

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 9.15am 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

Dean of the Cathedral: Very Reverend Francis Otopo, Mobile 0448 529 712

Assistant Priest: Fr Jithin Anto Mobile 0490 364 751

Resident Priest: Fr Aneesh George

PARISH OFFICE: Parish Staff: Clare O'Brien, Parish Secretary. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.15am - 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), John Dykun (Deputy Chairperson), Clare O'Brien (Secretary), Doug Waite (Deputy Secretary), Jennifer Fitzgerald, Brenda Burditt, 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



The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 30 - 31 December 2023

REFLECTION

In an era when so much talk is devoted to the discussion of family values, the readings for this feast offer significant challenge. Those who believe in Christ, while still adhering to certain cultural codes of conduct, are asked to consider new and ever more balanced ways of relating. In view of their lives as Christians, parents and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters must all be embraced as equal members of the household of God.

While it is important that children of all ages honour their parents, the caring relationship of adult children for aging parents is vital in a time of mobility, nursing homes, and the lack of extended families. From God's perspective, loving care of aged members is non-negotiable. It is a family virtue that is to be kept sacred.

Wisdom comes with time and experience. Such wisdom is a source of blessing, for it provides insight and a perspective that allows the community to know the mystery and the presence of God. When the wisdom of the elderly is respected, the young are enriched by the stories of the past. Wisdom figures can point the community to places where God is working and where the divine can be found. It is their respect for tradition that allows the elderly to speak the prophetic words that can change the course of the future and inspire noble deeds of courage in the face of great pain. In reverencing the elderly and their wisdom, the community of believers receive Christ.

Dianne Bergant CSA



2023 ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE: During Advent 2022, all Australian dioceses were invited to take up a special collection for the people of Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of dollars was raised to support people in the war-torn nation through the work of Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. At the Bishops Conference's November 2023 meeting, bishops agreed to an appeal for the people of Ukraine during Advent. If you would like to donate you can do so online using a normal bank deposit to: Account Name: Trustees of UCC in Au BSB: 704-235 Account: 00007183 There will be no leaving collection for this appeal in our Parish.

PARISH OFFICE will be closed from **Monday 25 December 2023 till Tuesday 16 January 2024**. Have a joy filled, happy, healthy and safe New Year from all of us in the Parish Office.

THE BULLETIN For January will be our usual two page one over this quieter time for our Parish.

DAILY PRAYER Short daily Gospel reflections with access to readings and prayers of the faithful can be found at <https://www.pray.com.au>

GARDEN MAINTENANCE TEAM meets on **Wednesday from 9.30-11.00am**. When you do come, please come with your garden gloves, spades, garden shears etc and help to lighten the load. We'll have a cup of tea/coffee when done. If you are able to assist please call John Dykun on 0413 947 352.

MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS if you are, or know of another parishioner, celebrating a milestone birthday, anniversary or any other joyous moment to share with your parish please let one of the Priests or the Parish office know.

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

DAILY PRAYER Short daily Gospel reflections with access to readings and prayers of the faithful can be found at <https://www.pray.com.au>

PASTORAL CARE PRACTITIONER Prison Ministry. CatholicCare Victoria are welcoming applications for a Pastoral Care Practitioner position to service the spiritual and religious needs of the prisoners of Catholic faith, prisoners' families, ex-prisoners and staff within the Prison and Correctional Centres across Victoria. Our current opportunities are: Dame Phyllis Frost Centre in Ravenhall, 7.5 hours a week **Thursdays 9am-5pm** **Fulham Correctional Centre, Sale, 7.5 hours a week Fridays 9am - 5pm** **HMP Langi Kal Kal, Beaufort, 3 hours a week Fridays 2 - 5pm** **Hopkins Correctional Centre, Ararat, 5 hours, Thursdays 12 - 5pm** If you relate well with people of all backgrounds and different cultures, please apply via our website <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/181/current-job-vacancies>

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE A letter to the People of God in Australia has been prepared to provide an update on the Church's progress beyond the conclusion of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. While formal recognition from the Holy See has not yet been received for the Council's acts and decrees, dioceses, religious institutes and other Catholic communities are embracing various outcomes of the Plenary Council, including through synods, assemblies and focused events. The letter also outlines key milestones since the conclusion of the Plenary Council in July last year, and examines the complementary nature of the Plenary Council and the ongoing Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church. To read the letter check out our website at <https://tinyurl.com/5naxtkc7>

