

# ST MARY'S PARISH, SALE

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SALE; ST PATRICK'S, STRATFORD;  
ST ROSE OF LIMA, ROSEDALE; ST PATRICK'S, BRIAGOLONG;  
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF LOCH SPORT.

47 Foster Street, PO Box 183, Sale.

Parish Office Tel: 5144 4100 Hours: Tues - Fri 9am to 3pm (Closed Mondays)

Parish email: Sale@cdsale.org.au

Parish website: <http://www.stmaryscathedralsale.com.au/>

Bishop of Sale, Most Reverend Gregory Bennet. DD

Very Reverend Francis Otobo, Mobile 0448 529 712

Assistant Priest: Fr Jithin Anto. Mobile 0490 364 751

Fr Mark Hughes 5144 4100

**PARISH OFFICE: Parish Staff: Clare O'Brien**, Parish Secretary. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am - 3pm. **Mark Durrant**, Finance Manager.

Hours: Wednesday 9am - 3pm. **Jennifer Fitzgerald**, Sacramental Coordinator Email: Sale.sacraments@cdsale.org.au.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Fr Francis, Fr Jithin, Michele Wakeham (President), Rose Lee (Deputy President), Clare O'Brien (Secretary), Doug Waite (Deputy Secretary), Brenda Burditt, Cijo Kuriakose, John Dykun, Claire Everard, Tim Morrison, Carmel Kuizenga, Anita Little, Filomena Padula.

**Safeguarding Statement:** Our Parish is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all people with special concern for children, young people and adults at risk. **Our Safeguarding Officer is Tim Morrison.** Ph 5144 4100



## *Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A 18 - 19 March 2023*

### **“Go and wash...” (John 9:7): a simple but significant instruction**

Last weekend, we read the beautiful story of the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well; a meeting which led to the gradual enlightenment and conversion of the woman. This weekend, we are confronted with yet another enlivening encounter between Jesus and a man born blind; an encounter which resulted in an open declaration for and worship of Jesus. It is interesting that these two characters in the narratives are not named, but both eventually became radical and charming disciples who were not afraid to share their story, their faith, and their conviction.

How amazing that this weekend 16 school age children will receive the sacrament of baptism (7 others will be baptised at a later time). Also, this weekend our five RCIA candidates/catechumen will undertake their second scrutiny. That is why it is even more amazing that this weekend the church has given us the inspiring story of the healing of the man born blind to reflect upon (John 9:1-41). Unlike the other healing episodes of Jesus in the Gospels, this narrative does not tell us that anyone led this blind man to Jesus; nor does it indicate that the man asked Jesus for healing. Rather, “As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth” and he attended to him. The initiative was taken by Jesus.

Many people have been asking: how did you come about 23 school age children for baptism? Indeed, it is the Lord's doing. Of course, some of the parents did ask for their children to be baptised. The decision for baptism also came from some of the children themselves and supported by the parents. But in all, it is Jesus who ignites the divine fire. Asked why they wanted to be baptised, the children had very thoughtful and inspiring responses: “I want to know God more; I want to follow Jesus more closely; I want to love like Jesus; I want to be part of God's family and learn more about him; I want to be Catholic, etc. Childlike as these responses may be, they form the core of the invitation in the Gospel text today. Also, listening to our RCIA candidates/catechumen as to why they want to go through the program, though they have their individual stories, in all, it is the Lord who initiated the call, the invitation, and the decision.

Back to the blind man. Having encountered Jesus, the blind man received a single instruction: “Go and wash in the pool called Siloam.” Siloam means “Sent.” The man obeyed the instruction; he went, washed, and so began to see. I can only imagine how excited he must have felt to see fellow humans standing with him, and other creatures of God. The question now would be: what made him see? Was it the mud? Was it the washing? Hmmm! The mud was applied, he did not see. He probably must have washed in the same pool before. He did not see. But there is another element in his story today—the instruction from the One sent by God. The blind man listened to this command, followed the instructions, and he was able to see. So, invariably, it was the man's obedience to the command of Jesus to “Go and wash” that actually led to the restoration of his sight. If he had not, he would have remained blind. No wonder, when the “powers that be” tried to ridicule his new found faith, he stood his ground and rather invited them to explore the faith. That is being a disciple. That is the call of the Gospel text today.

