

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

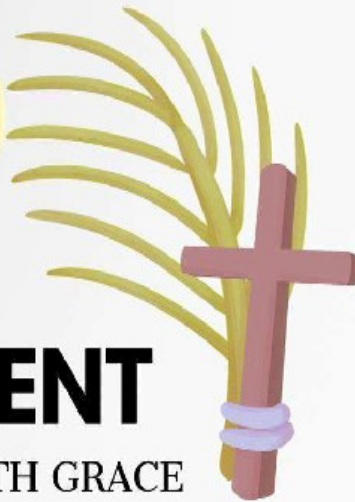


*Third Sunday of Lent, Year A
7 - 8 March 2026*

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL SALE
INVITES YOU TO A

2-DAY LENTEN EVENT

THEME: SEASONED WITH GRACE



DAY 1: FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2026

TIME: 6:30PM-8PM

TOPIC: JOY IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

GUEST SPEAKER: FR. PAUL ZHAR

MUSIC BY: FR. MARK HUGHES



DAY 2: SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2026

TIME: 10AM-3PM

TOPIC: THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

GUEST SPEAKER: BRO. PAT KELLY

MUSIC BY: THE VALDO FAMILY



Location: St Mary's Cathedral Sale

Enquiries:

Fr. Francis Otopo: 0448 529 712

Parish Office: 5144 4100

The children from St Patrick's Stratford reminded me last Wednesday that the season of Lent is a preparatory period for the big party at Easter. What a beautiful way to look at it.

There are several ways that we embark on this preparation. One of the ways, as a parish community, is through participation in the Lenten Stations of the Cross. We have had three sessions already, and I'm grateful to all of you who have made it a point of duty to participate. Thanks also to the groups that have led us so far: the RCIA team, the SERA club, and the Filipino community. Coming **Friday 13 March, at 6.00pm**, the young ones/families of the parish will lead the Stations. Please let us be present to encourage our young ones.

Another way to prepare for the big party of Easter is through our Lenten reflection sessions. This year we have scheduled two days of events. One an evening session and another during the day. See the flyer for details. There are two brilliant guest speakers: Fr Paul Zahar and Bro Pat Kelly. I encourage everyone to please support this initiative.

This weekend and for the next two, our RCIA candidates/catechumens will have their Scrutinies. As we congratulate them for the journey so far, please keep them and their families in your prayers. May the light of the Gospel continue to shine brightly in their lives as they make this profound decision for Jesus.

Blessings to you all.

Fr Francis

PARISH CALENDAR

Fri 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

Sat 21 Mar 10am: Lenten retreat continues

Tues 31 Mar 11am: Mass of the Oils, Cathedral

PARISH NEWS

2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 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 On Friday, 20 March .30pm to 8.00pm & Sat 21 March 10am to 3pm, we will be having our Lenten Event in preparation for the Holy Week. Refer to the flyer on the front page and page 3 for details.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This year, each week, different groups will lead the Stations as follows: **Cathedral youth, children, & 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.

Weekly Stations of the Cross

Leaders

Date	Group	Time
13/03/26	Cathedral Youth	6:00pm
27/03/26	Indian Community	6:00pm

31 CLUB REMINDER: 9 - 15 March. At Saturday morning Mass we pray for vocations

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>

EASTER FLOWERS if you would like to make a donation for Easter Flowers please either drop the money into the office or place in an envelope on our collection plates at each Mass.

DIOCESAN NEWS

VOCATIONS INVITATION: COME AND SEE

Are you discerning a call to ministry? The Catholic Diocese of Sale invites you to an afternoon of storytelling and fellowship. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet others on a similar journey and hear firsthand accounts from priests about their lives and their unique calls to ministry.

Event Details:

Date: Sunday, 15th March 2026

Time: 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: St Agatha's Parish Hall

Address: 129-131 Sladen Street, Cranbourne,

As the scripture reminds us, "the harvest is plentiful". Come and see where your path may lead.

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.

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.

LENTE CHARISMATIC RETREAT "Return to Me with All Your Heart" – Joel 2:12. Experience renewal and deeper prayer this Lent at St Agatha's Parish, Cranbourne.

Date: Thursday, 26th March

Time: 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Leader: Fr Francis Otobo (Dean of St Mary's Cathedral)

Program: Rosary, Praise & Worship, Holy Mass, Lenten Reflection, and Adoration.

All are welcome to this powerful encounter with the Lord.

