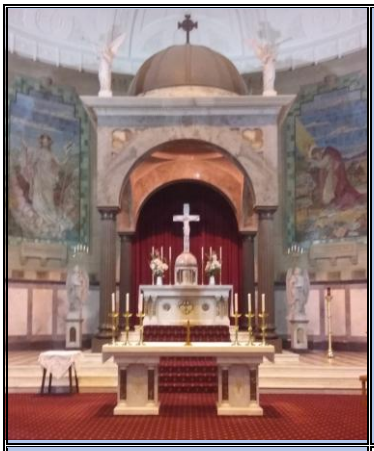


PARISH OF ASCOT VALE

ST MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ST MARY'S CHURCH, 123 ST LEONARDS ROAD, ASCOT VALE

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
Email: ascotvale@cam.org.au
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 Mary'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.

All Saints – 1 November 2026

From St. Margaret's Church to St. Mary's Church

- Today, Sunday, 1st November (All Saints)

Let us be mindful in our prayer to call upon Mary, Most Blessed, Queen of All the Saints, and St. Margaret of Scotland.

Sincere thanks must be paid to both the History Committee (led by Adam Bui) and the Final Mass Committee (led by Richard Turnbull) for the effective and helpful work carried out in preparation for last Sunday's final Mass at St. Margaret's Church. Grateful acknowledgement is also given to Jo and Adam for their great work with regard to overseeing the collection of items associated with the church.

Transport needs? If anyone from Maribyrnong has a need for transport to Mass at St. Mary's Church please contact the Parish Office.

Homily for the Final Mass at St Margaret's Church

The French "esprit de corps" literally means "spirit of (the) body". It might usually be used to speak of the unity of the group – its quality of *esprit de corps*. This expression should fit as a reference to *our life in Christ* as St. Paul writes of it – our being in the Body of Christ. Paul sets out qualities that show forth "life in Christ". The qualities are modelled by Jesus Christ and Paul is urging humility and unity. Paul is urging 'be of the same mind, having the same love'; that the genuineness of Christian love is having that free disposition in looking out for others, the neighbour, with practical concern; and not looking to one's own interests. 'Do nothing from selfish ambition, or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.'

The "spirit of the body" (that *esprit de corps*) can be supported, strengthened by the significance and meaning of place. Today, this historic day, I think, there is probably a high point of this realisation of St. Margaret's Church for those who made this church their regular place of worship. Today, we can reflect on and express our gratitude to God for what has been and is that spirit of the body in the community here. That we recognise the work of God among the members of the community for God's word is very near – the disposition to obey, keeping what the Lord asks, that has been put in the hearts of his people. And so, the Gospel commandments of love are close. The Word is within, made a part of us, with us, and in us.

And with that, we might think of a connected love story or stories related to this church of St. Margaret: the love stories engendered, the decades of memories. These memories reveal love invested and powerful feelings, all associated with serving God and serving those in the community.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 7/8 NOVEMBER 2026		
Parish Counters: J & S Crooks; R Koh & J Chong		
Ministers of the Word		**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**
6.00 pm	R Hoshun	F Pinto
8.30 am	B Dwyer	R Turnbull
10.30 am	D Cutinho	R Bonvino

Hymns: **Entrance:** CWBII 491 **Offertory:** CWBII 461
Communion: CWBII 651 **Reflection:** CWBII 463
Recessional: CWBII 561

Recently deceased: Brenda Vieyra

Anniversaries: Agnes Clements; Helen Farrugia; Veronica Brennan; Alfonso Mezzanini; Shane Alan Scanlon; Michael Lowe

Feast Days: **4 Nov:** St Charles Borromeo

Readings Next Week: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

The spirit of the body (*esprit de corps*) is in the unity, being united in living the commandments of love. The spirit of the body is the faith and love that forms the spirit of the community as it has for and through St. Margaret's. I truly do not see it as something easily transferred or transplanted. But, at the same time, I think we can and should have hope and trust that the spirit of the body can remain and find continuity. *Journeys ended-journeys begun* are apt words from a hymn which goes on in the singing – *to go where we have never been, to be beyond our past, moments of lifting up, transcending death*. And so, fittingly, next Sunday is the feast of All Saints, challenging us all to go further in our journey of faith.

