

OUR MASS TIMES

Tue - Fri: 9.15am Mass
Fri: 6 - 7pm Adoration and Reconciliation
Sat: 6.00 pm (Livestream)
Sun: 9.00 and 11.00am
Sun: 5.00pm **Youth Mass**

RECONCILIATION

Fri: From 6 - 7pm
Sat: From 5.30pm - 5.50pm

OFFICE HOURS

Tue to Fri 9am - 4pm

OUR PRIESTS

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Jerald Mariadas
jerald.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

WEDDINGS, MARRIAGE PREP, FUNERALS

Please contact our parish office

ANOIDING OF THE SICK

By private arrangement
Or contact St Jude's Parish Office
on 9763 7302

OUR SERVICES

PARISH CENTRE FACILITIES HIRE

Please Contact 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
for the week

St Simon the Apostle Parish

A compassionate community celebrating and living in Christ

Address: 2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178 | Telephone: (03) 9764 4058 | Email: rowville@cam.org.au

YouTube Channel: tinyurl.com/s36hstf Website: https://www.melbatholic.org/s/rowville



Third Sunday of Advent | 13 / 14 December 2025 | Year A

Message from Fr Jerald

Gospel Reflection — Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Matthew 11:2–11 • The Candle of Joy

This Sunday, we light the third Advent candle, the Candle of Joy—a reminder that even in seasons of waiting, God is already at work, bringing light into the places where we long for hope. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist, sitting in prison, sends word to Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come?" It is a moment filled not with certainty but with questions, longing, and perhaps even doubt. John had prepared the way for the Messiah, yet now he finds himself waiting in the shadows, unsure of how God's promise is unfolding.

Jesus responds not with a simple "yes," but with signs of God's restoring love: "The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Good News proclaimed to them."

These are not merely miracles—they are glimpses of the Kingdom breaking into the world, even when circumstances seem bleak.

And this is where Advent Joy finds its meaning. Joy is not the same as pleasure or cheerfulness. It is deeper. It is the quiet confidence that God is present, working in ways we may not yet understand. Joy is the gift that grows even in uncertainty, because it is rooted not in what we can control, but in the faithfulness of God.

John's question reminds us that faith often includes waiting and wondering. Yet Jesus' response invites us to look again, to notice the signs of grace already happening around us—small acts of kindness, unexpected hope, the steady presence of Christ in our daily lives.

As we light the Candle of Joy, may we allow this joy to take root in us:

Joy that springs from God's nearness

Joy that persists even in unanswered questions

Joy that prepares our hearts to welcome Christ anew

May this week of Advent open our eyes to the quiet miracles in our midst and fill us with the deep, abiding joy that comes from knowing that Emmanuel—God-with-us—is truly near.

With Blessings, Fr Jerald Mariadas



We Need your Help: Parish Christmas Card Distribution

As we prepare for the joy of Christmas, we are once again reaching out to our community to deliver our Parish Christmas Cards, which include this year's Christmas Mass Times. Parishioners are invited to help with this important outreach. Bundles of 50 cards will be available after all Masses this weekend. If you are able to assist, please take a bundle (or two!) and mark the area you will be delivering on the Zone Maps provided.

Your generosity helps us share the message of Christ's love with our neighbours and ensures everyone in our community knows they are welcome at our parish this Christmas.

Thank you for your support!

Advent Reconciliation Services

As we prepare in earnest for the birth of our Saviour, we invite you to prepare your hearts to receive our Lord. This is a special opportunity to experience God's mercy and peace as we reflect, repent and forgive.

The Rite of Reconciliation is offered in both churches, with additional priests in attendance.

Tuesday 16 December
St Simon's Church at 7:00 pm

Wednesday 17 December
St Jude's Church at 7:30 pm

★ ST JUDE'S AND ST SIMON'S CHRISTMAS MASSES ★

We invite you to come and join us for our Christmas Celebrations

ST JUDE'S MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December 2025

6:00pm Children's Mass (5:30pm Carols)
9:00pm Vigil Mass (8:30pm Carols)

Christmas Day

Thursday 25th December 2025

8:30am Mass
10:30am Mass (10:00am Carols)

New Year's day

Thursday 1st January 2026

10:00am Mass

ST SIMON'S MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December 2025

6:00pm Children's Mass (5:30pm Carols)
9:00pm Vigil Mass (8:30pm Carols)
12:00am Midnight Mass (11:30pm Carols)

Christmas Day

Thursday 25th December 2025

10:00am Mass (9:30am Carols)

New Year's Eve

Wednesday 31st December 2025

Midnight Mass (11:30pm Adoration)

New Year's day

Thursday 1st January 2026

10:00am Mass

2025 Combined Parishes Raffle Winners

PRIZE	WINNING TICKET NO.	PARISH
1st Prize	24826	Lara/Corio
2nd Prize	31741	Lifeboat
3rd Prize	19400	Broadmeadows
4th Prize	22564	Bundoora
5th Prize	48220	Wantirna
6th Prize	48710	Wantirna
7th Prize	38107	Lilydale

Unfortunately we do not have any winners from from Rowville or Scoresby.

A BIG "Thank You" to all who bought tickets. Because of you, St Simon's raised a total of \$8,890 net, an excellent result overall!

Thank you to Christina, Ben and all volunteers for their dedication and efforts.

Pilgrims of Hope, Pilgrimage 2025

In October, parishioners from St Simon's and St Jude's went on a pilgrimage. It was a blessed and uplifting journey.

Throughout the pilgrimage we held all of you in prayer at each holy site we visited.

A video capturing some highlights and sacred moments of the pilgrimage is now available. You can watch it using the QR code provided.



Parking Restrictions on Taylors Lane

Please be advised that parking restrictions on Taylors Lane between 8:30 – 9:30 am (5-minute drop-off zone) are being strictly enforced.

A number of fines have already been issued. If you have received a fine, you are kindly asked to contact the council directly regarding the matter.



Please join us as we recite the Rosary in the church at 8:45am, Tuesday to Friday

Parish Website

Please access our website via the QR code

If you would like to receive our weekly emails, please subscribe via the website. The link is on the bottom of the home page



Viv's ReCare

NEXT EVENT
Christmas Theme
WED, 17 December,
11:30 am—2:30 pm

FREE morning tea, lunch and entertainment.

For more info. contact Brian Crowley on 0429 090 770.

We look forward to seeing you all soon!



Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod 2026

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has announced that preparations have begun for an Archdiocesan Synod to be held in 2026. This follows a season of prayer, listening, and consultation across our local Church. The Synod will focus on three key themes: Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, and Formation & Participation. A Synod Commission will be established as the first step in this process.

Copies of the Statement is available in the foyer.
Parishioners are invited to keep this work in their prayers as we journey together in hope.



Funeral of Mary Luscombe

We regret to advise that Mary Luscombe, a long term parishioner and an active parish member, went home to God on the 8 December 2025.

Her funeral will be held here at
St Simons on the 18 December at 1pm.

You are invited to attend.

May she rest in peace.



Children's Christmas Pageant



Calling All Little Shepherds, Angels, and Kings!

Our Christmas Nativity is a cherished tradition, and we warmly invite all children and parents to help bring the story of Christ's birth to life.

Whether your child would like to be a shepherd, angel, or king, their participation will make our celebration truly special.

The last practice will be held on the 20th December at the church. We encourage everyone to come along and join in the fun, laughter, and joy of preparing for this wonderful celebration.

Let's make this Christmas memorable for our children and our parish family!

We pray for

Recent Death: Mary Luscombe

Anniversary of Death: Warren Ithier, Vincentmico Montou, Jamie Um Fat Ku, Malikkal Joseph, Marypillai Joseph, Giovanna Cannizzaro

Prayer for the Sick: Bill Leane, Yana Jong, Perry Law, Brooke Hiho, Bente Jobsz, Jenny Liston, Sam Russo, Jay Russel, Adrien Cerdor, Nigel Quadros, Anita Crowley, Gillian Elias, Lisette & Noah Vissenjou, Bernadette and Murray Ukena, Paul Dusdale, Flora Palleschi, Alex Zunica, Lisette Visenjoux, Ruevin Serrand, Elenor Augustus, Benedict Lim, Noelle Parsons, Jonathan Salerno and Barbara Kirsch.