Congratulations to the 16 children being washed today in the waters of baptism. Others will receive this “washing” at the Easter vigil Mass. All these happening in response to the invitation of the Lord. Our prayer is that all of us baptised into Christ Jesus, alongside our children being baptised today and at Easter time, will continue to respond positively to the words of the Lord and so receive the fullness of joy in the Spirit.

Praise the Lord!

*Fr Francis*

### PARISH CALENDAR.

**Sat 18 Mar 5.30pm:** RCIC baptisms  
**Sat 25 Mar 5.30pm:** First Communion  
**Fri 24 & 31 March 5pm:** Lenten reflections  
**Fri 24 & 31 Mar 6pm:** Stations of the Cross

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

**FIRST COMMUNION** The children will be making their reconciliation on **Wednesday 22 March at 6pm** in the Cathedral.

First Communion will take place at **5.30pm Mass on Saturday 25 March** in the Cathedral. Please keep all of our candidates in your prayers.

**31 CLUB REMINDER** 19 – 26 March. Please pray for vocations

**CATHEDRAL LENTEN REFLECTIONS** You are all invited to an evening of Lenten Reflections with Frs Francis and Jithin in the Cathedral gathering space on **Fridays of Lent**. Our reflections will be centred on the Scripture texts for this season of Lent. Come with a copy of the Bible. Time is **5.00pm** (this will then be followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6.00pm).

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will take place in the Cathedral every **Friday of Lent at 6pm**.

**EXPOSITION AND FRIDAY MASS** From Friday **10 March** Exposition and reconciliation will commence from **10 to 11am** and will be followed by **Mass at 11.00am**. Please note this change for future Friday's.

**ROSTERS** for welcomers, readers and commentators in the Cathedral continue until Easter when we will call for volunteers once again. The new roster will commence on **15-16 April**. If you believe this is a way you can provide a service to our Parish Community please call Clare on 5144 4100. Training will be provided for all volunteers later this year.

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION** will be held at every weekend Mass in the Cathedral from this weekend. Please offer at the Mass if you would like to take up the offertory procession. **If there are no volunteers can the welcomers at each Mass ask someone to do this.** Our RCIC children will take up the offertory on Saturday evening and our First Communion children will do this next Saturday evening.

**RITE OF WELCOME AND BAPTISM:** This weekend at St Mary's Cathedral, we welcome for Baptism **Kiah & Harlow Douthat** and **Indigo & Tanner Schofield** children of Jamie & Holly as well as **Ellie Howard** daughter of Stephen & Amie and **Josh & Ava Mackenzie** children of Belinda & Chris. Congratulations to the families from us all.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)** each weekend between the third and fifth Sundays of Lent our RCIA catechumen and candidates will be undertaking scrutinies at Mass. Please keep **Shari, Faye, Kirby, Sam and Adam** in your prayers as they journey to Easter.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN (RCIC)** this **Saturday 18 March at 5.30pm Mass** we will be welcoming 16 of the **23** children for baptism. The other 7 children will be baptised at a later date. RCIC is the process of baptising children who are older than 7. We welcome them and all their families and friends into our parish community. Thank you to Fr Francis and Margaret Shirreffs who have been preparing the children for their Baptism. As we would like to celebrate this joyous occasion we will have a light supper. Please stay and help us welcome our new Parishioners. Kindly bring a plate to share. Keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Our RCIC children who are being baptised this weekend are:

<b>Bella Smyth</b>	<b>Amber Smyth</b>
<b>Max Smyth</b>	<b>Zoe Driscoll</b>
<b>Olivia Olejniczak</b>	<b>Eric Olejniczak</b>
<b>Ashleigh Johnston</b>	<b>Ava Schuback</b>
<b>Connor Richardson</b>	<b>Cooper Richardson</b>
<b>Cayden Richardson</b>	<b>Addison Reid</b>
<b>Carter Reid</b>	<b>Natalie Stewart</b>
<b>William Bendall</b>	<b>Matthew Bendall</b>

**PILGRIMAGE TO SYDNEY 5 to 7 June 2023.** Traralgon Catholic Women's League are planning a trip to Mary McKillop place in Sydney. There are pink flyers in all of our churches with more details. If you would like to go please call Johanna Sykes on 0413 489 704.

### PARISH PRAYER.

*God our loving Father,  
 we give you thanks and praise for our  
 Cathedral Parish of Sale,  
 for your people and your Creation.  
 Nourish us by your daily  
 Word and Eucharist.  
 Enrich us in our faith, hope and love.  
 Strengthen us with the spirit  
 of your mercy and grace.  
 Make us grateful for your gifts as we  
 journey through our lives together.  
 May we be a welcoming and  
 serving community,  
 always discerning and  
 doing your will for one another.  
 We make this prayer through  
 Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE** Trace the journey of Jesus from the land of his birth to the way he carried his cross and gave the eternal sacrifice in this 14-day Holy Land pilgrimage to Jordan & Israel led by **Fr Joseph Abutu**. This pilgrimage features places from the Old & New Testament and includes Petra, Mt Nebo, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Mt Sinai and Jerusalem for an all-inclusive offer of \$7,340 AUD. Reserve your seats with \$1,000, and by sending a copy of passport. The fare includes Economy Return Airfares on premium Airlines + Stay in 4 star hotels+ Local Transfers in AC Coaches + All Breakfasts & Dinners + English speaking professional guides. Departure from Sydney and Melbourne on **30th April 2023**. For inquiries & bookings call 1300 721 561 or email us [info@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:info@magiholidays.com.au)

**FEAST OF ST JOSEPH** Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary. The Catholic Church honours the life of St. Joseph on March 19 every year. It is one of the few jubilant solemnities during the season of Lent. However, this feast of St. Joseph will never supersede a Sunday of Lent. This year the Solemnity of St Joseph will thus be celebrated on Monday, 20 March 2023.

**SERRA CLUB** there will be no April meeting of the Serra Club. Back to regularly scheduled meetings in May.

**BAPTISMS:** By arrangement through the Parish Office phone 5144 4100.

**ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament,** Friday before Mass 10.00am — 11.00am  
 At St Rose of Lima, Rosedale on 1st Wednesday of each month 9.30am — 10.30am

**RECONCILIATION: Cathedral: Friday** 10-11am before Mass. **At Other times:** Available on request  
**Stratford and Briagolong on Sunday or Rosedale on Saturday evening:** Available on request.

**MARRIAGES:** Not less than six months notice please.

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

<b>Planned Giving:</b>	\$983.00
<b>Presbytery:</b>	\$1,069.45
<b>Credit Cards</b>	\$30.00
<b>Direct Debits &amp; Credits:</b>	\$1,256.00
<b>Cathedral EFTpos:</b>	\$120.00

With thanks from a grateful parish.

### K.J.ALLMAN LL.B

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**Mass Timetable this week  
Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A  
18 - 19 March 2023**

Day/Date	Time	Place
<b>Saturday 18 March</b> <i>RCIC Baptisms</i>	9.30am 5.30pm	Cathedral Cathedral
<b>Sunday 19 March</b>	5.30pm 9.30am 9.30am 5.30pm	Rosedale Stratford Cathedral Cathedral
<b>WEEKDAYS</b>		
<b>Monday 20 March</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>MASS</b>
<b>Tuesday 21 March</b>	9.30am	Cathedral
<b>Wednesday 22 March</b>	9.30am	Cathedral
<b>Thursday 23 March</b>	9.30am	Cathedral
<b>Friday 24 March</b> <i>Reconciliation &amp; Exposition Mass</i>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>11.00am</b>	Cathedral Cathedral
<i>Lenten Reflection</i>	5.00pm	Cathedral
<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	6.00pm	Cathedral
<b>WEEKEND</b>		
<b>Saturday 25 March</b> <i>RCIC Baptisms</i>	9.30am 11.00am	Cathedral Loch Sport
<b>Sunday 26 March</b>	5.30pm 5.30pm 9.30am 9.30am 5.30pm	Cathedral Rosedale Rosedale Briagolong Cathedral Cathedral

Date & Time	Sat 18 Mar	Sun 19 Mar	Sun 19 Mar
	5.30pm	9.30am	5.30pm
<b>Welcomer</b>	Theo Smolenaars	Vince Beer	Claire Everard
<b>Commentator</b>	Emma Morrison	Susan Mattson	Please offer
<b>Reader</b>	Sandra Smolenaars	Christine Lyon	Veronica Stewart
<b>Counter</b>	Len & Lyn Althaus		

