

PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

ST MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ST MARY'S CHURCH, 123 ST LEONARDS ROAD, ASCOT VALE
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH, BARB STREET, MARIBYRNONG

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Desmond J Moloney
Assistant Priest / Lithuanian Chaplain: Rev Fr Joseph Deveikis
Presbytery / Parish Office: 123 St Leonards Rd, Ascot Vale (Postal: PO Box 468 Ascot Vale 3032)
Telephone: 9370 6688
Website: www.melbcatholic.org/ascotvale
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Office Hours: Tue – Thu 9.30am – 3.00pm *Secretary: Carmen D’Rosario*
Principal, St Mary’s School: Mr Denis Johnstone T: 9370 1194
Principal, St Margaret’s School: Mr John Rudd T: 9318 1339

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil:

6.00pm St Mary’s

Sunday:

8.30am St Margaret’s

10.30am St Mary’s

6.00pm St Mary’s (Spanish)

Weekday Mass Times

Mon 10.00am St Mary’s

Tue 9.00am St Mary’s

Wed 9.00am St Mary’s

7.00pm St Mary’s

Thu 9.00am St Mary’s

Fri 9.15am St Mary’s

Sat 9.30am St Mary’s

Reconciliation

(Confession)

Saturday

10.00–10.30am St Mary’s

5.30–5.45pm St Mary’s

Eucharistic Adoration

Tue 9.30–10.30am St Mary’s

Sat 10.00–11.00am St Mary’s

Baptisms at St Mary’s

Baptisms are celebrated on the
2nd & 4th Sundays of each
month at 12:00 noon.

Baptism Information Sessions
are held in St Mary’s Church
at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday
of each month. Parents desiring
the baptism of their child must
attend one of these sessions.

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 21 June 2026

St Margaret’s Church

On the 16th November, 2025, St. Mary’s Parish received the Building Audit & Condition Report on St. Margaret’s Church prepared by Ultum. The Parish Masterplan Reference Group met on 9th December to discuss the Report and determine a response.

The Masterplan Reference Group gave four recommendations:

- that in line with the community feedback (through the survey regarding investment priorities related to the Masterplan): the Presbytery and community space were identified as top priorities.
- that in order to manage expenditure the Parish community exit the property (St. Margaret’s) by November 2026.
- that the property be demolished and the land be sold.
- that a communication strategy be developed to inform the community of this outcome.

I have largely accepted these recommendations. Although further discussions are to be held concerning the timeline as well as what may occur with the land. I intend to provide more information in the coming week or two, covering structural, safety, and financial issues and the requirements of the Archdiocese. The decision to move towards the close of St. Margaret’s Church is most significant in the history of St. Mary’s Parish. In an ideal world this would not take place. In my view, ideally, the parish would want to see a new church replacing the existing one. There is much to acknowledge about the history of St. Margaret’s Church and the experience of parishioners. I make available an email address for the **Reception of Feedback:** feedback.stmargarets@gmail.com

Below the two principal dates may be seen in relation to St. Margaret’s Church and some detail relating to the establishment of the church and its opening.

1947

Land for St Margaret’s Church was purchased by Father Bakker.

1949

Excerpts are from an article in the Advocate, Thursday 14 July 1949, on the occasion of the opening of St Margaret’s Church, which occurred on the previous Sunday. This means that it will be the church’s seventy-seventh anniversary on 10 July.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 27/28 JUNE 2026**Parish Counters: R Aparo; T Peters**

Ministers of the Word			Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	
Time	St Mary's	St Margaret's	St Mary's	St Margaret's
6.00 pm	N Familiari		F Pinto	
8.30 am		M Zoleta		A Laughton
10.30 am	A Fogarty		R Rotunno	

Hymns:**Entrance:** CWBII 625**Offertory:** CWBII 547**Communion:** CWBII 454**Reflection:** CWBII 455**Recessional:** CWBII 561**Recently Deceased:**

Timothy Bateman

Anniversaries:

Victor Cagampang Snr; Giuseppe Gervasi

Feast Days:**22 June:** Sts John Fisher and Thomas More**24 June:** The Nativity of St John the Baptist**Readings Next Week:**

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kg 4:8-11, 14-16; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42

The reason for the expansion of our parish there was "to provide for the increasing number of Catholics in Maribyrnong." Apparently, it was a "long felt desire" of Father Bakker to establish a Catholic presence there. "A few years ago Catholic families in this district could be counted on the fingers of both hands." "Others have since come to Maribyrnong."

When Father Bakker needed a place for the celebration of Mass in Maribyrnong the Council placed the local hall at his disposal. "For some time the Catholic people at Maribyrnong, which is part of the Ascot Vale parish, have attended Mass on Sundays at the district hall.

The need for better provision has been met by the setting up of St. Margaret's Church on a prominent site in Maribyrnong. The Church was formerly the chapel for the Catholic troops at the Broadmeadows Camp. It was purchased by Very Rev. H. Bakker PP for £500. It's re-erection and equipment and the site cost £4875, and the present debt is £2225.

Father Catarinich said there were forty Catholic families at Maribyrnong and they were remarkably generous. Functions held in the district in aid of church funds have been well patronised by Catholics and non Catholics and £2650 of the debt had already been paid. There had been difficulties in connection with religious celebrations in the past, but these had now been overcome by the erection of St Margaret's Church. Pontifical Benediction was given by Archbishop Mannix, assisted by Fathers Bakker, Catarinich and Rafter. St Mary's Girls' Choir, Ascot Vale, sang the hymns.

*Fr Desmond J Moloney***PLEASE NOTE**

No 10.00am Mass at St Mary's Church on Monday 29 June, 6 July & 13 July 2026.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

The next set of Thanksgiving Envelopes beginning the first weekend of July are available for collection at our churches. ***Please ensure you collect your pack of envelopes.*** Thank you for the support you give our parish.

Legion of Mary - For member enquiries and home visitations please contact: 9346 7900.

St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 1800 305 330, Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm.

Soup Evening – 27 June 2026

There will be soup, bread and nibbles served, in the presbytery, after 6pm Mass next Saturday, 27th June organised by the Parish Community Group. All are welcome. Please join us and have a chat with fellow parishioners. We hope to see many of you there!

St, Vincent de Paul, Winter Appeal

Dear Fellow Parishioners - While we are again facing a cold winter, with all the extra pressures that puts on our budgets, our conference is seeing more people who have not come for help before and more who are reliant on casual work and wages that cannot support them and their families. Please spare a thought and a prayer for those around us in need, plus a donation if you can. Many are grateful for the help you give. There are envelopes at the church doors.

Magnifica Humanitas

Quotations from the Encyclical

Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice: either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together. MH 1

In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendour of which no machine can ever replace. MH 15

True progress always stems from a heart open to others, an intelligence willing to listen and a will that seeks what unites rather than what separates. MH 15

A dynamic thought faithful to the Gospel

Brief summary The Social Doctrine of the Church (SDC) is not a "static set of concepts," but a dynamic thought that evolves in dialogue with history. It arises from the Church's mission to walk with humanity, respecting the autonomy of civil entities but offering the Gospel as a criterion of justice. Historical Evolution: From Pope Leo XIII's defence of workers (Rerum Novarum) to Pius XI's principle of subsidiarity, up to the global attention of Saint John XXIII. The turning point of the Second Vatican Council: It proposes the method of listening to the "signs of the times," making dialogue with the human sciences an integral part of the Church's mission. Recent Magisterium: Saint John Paul II emphasizes the dignity of work, Benedict XVI emphasizes charity in truth, and Pope Francis emphasizes fraternity and integral ecology, combining care for our common home and the preferential option for the poor. The digital world and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are realities that require further evolution of the SDC.

Quotations from the Encyclical

Artificial intelligence should not be considered as merely yet another theme to be studied or an emergency to be managed, but rather as a development that challenges the categories of Social Doctrine from within, entailing its further development in fidelity to the Gospel. History is thus understood as one of the places in which the Church allows herself to be taught by the Spirit about the humanizing power of the Gospel; and she learns to develop her own teaching at the service of the dignity of every person and the good of all peoples. MH 22

The Church's Social Doctrine is born from the encounter between the eternal truth of the Gospel and the questions of history. It allows itself to be challenged by the signs of the times, and draws nourishment from the contributions of science, culture and human experience. MH 27 First Chapter MH 17 6

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING

Jer 20:10-13

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,

"Terror from every side!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All those who used to be my friends

watched for my downfall,

"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.

Then we will master him

and take our revenge!"

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;

my opponents will stumble, mastered,

confounded by their failure;

everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with

justice,

who scrutinise the loins and heart,

let me see the vengeance you will take on them,

for I have committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord,

praise the Lord,

for he has delivered the soul of the needy

from the hands of evil men.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 68

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,

that shame covers my face,

that I have become a stranger to my brothers,

an alien to my own mother's sons.

I burn with zeal for your house

and taunts against you fall on me. (R.)

This is my prayer to you,

my prayer for your favour.

In your great love, answer me, O God,

with your help that never fails:

Lord, answer, for your love is kind;

in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)

The poor when they see it will be glad

and God-seeking hearts will revive;

for the Lord listens to the needy

and does not spurn his servants in their chains.

Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,

the sea and all its living creatures. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rom 5:12-15

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 10:26-33

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord