

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

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, Rose Lee (Chairperson), 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, young people and adults at risk. Our Safeguarding Officer is Tim Morrison. Ph 5144 4100



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 9 - 10 September 2023

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION ***by Dianne Austin: Diocesan Gospel Reflection***

In this week's text from the Gospel according to Matthew, the author explains a process of forgiveness and reconciliation to their community. I remember when growing up, the ups and downs relationships entailed. As children, we were quick to point the finger at any of our siblings if they did anything wrong or laid blame on them for some misgiving. There seemed to be a daily ritual of name calling, arguing or 'dobbing' on each other. Each time I had an argument, either with my siblings or friends, my parents would tell me to sort it out for myself. This wasn't always easy and the stubborn side of me would often lay fault at the feet of the other person rather than taking ownership for my part in the disagreement or focusing on reestablishing the relationship with my peers. I remember my parents never engaged in the process unless the issues were major or I couldn't resolve them by myself. I have come to learn the importance of never leaving matters unresolved and finding a way to reconcile after the anger and harsh words fade away.

So how is this lesson different for us today? Are we quick to reconcile our misdeeds or do we let them linger or ignore them, never acknowledging fault or listening to reason? How often do we allow those harsh words, often spoken in anger and hurt, to destroy our relationships because we are too proud to admit to or look past who's at fault and reconcile what is broken?

When I compare these questions to the reconciliation process Matthew describes for the community of the Church, it highlights that none of us are perfect. We all have times when we have lapses of judgement or make poor decisions, breaking our connection with our family, friends or community. This was no different for Matthew's community. In the Matthean context, a three-step procedure, which had close parallels in Judaism, was put into place for correcting and disciplining those members who didn't follow the law.

First and foremost in this procedure, was to privately try to sort out the problem between the two people involved. Brendan Byrne explains that this step was designed to 'preserve the dignity of the errant person', an important message in the Catholic Tradition and one that is consistently communicated in the Church today. If this attempt didn't work, then the next steps were more serious. The errant person would bring in two or three witnesses to try to reconcile the mistake and if that didn't work then they would go to 'the church' or local Matthean community. Ultimately, for those who refused to listen or reconcile what they had done after following these steps, the person was excommunicated. Pretty harsh compared to today's society but how many of us harm relationships because we are too stubborn to listen and resolve the issue? For Matthew's community, each of these steps were taken seriously and were not to be questioned (much like not questioning my parents as a child). This process focused on dialogue; acknowledging fault, talking about what happened followed by instruction on how to reconcile with the community and God. Matthew is highlighting the value Christian community life and interaction have in the sight of God.

There is always the opportunity to mend the relationships that are broken and for all to be welcomed back into the Church community. Pope Francis cast light on this in an address in January this year:

"This is God's work: to come among us. If we consider ourselves unworthy, that does not stop him: he comes. If we reject him, he does not tire of seeking us out. If we are not ready and willing to receive him, he prefers to come anyway. And if we close the door in his face, he waits." (National Catholic Reporter, January 3, 2023)

So, do we give up when we can't reconcile with the Church community? The simple answer is no. Matthew is outlining a clear procedure designed to help the sinner recognise and acknowledge the sin and return to the community of God at any time, it's not subject to conditions nor is it time sensitive. Brendan Byrne writes, 'God's mercy doesn't set limits on forgiveness and reconciliation', so why then should we?

PARISH CALENDAR.

Fri 15 Sep: School Holidays Commence
Sat 16 Sep 5.30pm: Youth Mass
Sun 17 Sep 12pm: Parish Lunch

SACRAMENTS

FIRST RECONCILIATION will take place in term four. If you have an eligible child please enrol them before the end of term three by contacting the Parish office on 5144 4100 for an enrolment form and program dates.

PRIEST'S WELFARE FUND: THANK YOU for your generous contributions to the Priests' Welfare Foundation. The amount given by our very generous Parishioners was **\$1,122.60**

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that builds and supports safe communities for all people.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023

PLANNED GIVING: Envelopes &/or receipts will be available in all parish churches for collection this weekend. If you use envelopes each week please make sure you collect them over the next two weekends. The postage, if we have to post these out, is an added expense for the parish. If you are involved in this program using credit card, direct debit or direct credit a receipt will be there for collection. **Please note: Receipts will not be posted if they are not collected.** Thank you to all our very generous parishioners involved in this program.

If you are not currently part of the planned giving program and would like to be please call and speak to Clare or Mark in the parish office on 5144 4100 to discuss giving options.

PARISH LUNCH will be held at Legends on Sunday 17 September at 12pm. Sign up sheet will be in the Cathedral

SYNOD NEWS: Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform, Yarra Theological Union, and Garratt Publishing present SYNOD ON SYNODALITY – ROOM FOR EVERYONE IN OUR CHURCH The next Synod session this October will be crucial as it will set the tone and lay the groundwork for the second Synod in October 2024. The open consultative, listening style of the Instrumentum Laboris must be established as the normal operating procedure of the Church to enable it to regain credibility and relevance. Particular issues such as the status of women, LGBTQI+, and remarried people must be resolved responsibly. The focus of the Synod on Synodality – Room for Everyone in Our Church convocation will be a discussion on these issues. Leading the discussion is one of the ACBC's representatives at the Synod, Shane Mackinlay, Bishop of Sandhurst (Vic) who will reflect on his hopes and expectations for the October meeting and the implications for the Church in Australia. Moderating the webinar is award-winning journalist Genevieve Jacobs.

WHEN: Thursday 14 September 2023, TIME: 7:00 pm (AEST)*, WHERE: Via Zoom, COST: Free, Registration : <https://tinyurl.com/47fyp7ye>

THE NEW DIOCESAN MISSION COUNCIL

Membership: The Diocesan Mission Council will comprise up to fifteen members. The Vicar-General is a member by right. The Bishop will appoint the members of the Diocesan Mission Council after inviting expressions of Interest from within the Diocese, and discerning which mix of people will best serve the role and functions of the Council. The Bishop has the discretion to appoint up to two additional other members.

TO ALL OUR SCHOOLS: We wish you all a very happy and safe school holidays and look forward to seeing your smiling faces back in a fortnight. Have a lovely break.

RITE OF WELCOME AND BAPTISM: This weekend at St Mary's Cathedral, we welcome for Baptism Finn & Tanner Slattery sons of Zac & Natasha. Congratulations to the family from us all.

MASS INTENTIONS

Thurs 14 Sep 9.30am: Riley O'Brien (A)

PARISH ASSEMBLY PRAYER.

*Heavenly Father,
you have called us to journey with each other as one people in this process of coming together as one family through sharing, listening and discerning the movements of the Holy Spirit.
As we gather in unison for our Parish Assembly to discern the growth of our Parish, open our hearts and help us to listen to each other with humility and empathy.
United as one family and one Body in Christ, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as to what we ought to do and where we ought to go.
As we make our way in these days by faith, guide and shape us so that our minds and hearts reflect yours.
Help us build a Parish that is vibrant, evangelising and missionary.
May the blessed Virgin Mary continue to intercede for us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen*

WAITING AT THE WELL - 4x Thu, 5, 12, 19 & 26 Oct, 10am–12.30pm (in-person event)
Carole Carmody rsm, Julie Adam

This series offers an opportunity for those waiting to have their thirst quenched at the Well of Life to explore the depths of wisdom in their own heart, to recognise wisdom in the encounter with another, and to dwell in the Heart of Contemplation. Places limited. Bookings via <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/waiting-at-the-well-series/?> or email info@heartoflife.melbourne. Cost \$100 for the series or \$30 per session.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER VIGIL: Catholic communities around the world have been invited to host an ecumenical prayer vigil on the weekend of **September 30-October 1** in solidarity with a major international gathering in Rome ahead of the first session of the Synod on Synodality. A prayer vigil would be a great way to respond to their request, and to gather with Christian sisters and brothers in our shared faith. Find out more and register your vigil at: <https://together2023.net/>

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 10.30-11am 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:	\$2,874.00
Presbytery:	\$1,443.15
Credit Cards	\$1,575.00
Direct Debits & Credits:	\$1,470.00
Cathedral EFTpos:	\$170.00

With thanks from a grateful parish.

K.J.ALLMAN LL.B

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**Mass Timetable this week
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
9 - 10 September 2023**


Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 9 September	9.30am 11.00am 5.30pm	Cathedral Loch Sport Cathedral
Sunday 10 September	5.30pm 9.30am 9.30am 5.30pm	Rosedale Cathedral Briagolong Cathedral
WEEKDAYS		
Monday 11 September	<i>NO</i>	<i>MASS</i>
Tuesday 12 September	9.30am	Cathedral
Wednesday 13 September	9.30am	Cathedral
Thursday 14 September	9.30am	Cathedral
Friday 15 September		
Exposition & Reconciliation Mass	10.00am 11.00am	Cathedral Cathedral
WEEKEND		
Saturday 16 September	9.30am 5.30pm 5.30pm 9.30am	Cathedral Cathedral Rosedale Cathedral
Sunday 17 September	9.30am 5.30pm	Stratford Cathedral

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Activity tubs and books are available in the youth corner for any children attending Mass.

As the ministry to our young ones continue to develop in our parish, the youth ministry team is soliciting the assistance of parishioners who are willing to help with conducting children's liturgy. This will be during the 9.30am Sunday Mass only. Interested volunteers should please contact the Parish Office. A WWCC and Parish Code of Conduct is required. Our next Youth Mass will be **5:30pm on next Saturday 16 Sept.**

If you have any questions about youth ministry or would like to be involved, please call the Parish Office on 5144 4100 or Shari, Youth volunteer on 0430 932 220.



'Remember your creator in the days of your youth'
Ecclesiastes 12:1

Date & Time	Sat 9 Sept 5.30pm	Sun 10 Sept 9.30am	Sun 10 Sept 5.30pm
Welcomer	Theo Smolenaars	Marie & Nick Centra	Gweneth & Angel
Commentator	Faye Flint	Susan Mattson	Brenda Bowden
Reader	Sandra Smolenaars	Christine Lyon	Leny Waite
Eucharist	Jenny Gunn	Dalia Ellison	Doug Waite
Counters	Sue Harvey & Mary Cooper		

Date & Time	Sat 16 Sept 5.30pm	Sun 17 Sept 9.30am	Sun 17 Sept 5.30pm
Welcomer	Theo Smolenaars	Dalia Ellison	Claire Everard
Commentator	Liz Tabuteau	Marietta Dykun	Veronica Stewart
Reader	Christine & Larissa	Andreena Jolly	Jennifer Fitzgerald
Eucharist	Rosemary Webster	Sue Harvey	Brenda Bowden
Counters	Theo & Sandra Smolenaars		

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY
Sunday 10 September 2023
Prayer

Gracious God,
you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable. We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been abused, neglected or exploited and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken. Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

We offer prayers for those who have died **Marie Roussety, James Maher, Betty Bourke, Rebecca Duck** and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Riley O'Brien, Fr Thomas Hurley, Fr John Howard**. We pray for those who are sick Jim Durrant, Emma O'Hare, Moira Petrie, Hurbert Somasiri, Andrew Lyon, 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.**

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:

**You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself,
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

**Like a deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.**



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

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: **Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 27:30 - 28:7**
2nd Reading: **Romans 14:7-9**
Gospel: **Matthew 18:21-35**

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.