

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 Priests: Fr Aneesh George IVDei, Mobile 0436 426 092, Fr Joy Muthappan IVDei, 5144 4100

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: To be advised

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



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A *14 - 15 February 2026*

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Dear Friends in Christ

Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks – come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning. (Joel 2:12).

Each year, the Ash Wednesday call from the prophet Joel heralds the commencement of Lent. This is the Lenten call on offer to us - to return to the One from whom all our blessings flow. Our return invites us to think deeply: about ourselves, our lives and our community. To keep time with God, focusing on what gives our worldly pilgrimage meaning.

Our spiritual and practical Lenten habits can offer a counter-rhythm to the fractured state of our world. When we pray with the Lenten readings, we are drawn into humble introspection which can provide insight into how we are in the world. Perhaps it reminds us of the need to reach out to others — to make peace, to be generous with what we have. Through this self-reflection, our hearts become more open to goodness, our eyes are fixed more closely on the Lord, allowing us to give more freely and recommit ourselves to the path of generosity, kindness and peace.

Many in our community face personal challenges – grief, loss, deep disappointment. Our own lives can provide fertile ground for seeds of renewal. We can take inspiration across the Diocese of Sale this year as over one hundred adults will be baptised and received into the Church this Easter – the Holy Spirit stirs in those who search. Across our parishes we will accompany our catechumens and candidates as they move toward the waters of baptism, reflecting deeply upon the Gospels of St John and three Sundays of Scrutiny. Are we ready to drink of the living water always on offer from a loving and merciful God? Can we allow the Lord to heal our blindness? Can we hear the voice of Jesus who wishes to set us free from all that binds us? We can be assured the Lord sees us in our struggles. God is with us in our stumbling always calling us to a new way of life. Perhaps part of our Lenten practice this year is a call to experience the sacrament of reconciliation and to hear the reassuring words, “Go forth you are set free.”

We know the gift of peace is a precious gift which so many across the globe do experience: so many lives of innocent people beset by turmoil and violence they did not choose. This year, in recognition of the 800th anniversary of St Francis' death, Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Franciscan jubilee year. This special jubilee aims to honour St Francis's legacy and to encourage in us a desire to follow St Francis:

...may the example and spiritual legacy of this Saint, strong in faith, steadfast in hope and ardent in active charity towards his neighbour, inspire in everyone the importance of trusting in the Lord, of living a life faithful to the Gospel, and of accepting and illuminating every circumstance and action of life with faith and prayer.

(Pope Leo, Letter of the Holy Father Leo XIV to the Ministers General of the Conference of the Franciscan Family on the Occasion of the Opening of the Eighth Centenary of the Death of St Francis of Assisi, January 2026).

This is part of our Lenten call. To pray and work for peace. To reflect deeply about our call to discipleship. To respond with practical generosity - and I commend the work of CARITAS - Project Compassion to you in this regard.

We are encouraged not to rush, but to walk toward Easter with greater honesty, generosity, and a prayerful heart open to renewal as missionary disciples. To come back to the One who is the source of all blessing.

May the peace of a grace-filled Lent be with you.

Bishop Greg Bennet

PARISH CALENDAR

Fri 13 Feb 6.30pm: An Evening of Praise
Sun 15 Feb 12pm: Parish Lunch at Sporting Legends
Wed 18 Feb: ASH WEDNESDAY
Sat 21 Feb 5.30pm: Youth Mass, Cathedral
Sun 22 Feb 3pm: Diocesan Rite of Election, Cathedral

PARISH NEWS

RITE OF ELECTION on **Sunday 22 Feb** we have the record-breaking number of candidates for the Diocesan Rite of Election. 97 people is an amazing number and we praise God for everyone joining us to celebrate. Bishop Greg will welcome all candidates at 2pm on Sunday and thereafter the Ceremony for the Rite of Election will commence at **3pm**. We are expecting in excess of 200 people and so would appreciate our Parishioners welcoming them into our midst. **We would also appreciate it if everyone can please bring a plate of food to share. Many thanks to you all.**

YOUTH MASS Our next Youth Mass will be at **5.30pm Mass on Saturday 21 February 2026**. If you would like to join the group or volunteer for a role please speak to Fr Aneesh.