SYNOD 2023 A letter from the participants in the assembly to the people of God was released on 25 October 2023 in Rome. The letter presents the experience of the first assembly of the Synod and hopes for the future as we move towards the second session in October next year. To read the letter visit <https://tinyurl.com/h4ex63wp>

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*

SYNTHESIS REPORT of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops The official English version of the Synthesis Report of the First Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, "A Synodal Church on Mission." Is now published. The 41-page report summarises the discussions from the first assembly with every item in the report being approved by at least a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Synod. This "is not a final document but an instrument in the service of ongoing discernment." This Document can be found at <https://bit.ly/3qYiozA>

RITE OF WELCOME AND BAPTISM: This weekend at St Mary's Cathedral, we welcome for Baptism Milika Vahanoa child of Tu'akalau & Sarah. Congratulations to the family from us all.

LEGION OF MARY meet in the Chapter House from **10.30am each Wednesday**. New members are very welcome.

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:	\$1,012.00
Presbytery:	\$3,314.20
Credit Cards	\$0.00
Direct Debits & Credits:	\$777.00
Cathedral EFTpos:	\$130.00

With thanks from a grateful parish.



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Mass Timetable this week
The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
30 - 31 December 2023

Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 30 December	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
Sunday 31 December	5.30pm	Rosedale
	9.30am	Stratford
	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
WEEKDAY MASSES		
Monday 1 January 2024	NO	MASS
Tuesday 2 January	9.30am	Cathedral
Wednesday 3 January	9.30am	Cathedral
Thursday 4 January	9.30am	Cathedral
Friday 5 January		
Exposition & Reconciliation Mass	10.00am	Cathedral
	11.00am	Cathedral
WEEKEND		
Saturday 6 January	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
	9.30am	Stratford
Sunday 7 January	9.30am	Cathedral
	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral



Activity tubs & books: available in the Youth Corner for all children attending mass.

Youth Mass: The next youth mass will be held on the 3rd Saturday in **February 2024**.

Children's Liturgy: Running every Sunday on school term during **9:30am Mass** (If you would like to volunteer please contact Parish Office, A WWCC & Parish Code of Conduct required)

Family Fun & Faith Day: Has been rescheduled and will now be held on **Saturday 10 February 2024**. Please put this date in your diary. Please contact Shari on 0430 932 220 if you would like more information.

Date & Time	Sat 30 Dec 5.30pm	Sun 31 Dec 9.30am	Sun 31 Dec 5.30pm
Welcomer	John Dykun	Marie & Nick Centra	Claire Everard
Commentator	Veronica Stewart	Amanda & Maya V	Andreena Jolly
Reader	Christine & Larissa	Christine Lyon	Faye Flint
Eucharist	Carmel Wade	Anna Allen	Lyn Althaus
Counters	Theo & Sandra Smolenaars		

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Fr Francis, Fr Jithin, Fr Aneesh, Mark Durrant, Clare O'Brien, Jennifer Fitzgerald and Myriam Elgueta wish all our Parishioners a very Happy New Year and a happy, healthy and safe 2024

Date & Time	Sat 6 Jan 24 5.30pm	Sun 7 Jan 24 9.30am	Sun 7 Jan 5.30pm
Welcomer	Theo Smolenaars	Margaret Shirreffs	Mary Chiller
Commentator	Brenda Burditt	Christine Lyon	Adam Collins
Reader	Liz Tabuteau	Susan Mattson	Veronica Stewart
Eucharist	Jenny Gunn	Dalia Ellison	Doug Waite
Counters	Len & Lyn Althaus		



MASS INTENTIONS:

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We offer prayers for those who have died **Doreen O'Grady, Patricia Hayes**, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Christopher Everard, Fr Kevin Moriarty, Fr Frank Young, Fr Matthew Haye, Fr Frank Ruth, Bishop Patrick Phelan, Fr Pat Walsh, Fr Daniel Shanahan**. We pray for those who are sick **Jayantha, Jim Durrant, Emma O'Hare, Moira Petrie, Hurbert Somasiri, Andrew Lyon, Jim Clottin, Nimal & Vajira, Dushyanthi, Helen O'Kane, 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:

**The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! **(R.)**

Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. **(R.)**

Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **(R.)**

He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. **(R.)**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master,
you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.



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Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Cathedral

Every Friday 10 - 11am

Reconciliation: Cathedral

Friday 10.30 - 11am

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

The EPIPHANY of the LORD

1st Reading: **Isaiah 60:1-6**

2nd Reading: **Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6**

Gospel: **Matthew 2:1-12**

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.