Fr Desmond J Moloney

Morning Tea after Mass – Sunday 1st November

To welcome parishioners from St Margaret's church to their new home at St Mary's, the Parish Community Group will have morning tea after both 8.30am & 10.30am Mass this Sunday. Everyone is invited to come along, have a cuppa, eat, and chat with fellow parishioners. If you would like to bring a plate of food to share, that would be a boost for catering and we will be very grateful.

NOVEMBER – Month of Rememberance

The month of November is when each year we pray for our beloved deceased. St. Mary's Parish has its Book of Remembrance, into which the names of those who have died in the past year may be entered. Now available for private Mass intentions to be offered during November. Names written on November Mass envelopes are not added to the Book of Remembrance.

Memorial Mass

On **Wednesday, 25th November at 7.00 pm,** there will be a special Memorial Mass to remember and pray for all who were buried from our church in the last year and for relatives and friends of parishioners. Therefore, everyone who had a family member buried from here or had a family member or friend who died in the last year, is invited to attend this Mass.

Faith in Action: An election guide from the Bishops of Victoria

Ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, the Bishops of Victoria have issued an election statement highlighting key issues for Catholics to consider when deciding their vote. You are invited to read the statement and prayerfully discern how your vote can contribute to the common good. View the statement online at: bit.ly/StateElection2026.

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.

St Mary's Church Preservation Church Account

The following represents the bulk of a talk given by Darcy Brennan on 19/20 September for Sunday Mass.

My purpose today is to re-introduce to you and ask for your ongoing support for the St Mary's Preservation Church Account.

This permanent account is used for the specific purpose of funding the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of St Mary's Church, its curtilage (which includes the presbytery) and its structures, whilst still maintaining the architectural and aesthetic integrity.

St Mary's has a very long history dating back to 1895. It was not until 1912 that a separate parish was formed. And in 1919 Father Bakker was appointed its Parish priest. It was in 1934 that he oversaw the commencement of the building of the new St Mary's. Construction was during a period of high unemployment with the project being completed in 1938. The building is now 88 years old – an iconic place of worship and quiet prayer built in a Neo-Romanesque style containing many treasures, including the marble and bronze baldacchino above the High Altar, the two opus sectile works depicting the Agony in the Garden and the Resurrection, and the large blue rose window above the entrance to the church. Marble was mined in Italy and imported as well as from Buchan in Gippsland to enhance the interior. Buchan was noted for its black marble which has been used in the Shrine of Remembrance and the State Library in addition to St Mary's. The white and pink marble was sourced in Italy.

In 2004 Falconer Andronas (architects & heritage consultants) were commissioned to draw up a maintenance plan for the church, listing high priority and desirable work that should be done. Much of this work is still in abeyance. In 2004 the estimated costs for these works were $1.2m. This sum would be much greater today.

The Fund and the Parish were fortunate when in 2016 Margaret Murphy, a former parishioner and organist, left her Estate to the fund. We have been informed this year that we are likely to receive two bequests from Michael Thompson and John Balzan for which we are grateful.

This year the Fund (2026) has been called upon for maintenance and replacement support within the Presbytery and a stained glass window in the church. We, as Parishioners, and those who use the Church, have a responsibility of stewardship in ensuring that the building and surrounds are maintained so that ensuing generations receive a building in which the structure, surrounds and aesthetics have been maintained.

St Mary's Parish Community is a welcoming and caring community, however, we are financially constrained given the amount of money needed to provide a gathering place for parishioners, suitable accommodation for our parish priest, a dedicated administration centre, and provision for an ongoing maintenance and repairs.

We sincerely ask for your consideration and generosity.
We will also distribute a brochure outlining the fund and explaining how to donate. If you do not have a copy, and require a copy they will be available at the Parish office.
You are asked.

- To consider your obligations in relation to your stewardship
- You are asked to donate.
- You are asked to consider making a bequest in your will

Bequests are going to be the life blood of this endeavour. It is not necessary nor expected that large sums be left to the Preservation Account in your will but a small bequest along the lines of 1% or 3% of an estate would be gratefully received and used wisely. When reviewing your will, please consider making such a bequest.

All Saints

FIRST READING Rev 7:2-4,9-14

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 23

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-3

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord