

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: Fr Francis, Fr Aneesh, Fr Joy, Rose Lee, Tim Morrison, Doug Waite, Andrew Pagatpat, David Erdmann, Jonathan Peckley, Romulo Sanchez, Teresa Tantaro, Michele Wakeham, Joel Brayshaw, Jodie Ware, Filomena Padula, Jenny Fitzgerald.

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



First Sunday of Lent, Year A 21 - 22 February 2026

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL: This weekend we receive and welcome about a hundred Catechumens/Candidates for the Rite of Election. It is a huge number this year, omg! This is an indication that the future is brighter, amen and amen! We keep the Catechumens/Candidates and their families in prayer. We equally welcome the Diocesan/Parishes RCIA team. It is always a privilege and blessing to host this event every year as we are given first hand opportunity to witness the growth of our Diocese. May the good Lord continue to bless everyone involved with preparations for this special day in our Diocese and in our lovely Cathedral Parish.

A NEW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Last Sunday, I highlighted my gratitude to you all for your support and assistance in the process of starting a new Parish Pastoral Council. I did say I was going to let you know who the new Council members are. Before I name them, let me express my profound gratitude to those who were on the Council for the last three years and have dropped off from the new Council. In this regard, special thanks to: John Dykun, Andrew Liyanage, Brenda Burditt, and Libby Byrnes. They were great team members and we remain grateful to them.

For the new Council members, there are four categories: ongoing members: Rose Lee, Doug Waite, & Andrew Pagatpat. Incoming members: David Erdmann, Jonathan Peckley, Romulo Sanchez, & Teresa Tantaro. School representatives: Michele Wakeham (Catholic College Sale), Joel Brayshaw (St Patrick's Stratford), Jodie Ware (St Thomas' Sale), and Filomena Padula (St Mary's Sale). By reason of office: Jenny Fitzgerald (Parish Sacraments Coordinator), Tim Morrison (Parish Safeguarding Officer).

I want to use this medium to thank these individuals for saying yes to serving the Parish in this capacity. Thanks also to those nominated but who are currently on reserve. The new Council is committed to initiating and overseeing the implementation of pastoral programs in our parish, which includes an annual implementation plan from the broad Diocesan Pastoral Plan Framework and our last Parish Assembly recommendations. We are looking forward to becoming a more synodal, more missionary, and more Christ-centred parish community this year and into the future. Please, keep this team in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit continue to lead and guide us, now and always.

IN THE WILDERNESS OF LIFE: This first Sunday of Lent, we reflect on the Gospel narrative about the temptations of Jesus, from Matthew's account. In three areas of deep human desires (food, protection, and possession), God allowed Jesus to be tempted. On his part, trusting in the Father's goodness and providence, Jesus rebuffs all the suggestions of the evil one. He remained committed to the Father's perfect plan and will. At the end of his earthly ministry, "the lordship of the world is given to him as risen Lord, following His obedient death upon the cross for the salvation of humanity" (see Matt:18; Phil 2:8-11). As we commence our Lenten journey, we are invited to follow Jesus into the wilderness of life, with all its challenges, difficulties, and ungodliness; yet with a lot of love, beauty, and goodness. Like Jesus, we are encouraged to trust in the God's goodness and so enter into a Christ-like relationship with the Father. The good news is that we are never alone; the Holy Spirit is always with us. May our Lenten observances this year lead us to a deeper understanding of our Christian vocation to be more Christ-centred in spirit, more missionary in zeal, and more synodal in action.

Blessings and peace!
Fr Francis Otopo

PARISH CALENDAR

Sat 21 Feb 5.30pm: Youth Mass, Cathedral
Sun 22 Feb 3pm: Diocesan Rite of Election, Cathedral
Sun 1 Mar 10.30am: First Sunday Cuppa &
Sun 1 Mar 4.15: Adoration, Cathedral
Fri 20/2, 27/2, 6/3, 13/3, 20/3 & 27/3 6.00pm: Stations of the Cross (refer to page 3)
Fri 20 Mar 6.30pm: Lenten retreat

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**. Fr Aneesh and the youth group plan for these Masses at 6pm on the Friday week before the Mass in the Chapter House. If you would like to join the group or volunteer for a role please speak to Fr Aneesh.