2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM **First Communion** Commitment Masses take place this weekend. First Communion Masses will take place on the **weekend of 21 & 22 March**. If you have any questions about our sacramental program please email: sale.sacraments@cdsale.org.au

RITE OF WELCOME AND BAPTISM: This weekend at St Mary's Cathedral, we welcome for Baptism **Charlotte Dessent** daughter of Samuel & Samantha; **Maevie Dessent** daughter of Deanne & Bradley; **Isabelle Arndell** daughter of Jade & Ethan; **Rosie & Lottie Benson** daughters of Jade & Darcy; & **Tabitha Lees** daughter of Laura & Jacob. Congratulations to the families from us all.

LENTEN RETREAT This is a save the date call. On **Friday, 20 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm**, we will be having our Lenten Reflection evening in preparation for the Holy Week. More details in the coming weeks.

BAPTISMS: By arrangement through the Parish Office phone 5144 4100. No baptisms during Lent.
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.

ASH WEDNESDAY Ash Wednesday 2026 is next week, **18th February**. Two important notices: first, please if you've still got some of the blessed palm/olive branches from the last Palm Sunday liturgy, could you please return them to the Cathedral this Sunday, or at the latest, Monday afternoon. We will appreciate it if you could please leave them in the box provided in the gathering area and we will pick them up for preparation for Ash Wednesday this year. Second, there are multiple Mass times scheduled this year (check the bulletin). You are most welcome to please attend one of the Masses on the day.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Following Ash Wednesday, the Stations of the Cross commences **every Friday of Lent, at 6.00pm** in the Cathedral. This year, each week, different groups will lead the Stations as follows: the RCIA team (20/02/26), SERA club (27/02/26), Filipino community (06/03/26), Cathedral youth, children, and families (13/03/26), and the Indian community (27/03/26). See the schedule also inside the bulletin. May God give us the grace to begin our Lenten journey this year in HIS presence, amen.

Eucharist28 Adoration on 1st March: As advised last Sunday, Australia will be hosting the International Eucharistic Congress in 2028, with the theme: "This is my Body given for you." In preparation for the august event, the organising committee has advised and encourages parishes across Australia to participate in an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Here in Sale, after careful consideration and consultation, we propose to keep the one hour adoration on Sunday, **1st March from 4.15pm to 5.15pm**, then followed by the Sunday evening Mass at 5.30pm. Please keep this date in your diaries. Spread the word and let us keep the Eucharist28 Congress in our prayers.

YOUTH MINISTRY How can we engage the faith of young people and families in our parishes? This is a question at the heart of our Parish life, seeking continuous direction and guidance from the Holy Spirit. One initiative that came up from my engagement with other parishes during my sabbatical is the ministry called Young Readers Ministry. This ministry encourages young people to proclaim the Word during Masses. A roster will be created for those willing to participate to help each person/family take responsibility. Training will be provided prior to commencement. How beautiful will it be to see this ministry take its place in our Parish. Soon, we will call for expressions of interest from those in Grade 6 and above. Please stay awake and alert for this call.

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*

PPC MEMBERSHIP. I want to thank everyone for your active participation in the process for establishing a new PPC. The level of involvement was enormous—from actively advising, to nominations, and volunteering to pray for the new PPC formation—we appreciate you all. Now, we have good nominations, more than enough... a good problem to have. We will now sit in prayer and deliberate with the nominees. By next Sunday, we should tell you the names of our new Council members. Once again, thank you for your interest in OUR PARISH.

DIOCESAN NEWS

HOLY HOURS FOR VOCATIONS – Diocese of Sale The Diocese of Sale invites all parishioners to join in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament to ask the Lord for an increase in vocations.
Feb 28: Leongatha 4:30-5:30 pm
Mar 14: Wonthaggi 5:15-6:15pm
Mar 28: Cranbourne (4:30– 5:30 pm)
Apr 26: Narre Warren (4:45 – 5:45 PM)
Please join us as we unite in prayer for the future of our Church.