Date & Time	Sat 25 Mar	Sun 26 Mar	Sun 26 Mar
	5.30pm	9.30am	5.30pm
<b>Welcomer</b>	Marietta Dykun	Dalia Ellison	Mary Chiller
<b>Commentator</b>	<b>First Communion</b>	Kate Meehan-Oxford	Veronica Stewart
<b>Reader</b>	<b>First Communion</b>	Margaret Shirreffs	Lyn Althaus
<b>Counter</b>	Theo & Sandra S		

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

We offer prayers for those who have died **Tom Read, Rodrigo Morales (Chile)** and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Fr Alexis Dunlop, Fr Andrew Ryan, Mgr Joe Daly**. We pray for those who are sick **Hurbert Somasiri, Rebecca Duck, Maureen Cunningham, Jacobus Toonen, Andrew Lyon, Madeleine Evans, John Schroeder, Jim Clottin, Nimal and Vajira, Dushyanthi, Robert Bailey, Helen O'Kane, Andrew Geary, Michael McGrath, Troy Barney, Bill Harkin and Maureen O'Kane**. **We pray in thanks for all who care for the sick.**

**ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL PARISH  
EASTER MASS TIMETABLE**

**Thursday 30 March:** 6.00pm Parish Lenten Reconciliation - Cathedral

**Saturday 1 April:** 9.30am Mass - Cathedral  
5.30pm Mass - Cathedral  
5.30pm Mass - Rosedale

**Sunday 2 April:** 9.30am Mass - Cathedral  
**Palm Sunday** 9.30am Mass - Stratford  
5.30pm Mass - Cathedral

Monday 3 April: **NO MASS**

**Tuesday 4 April:** 11.00am **Mass of the Oils** - Cathedral

**Wednesday 5 April:** 9.30am **Mass** - Cathedral  
7.30pm **Service of Shadows** - St Mary's Cathedral

**Thursday 6 April:** Cathedral  
**Holy Thursday** 7.30pm **Mass of the Lord's Supper**

**Friday 7 April:** 9.30am **Stations of the Cross** - Cathedral  
**Good Friday** 9.30am **Stations of the Cross** - Stratford  
9.30am **Stations of the Cross** - Rosedale  
10.30am **Walk of the Cross** to St Paul's Cathedral  
3.00pm **Service of the Lord's Passion** - Cathedral

**Saturday 8 April:** 7.30pm **Easter Vigil** - Cathedral

**Sunday 9 April:** 9.00am Mass - Loch Sport  
**Easter Sunday** 9.30am Mass - Cathedral  
9.30am Mass - Stratford  
11.15am Mass - Seaspray



NEW TO THE PARISH? CHANGED ADDRESS IN THE LAST YEAR? NEED PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES OR TO UPDATE THE PARISH RECORDS?

Please let us know we'd like to meet you!

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

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Please tick: If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program

If you would like to join a Family Group

Please place on the plate at Mass or drop into the Parish Office

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

**FIRST READING:**

A reading from the first book of Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **(R.)**

**SECOND READING:**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**



**GOSPEL:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgment that I have come into the world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind surely?' Jesus replied:

'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

**The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,  
I saw and I believed in God.**



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**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Cathedral  
Every Friday 10 - 11am  
RECONCILIATION: Cathedral  
Friday 10 - 11am Saturday following Mass 10 - 10.30am**

**READINGS NEXT WEEK:**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A**  
1st Reading: **Ezekiel 37:12-14**  
2nd Reading: **Romans 8:8-11**  
Gospel: **John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 (Shorter form)**

**WEEKEND MASS TIMETABLE**  
**Saturday:** Loch Sport - 11.00am (2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month)  
**Saturday:** Cathedral - 5.30pm  
**Saturday:** Rosedale - 5.30pm  
**Sunday:** Cathedral - 9.30am and 5.30pm  
**Sunday:** Stratford - 9.30am (1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the Month)  
**Sunday:** Briagolong - 9.30am (2nd & 4th Sunday of the Month)  
**Please check the bulletin each week for weekday Mass times.**