2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM **First Communion** (for year 4 or above who have made their First Reconciliation) in first term. 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

LENTE 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.

FIRST SUNDAY CUPPA: Next weekend, Sunday 1 March, **Parish Pastoral Council** 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. 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.

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 **SERRA 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 inside the bulletin. May God give us the grace to begin our Lenten journey this year in HIS presence, Amen.

EUCARIST28 ADORATION ON 1 MARCH: As advised previously, 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.

PROJECT COMPASSION for our Parish. You can make a donation to our Parish page by logging in to our link: <https://www.projectcompassion.org.au/fundraisers/salecathedralparish>. Any amounts raised will be included in our total raised for 2026.

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*

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: St Laurence O'Toole, Leongatha (4:30 – 5:30 PM)

Mar 14: St Joseph's, Wonthaggi (5:15-6:15pm)

Mar 28: St Agatha's, Cranbourne (4:30–5:30 pm)

Apr 26: Our Lady Help of Christians, Narre Warren (4:45 – 5:45 PM)

Please join us as we unite in prayer for the future of our Church.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza. Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities. Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes & envelopes. Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/ donate Or by calling: 1800 024 413
Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

THERE IS NO MASS ON THURSDAY 26 FEB IN THE CATHEDRAL.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

Planned Giving:	\$1,515.00
Presbytery:	\$1,276.65
Credit Cards	\$20.00
Direct Debits & Credits:	\$1,950.00
Cathedral EFTpos:	\$205.00

With thanks from a grateful parish.



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**Mass Timetable this week
First Sunday of Lent, Year A
21 - 22 February 2026**

Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 21 February <i>Youth Mass</i>	9.30am 5.30pm	Cathedral Cathedral
Sunday 22 February <i>Rite of Election</i>	5.30pm 9.30am 9.30am 3.00pm 5.30pm	Rosedale Briagolong Cathedral Cathedral Cathedral
WEEKDAY MASSES		
Monday 23 February	NO	MASS
Tuesday 24 February	9.30am	Cathedral
Wednesday 25 February	9.30am	Cathedral
Thursday 26 February	NO MASS	
Friday 27 February <i>Benediction & Exposition Mass</i>	10.00am 11.00am	Cathedral Cathedral
WEEKEND MASSES		
Saturday 28 February	9.30am 11.00am	Cathedral Loch Sport
Sunday 1 March	5.30pm 5.30pm 9.30am 9.30am 5.30pm	Cathedral Loch Sport Cathedral Rosedale Stratford Cathedral 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 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		

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 28 February 5.30pm	Sun 1 March 9.30am	Sun 1 March 5.30pm
Welcomer	John Dykun	Margaret Shirreffs	Veronica Stewart
Commentator	Liz Tabuteau	Nick Hall	Andreena Jolly
Reader	Sandra Smolenaars	Christine Lyon	Claire Everard
Eucharists	Jonathan P, Theo S	Abi U, Margaret S	Len & Lyn Althaus
Eucharist	Brenda Burditt	Dr Salle	Brenda Bowden
Counters	Theo & Sandra Smolenaars		

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun 22 Feb 9.30am Briag: Ursula McCarthy (A)

Wed 26 Feb 9.30am: Helena Klimas (A)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We offer prayers for those who died **Ian Ronchi** and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Ursula McCarthy, 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:

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;

what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,

nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me.

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

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

Matthew 4:1

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.



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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:

Second Sunday of Lent, Year A

1st Reading: **Genesis 12:1-4**

2nd Reading: **2 Timothy 1:8-10**

Gospel: **Matthew 17:1-9**

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.