assist at St Jude Novena,
at St Jude's Church

The Novena is from 6.30pm to 7.30pm

If you can help with mass readings or slide presentation at St Jude's church from 19 – 28 October,

Please select your preferred schedule on the Registration Sheet at the Help Desk.



Are you, or someone you know, interested in exploring the Catholic faith or becoming Catholic?

Our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) journey for 2026–2027 begins on

**Tuesday, 18 August at 7.30pm
@St Simon's Parish Centre.**

Our first evening is an informal Information, Meet & Greet—a chance to meet others, ask questions and discover what the journey involves.

Come and See... you are warmly welcome!

For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

UPCOMING EVENTS



18
Aug

Craft Group & Prayer Shawl Ministry

We meet at the Parish Centre, sharing a bit of creativity, joy and laughter, in the service of those in need.

18 Aug — 1.30pm & 2.00pm

See you there!

19
Aug

Viv's RE Care

NEXT EVENT

WED, 19 August, 11.30am—2.00pm

Join us as we gather for a chat and BBQ

SUN 23 August, after 9am & 11am Masses

23
Aug

A Viv's ReCare Fundraiser



26
Aug

Men's Group

Wednesday, 26 August, 7.00pm

Join us for friendship and encouraging conversations.

Save the Date!

Indoor Lawn Bowls on Friday, 23 October 2026 at the Dandenong Club, cnr of Dandenong Rd and Stud Rd

Cost: \$30 per person

More details will be available soon



SAVE THE DATE 14 NOV 2026

Parish Potluck Dinner

Friday 21 August, 7pm

In the Parish Centre

Come. Share. Connect.



A table full of
good food
great conversation
new friendships

Bring a favourite dish and share your culture and cuisine.

Meet someone new.

Enjoy familiar faces.

A place to belong.

A community on mission.

Everyone is welcome!



16
Sep

RABBIT PROOF FENCE

The film follows the Aboriginal girls as they walk for nine weeks along 1,600km (990mi) of the Australian rabbit-proof fence to return to their community at Jigalong.

16 SEPTEMBER @ 7.00pm

ST SIMON'S CINEMA

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

DEADLINE FOR PARISH BULLETIN NOTICES

Wednesday 4.00pm

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



Those who have recently died
Chamindra Fernando, Ginette Raffaele and those whose memories

are sacred to us at this time especially George Cagliarini, Teresa Ooi, Fred Misso, Crescenzo Di Scala, Elliot Rees

For the Sick: Perry Law, Sam Russo, Jay Russel, Aneta Crowley, Lisette & Noah Vissenjou, Bernadette Ukena, Brooke Hiho, Jonathan Salerno, Mark Bramich, Denzil Britto, Rvevin Serrano, Paul McCole, Silivelia Talia, Nick Brennan, Ropeti Talia, Paul Dugdale, Teresa & Paul Guiliano, Jonny Salerno, Alex Zunica, Flora Palleschi, Vlad, Joe Vail, Delene Jones, Tania Stewart, Jacqueline White



The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese.

Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the **Priests Retirement Foundation, the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, CatholicCare Victoria Chaplaincy Program, Melbourne Overseas Mission, John Pierce Centre, University of Divinity for the Catholic Theological College** as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants.

Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund and support seminarian formation. Campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards are available in the church. **You can also donate online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign or by scanning the QR code.**



THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2026



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign



As follow-up to the Plenary Council in 2020, each diocese is required to run a Synod to seek Holy Spirit guidance. The Melbourne Synod, in December, is a meeting of clergy, religious and laity. The Synod focus is on three categories that emerged from the Plenary Council: **Missionary Leadership, Formation and Participation and Young Discipleship.**

To inform this Synod, local gatherings of prayerful conversations are encouraged. **St Simon's participated in a gathering for the Archdiocese's Eastern region**, held in Bulleen (8 August) and run by the Diocesan team and Archbishop Comensoli. Around 100 people met in groups to listen deeply and courageously identify what is needed to grow as a synodal Church in relation to the identified themes.

St Simon's held a similar parish gathering

(12 August) to which parishioners were invited to engage in spiritual conversations and prayerfully discern the Spirit's guidance for the Archdiocese. **An engaged group of around 20 explored ways to encounter Christ, encourage the young, and be transformed from Church consumers to contributors.** The evening ended with a powerful infilling of the Holy Spirit as heads bowed, participants held hands and sought the Spirit's guidance, courage and power.

To nominate a parishioner to take part in the Melbourne Synod in December, please contact the Parish Office.

— Nimmi

MOST REV STEPHEN WANG PARENT WORKSHOP

**WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026
AT 7:00PM**

Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

TO JOIN
ONLINE
Scan the
QR code



A special invitation to Parents

Parents across MACS schools and the Archdiocese are warmly invited to hear Fr Stephen Wang, visiting from Rome, as he explores the inspiring topic:

**Accompaniment and Conversion:
Walking with our Children Toward Christ.**

Join us and be encouraged as you deepen your journey of faith and discover practical ways to accompany your children as they grow in their relationship with Christ.

Online Link to Join: <https://shorturl.at/02j66>

Meeting ID: 482 438 471 206 0

Passcode: bw6cm35P

Or Scan QR Code to Join

SYCAMORE



Pray for Our Confirmation Children

On 22 & 23 August, we welcome our Confirmation children as they make their commitment to this important step in their faith journey.

We invite our parish community to keep them and their families in prayer as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. May they be strengthened in faith, filled with the Holy Spirit, and supported by our loving parish community.

2026 Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle

Our Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle is one of St Simon's major annual fundraisers, helping support the ongoing mission and operational needs of our parish.

If you are on the Thanksgiving Program, please collect your pre-allocated raffle book from the foyer (arranged in surname order). **Additional books are also available from the raffle volunteers.**

1st Prize: \$12,000 Coles/Myer Gift Card; 2nd Prize: \$4,000 Coles/Myer Gift Card; 3rd Prize: \$2,000 Coles/Myer Gift Card; 4th Prize: \$1,000 Coles/Myer Gift Card; 5th Prize: \$500 Coles/Myer Gift Card. *Each book contains 10 tickets (\$20 total).*

Please return sold tickets and payment by **Sunday, 6 September** after Mass or to the Parish Office during office hours. Thank you for your generous support in helping make this year's raffle a success!

IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK

MON 17 AUGUST	TUE 18 AUGUST	WED 19 AUGUST	THUR 20 AUGUST	FRI 21 AUGUST	SAT 22 AUGUST	SUN 23 AUGUST
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 (Fr Jerald)
7.00pm (PC) Chaldean Community	1.30pm (PC) Craft Group	11.30am (PC) Viv's ReCare	3.30pm (PC) Confirmation Classes	3.00pm (PC) Warriors Outreach	6.00pm Confirmation Commitment Mass (Fr Jerald)	11.00am Confirmation Commitment Mass (Fr Jerald)
	2.00pm (PC) Shawl Group	7.00pm (PC) Social Committee	5.00pm (PC) SSS Choir Practice	6.00pm (Church) Eucharistic Adoration		12.30pm (Church) Baptisms
	3.30pm (PC) Sacramental Program		6.00pm (PC) Warriors Outreach	7.00pm (PC) Potluck Dinner		12.30pm—4.30pm Chaldean Community
	7.30pm (PC) RCIA			8.00pm (Church) 11am Choir Practice		5.00pm (Church) Charismatic Youth Mass
						6.00pm (PC) SSJ Youth Group

First Reading: *Isaiah 56:1.6-7*

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm 66

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading:

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.



Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel: *Matthew 15:21-28*

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



CARE TO CONNECT

is our parish pastoral care ministry, reaching out with compassion to those who are housebound, experiencing illness, grief, loss, or other challenging times.

If you or someone you know would appreciate a friendly visit, a listening ear, or a caring connection with our parish community, please contact the Parish Office or, with their permission, add their details to the **Care to Connect Book at the Help Desk.**

If you feel called to share Christ's compassion through this ministry, we would also love to hear from you.

With grateful hearts we present an update on our Food Stall Fundraisers



At the Parish Retreat stall 25-26 July we raised \$2190.00 to cover the retreat costs.

At the Church Refurbishments stall 8-9 Aug we raised \$2302.25



We thank you for your spontaneous generosity and support!

We are especially grateful to all who organised and prepared the delicious food on these weekends.

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER		21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — 22/23 AUGUST 2026 Isaiah 22:19-23, Romans 11:33-36, Matthew 16:13-20			
MASS TIMES	22 AUG, SATURDAY 6.00PM	23 AUG, SUNDAY 9.00AM	23 AUG, SUNDAY 11.00AM	23 AUG, SUNDAY 5.00PM	
Commentator	Stephen White	Pam Comerford	Christina Liew	Paige	
Reader 1	Saniru Perera	Bernard Mulholland	Alf Kakala	Gloria	
Reader 2	Julie Faull	Dorothy Stack	Junius De Silva	Chantel	
Welcome Desk	Seymon Martino	Maggie Braganza	Pia Pagotto		
Children's Liturgy			Malaika deM & Roshani DeS		
Flowers	Beatrice Polydor	Altar Society	Melanie Jacobs & Yvonne Muspratt	Church Cleaning	Marius Francis, Antony Singarasa
				Thabesan Family	