Christmas CRAFT STALL 2025

Thank you for your support at our Christmas Craft Stall. Your generosity and encouragement help keep our Parish Community thriving.

A special thank you to the Craft Group for their creativity and dedication throughout the year. As we enter this blessed season, may the peace and hope of Christmas fill your homes and hearts. I look forward to seeing you at our Parish Fete in 2026.

Melanie Jacobs

Sacramental Registrations are 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 a special encounter with God's grace, deepening their faith and drawing them closer to Jesus Christ and His Church.

While specific commencement dates are yet to be confirmed, we encourage families to submit their registrations early to ensure a place.

To register your child or to obtain further information, please email or contact the Parish Office on 03 9764 4058.

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



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Third Sunday of Advent 13 / 14 December 2025

First Reading: *Isaiah 35:1-6,10* - Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm 145

Response: Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading: *James 5:7-10* —Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.

For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; Alleluia!

Gospel: *Matthew 11:2-11* —John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

THIS WEEK'S PARISH DIARY—MASS SCHEDULE AND ONLY PARISH RUN MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

Mon 15 Dec	Tue 16 Dec	Wed 17 Dec	Thu 18 Dec	Fri 19 Dec	Sat 20 Dec	Sun 21 Dec
Office Closed	9.15am Mass (Fr Libeesh)	9.15am Mass (Fr Libeesh)	9.15am Mass (Fr Libeesh)	9.15am Mass (Fr Jerald)	<u>OFFICE CLOSED</u>	<u>OFFICE CLOSED</u>
	2.00pm (Parish Centre) Shawl Group	11.00am (Parish Centre) Viv's ReCare	1.00pm (Church) Mary Luscombe Funeral	10.00am (Parish Centre) Movie Morning	12.30pm (Church) Chaldeans Children's Liturgy	9.00 am Mass (Fr Jerald)
	7.00pm (Church) Reconciliation	7.00pm –9.00pm (Church) Chaldean Community Reconciliation	5-9.00pm (Church) SSS Choir	6.00pm (Church) Eucharistic Adoration	2.00pm (Church) Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	11.00 am Mass (Fr Jerald)
	7.30pm (Parish Centre) RCIA Meeting			8.00pm (Church) 11am Choir Practice	6.00 pm Mass (Fr Jerald)	2.00pm (Church) Chaldean Community
<p>The Promise Advent Booklet and Christmas Daily Reflections 2025 @ \$5 each.</p> <p>Columban Art Calendar 2026 @ \$10 each</p> <p>Please visit the Welcome Desk to pick up a copy</p>						3.30-5pm (Parish Centre) Chaldean Community
						5.00pm Youth Mass
						6.30pm (Parish Centre) Youth Group

NEXT WEEKEND — Duty Rosters: Fourth Sunday of Advent — 20 and 21 December 2025 — Isaiah 7:10-14, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-24						
Mass Times	Saturday 20 Dec 6pm		Sunday 21 Dec 9.00am		Sunday 21 Dec 11.00am	Sunday 21 Dec 5.00pm
Commentator	Jodie Marziano		Phil Mawdsley		Jacqui Guiliano	Damon
Reader 1	Clement Lobo		Margaret Ng		Loretta Hughes	Aarya
Reader 2	Marcello Martino		Paige Law		Ingrid Kertesi	Zara
Welcome Desk	Seymon Martino		Victoria King		Pia Pagotto	-
Children's Liturgy	No Children's Liturgy		No Children's Liturgy		No Children's Liturgy	-
Flowers	Full Flower Teams	Altar Society	Altar Society Teams	Church Cleaning	Dan Tran, Judy Schmidt	Thabesan Family