

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 Otopo, Mobile 0448 529 712. Assistant Priest: Fr Jithin Anto. Mobile 0490 364 7

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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), Jennifer Fitzgerald, 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,



Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A 29 - 30 April 2023

What next could God be up to?

This is the story of a young boy born and raised in faraway Nigeria, in a little town called Otukpo. It is vocations Sunday today so I thought I'd share this story with you.

He is one of 15 children; he comes 12th in the line-up. His parents were not Christians, but sent all 15 children through the Catholic education system. Thus, all his siblings before him were all baptised before him; some of them became altar servers. He was baptised at 14 when he was in year 8, a decision he had to make like all his siblings. His parents had no idea what being baptised meant, nor did they even know when he received this gracious sacrament. He was by himself accompanied by his godparent who was a friend from school. Several others were baptised same day. Shortly after receiving the sacrament of baptism and making his First Communion and Confirmation same year, his life as an active member of his parish church began: he became part of a few pious societies — the legion of Mary, altar servers, the CCR, and the Choir.

Like several growing children of his day, he had his dreams: to become a medical practitioner or a lawyer or an engineer or something of such. However, when he was in year 11, a group of seminarians (students training to become priests) were sent to his Parish for their first-year spiritual training. During the course of the one year, he became friends with these seminarians. He spent time with them, prayed with them, ate with them, played with them. This encounter created in him a new wave of desires. He was now beginning to contemplate joining this group of vibrant, happy, cheerful youngsters who have given of their lives to the service of God, the community and the church. Yes, it was a possibility, he thought, but how was he to convince his parents?

The time came after his final secondary school exams when he had to now make a decision. His parents wanted him to study medicine? Some of his siblings encouraged him to study engineering or join the military. But he wanted to become a Catholic priest. This did not go down well with his parents and some of the older siblings. However, against all odds, he enrolled to be trained as a priest. So, in 1992, the journey began.

Between 1992 and 2001, he went through Spiritual year formation program, then philosophical studies for three years, then one year of pastoral engagement in a parish. Back to the seminary for another four years of study (theology). In October of 2001 he was ordained a priest. It was a joyful occasion for him and the entire family. Unfortunately, his father did not live to see that day. His mother danced and celebrated the day like there was no tomorrow. It was a great day. 27th October was the day.

The days of honey moon quickly passed by and Parish life as a priest began. That will be a set of stories for another day. He served for ten years in his home diocese of incardination. In those ten years, he worked in seven different parishes, and served in other different capacities.

Fast forward to 10 years after his ordination. In 2011, he was sent out on mission to a faraway foreign land. He had to start all over again to learn new ways, new culture, new food, new style of driving (on the left), new worldview, new life. This reminded him of Fr Joseph O'Neil, the Irish Spiritan Priest who baptised him many years ago. For nearly 12 years, he has been serving the church in this new world and enjoying every bit of his life and ministry. He has been privileged to minister in four parishes. Currently, Fr Francis serves the Cathedral community of St Mary in Sale, Victoria.

From faraway Otukpo in Nigeria to Sale in Victoria, Australia. Hmmm! What a call! What a mission! And this could be just the beginning. God indeed works in a mysterious way. What next could God be up to? Who knows?

Francis Otopo

PARISH CALENDAR.

Sat 29 & Sun 30 Apr: Leaving Collection for Good Shepherd Sunday
Sun 30 Apr 2pm: 'Come & See' with Bishop Greg
Wed 3 May 6pm: Confirmation workshop
Sun 28 May 9.30am: Confirmation

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

CONFIRMATION Please enrol now for Confirmation. Parent only workshop will be held in the assembly area of the Cathedral on **Wednesday 3 May at 6pm.** Commitment Masses for Confirmation will be held at Parish Masses on **Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 May.** Confirmation will be made at 9.30am on **Pentecost Sunday 28 May.**

COME AND SEE Bishop Greg invites young men (+18yrs) of our Parishes of the Diocese of Sale to come to St Mary's Cathedral on Good Shepherd **Sunday, April 30th, 2.30pm – 4pm,** especially those who may have a call from God to life as a priest, or to simply meet Bishop Greg and other priests. It will be an opportunity to meet those living the priestly life, to pray with them and ask questions.

PROJECT COMPASSION please return your project compassion boxes or envelopes **by this weekend.** You can return them by placing them on the collection plates in each of our parish churches. Thank you all in advance for your generosity for this very worthy program.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS: We will be reinstating Parish Lunches in Sale. These will most likely take place on the third Sunday of each month. Stay tuned for updates.

50TH ANNIVERSARY Sunday 7 May. Sale Passionist family group will be celebrating the 50th birthday of the Passionist family group movement in Australia. Parishioners are invited to celebrate the **9:30 a.m. Mass and then to the share lunch at the chapter house at 12 p.m.** A plate of food to share, and BYO drinks. Tea and coffee will be available. RSVP by Wednesday **3 May 2023** to Veronica on 0455 121 949.

31 CLUB REMINDER 1 - 7 May. Please pray for vocations.

'SHINING A LIGHT'. Parish communities from across the Diocese of Sale participated in a pilot program called 'Shining A Light' workshop. Led by Sr Nicole Rotaru RSM and auspiced by Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV), they enabled parish communities to be better informed and equipped to respond to domestic and family violence. A diocesan group has since formed and will be meeting on the 1st of May 2023 to reflect, discern and plan what needs to be done in our diocese. Please pray that they are guided and enlightened by the Holy Spirit.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis tells us: There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood. **Vocation View** On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, pray for yourself. Pray to know if God is calling YOU to be a Priest, Sister or Brother. Pray! **A prayer request** You might know of a young person in the parish, in your family or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them by name on a regular basis? Carry them with you 'spiritually' to Mass on Sunday and place them on the altar at the offertory. Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations. **Pledge to Pray:** The Vocations Office in Melbourne has partnered with some others in a project, 'Pledge to Pray' - an on-line platform for individuals to pledge prayers for vocations. It is based upon the idea of the 'Invisible Monastery'. I invite you to 'pledge a prayer' for vocations at www.pledgetoprayer.com.au this is a site dedicated to encouraging prayer for vocations in Australia.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY SPECIAL LEAVING COLLECTION: This weekend, **Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 April,** is Good Shepherd Sunday and there will be a Special Leaving Collection for Seminarians that are studying in our Diocese.

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.*

ARE YOU CALLED TO BE A SPONSOR

COUPLE? SmartLoving is a Catholic marriage apostolate and is calling for married couples to explore ministering together. Please join us online for a no obligation, "come and see" webinar to learn more. Choose your webinar date: Wednesday May 3 - OR - Tuesday June 6 (2023) 8pm AEST | 7.30pm ACST | 6pm AWST (1 hour) Find out more and register at: www.smartloving.org/webinars

SERRA CLUB: The Serra Club will gather in the Cathedral on **Thursday 4 May at 9.30am** for Mass followed by their meeting in Chapter House. All welcome. Apologies to Brenda Burditt

FIRST SUNDAY CUPPA: This weekend, Sunday 7 May, the Filipino Community will be our host for the 1st Sunday Cuppa in St Mary's Cathedral assembly Area. Everyone is **invited to stay after Mass to enjoy a cuppa.**



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:

Planned Giving:	\$1,094.25
Presbytery:	\$826.85
Credit Cards	\$30.00
Direct Debits & Credits:	\$650.00
Cathedral EFTpos:	\$120.00

With thanks from a grateful parish.

K.J.ALLMAN LL.B

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Mass Timetable this week
Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A
29 - 30 April 2023


Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 29 April	9.30am 5.30pm	Cathedral Cathedral
Sunday 30 April GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY	5.30pm 9.30am 9.30am 5.30pm	Rosedale Cathedral Stratford Sale
WEEKDAYS		
Monday 1 May	NO	MASS
Tuesday 2 May	9.30am	Cathedral
Wednesday 3 May	9.30am	Cathedral
Thursday 4 May Serra Club Mass	9.30am	Cathedral
Friday 5 May Exposition & Reconciliation Mass	10.00am 11.00am	Cathedral Cathedral
WEEKEND		
Saturday 6 May	9.30am 5.30pm 5.30pm	Cathedral Cathedral Rosedale
Sunday 7 May	9.30am 9.30am 5.30pm	Cathedral Stratford Cathedral

Date & Time	Sat 29 Apr 5.30pm	Sun 30 Apr 9.30am	Sun 30 Apr 5.30pm
Welcomer	John Dykun	Dalia Ellison	Claire Everard
Commentator	Brenda Burditt	Susan Mattson	Veronica Stewart
Reader	Marietta Dykun	Nick Hall	Lyn Althaus
Counter	John Dykun & John Vermaelen		

Date & Time	Sat 6 May 5.30pm	Sun 7 May 9.30am	Sun 7 May 5.30pm
Welcomer	Theo Smolenaars	Marie & Nick Centra	Mary Chiller
Commentator	Marietta Dykun	Kate Meehan-Oxford	Veronica Stewart
Reader	Sandra Smolenaars	Margaret Shirreffs	Brenda Bowden
Counter	Len & Lyn Althaus		

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

We offer prayers for those who have died **Barbara Schraven**, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Kathleen Daniel, Nell Smyth, Fr Tim O'Brien, Fr James Martin, Dean James Hegarty**. We pray for those who are sick **Maira Petrie, Hurbert Somasiri, Rebecca Duck, Andrew Lyon, Madeleine Evans, Jim Clottin, Nimal and Vajira, Dushyanthi, 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.



Come and See


A call to the priesthood

A stirring in your heart for God? what this might mean for you?

Could Jesus be inviting you to share in his ministry as a Priest?

An Opportunity | Meet our priests to discuss their Ministry Prayer and contemplation

Date: Sunday, April 30th 2023
 Venue: Chapter House, St Mary's Cathedral, Sale
 Time: 2:30-4:00 pm



Prayer for the Synod:
Adsumus Sancte Spiritus
 We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
 as we gather together in Your name.
 With You alone to guide us,
 make Yourself at home in our hearts;
 Teach us the way we must go
 and how we are to pursue it.
 We are weak and sinful;
 do not let us promote disorder.
 Do not let ignorance lead us
 down the wrong path
 nor partiality influence our actions.
 Let us find in You our unity
 so that we may journey
 together to eternal life
 and not stray from the way of truth
 and what is right.
 All this we ask of You,
 who are at work in every place and time,
 in the communion of the Father and the Son,
 forever and ever. Amen.

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: _____
 EMAIL: _____

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:

**The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
alleluia.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

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 first letter of St Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.
This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed.

You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

**The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, Alleluia.**



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READINGS NEXT WEEK:

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A

1st Reading: **Acts 6:1-7**
2nd Reading: **1 St Peter 2:4-9**
Gospel: **John 14:1-12**

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.