LAUNCH OF PROJECT COMPASSION for Sale Diocese will take place in St Mary's Cathedral, Sale at **11.30am on Tuesday 17 February**. All welcome.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

Planned Giving:	\$874.50
Presbytery:	\$944.05
Credit Cards	\$950.00
Direct Debits & Credits:	\$2,496.00
Cathedral EFTpos:	\$175.00

With thanks from a grateful parish.



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**Mass Timetable this week
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
14 - 15 February 2026**

Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 14 February	9.30am	Cathedral
	11.00am	Loch Sport
	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
Sunday 15 February	9.30am	Stratford
	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
WEEKDAY MASSES		
Monday 16 February	NO	MASS
Tuesday 17 February	9.30am	Cathedral
Wednesday 18 February ASH WEDNESDAY	9.30am	Cathedral
	9.30am	Stratford
	11.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
Thursday 19 February	9.30am	Cathedral
Friday 20 February Benediction & Exposition Mass	10.00am	Cathedral
	11.00am	Cathedral
WEEKEND MASSES		
Saturday 21 February Youth Mass	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
Sunday 22 February	9.30am	Briagolong
	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal
Life.
Amen.

Cathedral Date & Time	Sat 14 February 5.30pm	Sun 15 February 9.30am	Sun 15 February 5.30pm
Welcomer	Theo Smolenaars	Margaret Shirreffs	Veronica Stewart
Commentator	Sandra Smolenaars	Mildred Semodio	Andreena Jolly
Reader	Brenda Burditt	Nick Hall	Claire Everard
Eucharists	Jenny G, Frank Fidge	Brenda Bow, Dr Salle	Doug Waite, Len Althaus
Eucharist	Rosemary Webster	Adi Udiano	Lyn Althaus
Counters	Sue Harvey & John Dykun		

Weekly Stations of the Cross Leaders			
Date	Group	Time	Venue
20/02/26	RCIA	6:00pm	Cathedral
27/02/26	Serra Club	6:00pm	Cathedral
06/03/26	Filipino Community	6:00pm	Cathedral
13/03/26	Cathedral Youth	6:00pm	Cathedral
27/03/26	Indian Community	6:00pm	Cathedral

Cathedral Date & Time	Sat 21 February 5.30pm	Sun 22 February 9.30am	Sun 22 February 5.30pm
Welcomer	YOUTH MASS	Marie & Nick Centra	Mary Chiller
Commentator	YOUTH MASS	Susan Mattson	Jennifer Fitzgerald
Reader	YOUTH MASS	Vince Beer	Lyn Althaus
Eucharists	Emma M, Claire L	Doug & Leny Waite	Len & Lyn Althaus
Eucharist	Jonathan Peckley	Sue Harvey	Brenda Bowden
Counters	Len & Lyn Althaus		

ASH WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY



MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun 15 Feb 9.30am: Mary Patricia Spykers (D), **Wed 18 Feb 5.30pm:** Jonielyn Abrahm ,
Thurs 19 Feb 9.30am: Dave Rebbechi (A); Joe DiMarco (A)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We offer prayers for those who died and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Joe DiMarco, Mary Spykers, Jonielyn Abraham, Dave Rebbechi, deceased Clergy of the Diocese.** We pray for those who are sick Peter Walsh, Suzanne O'Doherty, Hayden, Shama, Manel, Michelle, Lou, Daniel, Veronica Foxe, Teresa Bennett, Emma O'Hare, Jim Clottin, Moira Petrie, Dushyanthi, Michael McGrath, Troy Barney, Bill Harkin. **We pray in thanks for all who are sick and those who care for them.**

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:

**Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Sirach 15:15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm to obey you statutes. **R.**

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. **R.**

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. **R.**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom
Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus said to His disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the

least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court, if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. 'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal, But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all', either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

**They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.**



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Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Friday from 10.00am—11.30am

**RECONCILIATION: Cathedral -
Friday & Saturday following Mass**

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

First Sunday of Lent, Year A

1st Reading: **Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7**

2nd Reading: **Romans 5:12-19**

Gospel: **Matthew 4:1-11**

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.