OFFICIAL OPENING: St Eugene's Retreat Centre. Fr Andrew Chen OMI and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate cordially invite you to the Official Opening and Blessing. **Date: Sat 21 March 2026 Time: 10:00 am**

Location: 45 John Field Drive, Newborough. RSVP: bit.ly/StEugenesRSVP

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*

OTHER NEWS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Live Your Best Life in Love...A Marriage Encounter weekend is a gift for every married couple. Every married couple deserves this very special weekend. Time-out for the two of you to focus on your most precious relationship. You will come away feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep your renewed intimacy alive. No group sharing is required. The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome. Weekends are: **April 24 - 26th** St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South. **November 6 - 8th** St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm Information/Bookings: Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or Website: wwme.org.au or Vicbookings@wwme.org.au

An Invitation to Christian Meditation Do you feel overwhelmed by the demands of a busy world? Join facilitator Chris Roga at the Heart of Life: Centre for Formation & Spirituality for a day dedicated to the "prayer of the heart". This simple yet powerful practice invites you to move beyond the noise of daily life and rest in the stillness of God's presence. **Date: Saturday, 21st March, Cost: \$90.00 AUD.** Register now: Visit the Heart of Life website to book your place.

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.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

Planned Giving:	\$548.10
Presbytery:	\$1,336.70
Credit Cards	\$1,080.00
Direct Debits & Credits:	\$1,130.00
Cathedral EFTpos:	\$355.00

With thanks from a grateful parish.



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**Mass Timetable this week
Third Sunday of Lent, Year A
7 - 8 March 2026**

Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 7 March	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
Sunday 8 March	9.30am	Briagolong
	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
WEEKDAY MASSES		
Monday 9 March	NO	MASS
Tuesday 10 March	9.30am	Cathedral
Wednesday 11 March	9.30am	Cathedral
Thursday 12 March	9.30am	Cathedral
Friday 13 March		
Benediction & Exposition	10.00am	Cathedral
Mass	11.00am	Cathedral
WEEKEND MASSES		
Saturday 14 March	9.30am	Cathedral
	11.00am	Loch Sport
	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
Sunday 15 March	9.30am	Stratford
	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 7 March 5.30pm	Sun 8 March 9.30am	Sun 8 March 5.30pm
Welcomer	Theo Smolenaars	Margaret Shirreffs	Mary Chiller
Commentator	Sandra Smolenaars	Mildred Semodio	Jennifer Fitzgerald
Reader	Liz Tabuteau	Susan Mattson	Brenda Bowden
Eucharists	Jenny G, Frank Fidge	Margaret S, Doug W	Len & Lyn Althaus
Eucharist	Carmel Wade	Leny Waite	Please offer
Counters	Sue Harvey & John Dykun		

2-DAY LENTEN EVENT – "SEASONED WITH GRACE"

St Mary's Cathedral Sale warmly invites all parishioners and visitors to join us for a special two-day Lenten event. The days include Mass, adoration, teaching, praise and worship and much, much more!!

Cathedral Date & Time	Sat 14 March 5.30pm	Sun 15 March 9.30am	Sun 15 March 5.30pm
Welcomer	John Dykun	Margaret Shirreffs	Veronica Stewart
Commentator	Brenda Burditt	Vince Beer	Andreena Jolly
Reader	Joel Brayshaw	Di Austin	Faye Flint
Eucharists	Emma M, Claire Lyon	Sue Harvey, Marg S	Doug Waite, Veronica S
Eucharist	Rosemary Webster	Dr Salle	Leny Waite
Counters	Lyn & Len Althaus		

Day 1: Friday, 20 March 2026

- **Time:** 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
- **Topic:** *Joy in the Midst of Suffering*
- **Guest Speaker:** Fr. Paul Zahar
- **Music by:** Fr. Mark Hughes

Day 2: Saturday, 21 March 2026

- **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- **Topic:** *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit*
- **Guest Speaker:** Bro. Pat Kelly
- **Music by:** The Valdo Family



MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun 8 Mar 9.30am: Giulio & Gina Ravagnolo,(A's), Antoni Myrdzio (A) & Perla Nario (remembrance)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We offer prayers for those who died and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Giulio & Gina Ravagnolo, Antoni Myrdzio, Perla Nario, 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:

**My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

If today you hear 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 St Paul's letter to the Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 4:4-5, 19-26, 39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans.' Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir,' said the woman 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

**For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.**



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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:
Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A
1st Reading: **1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13**
2nd Reading: **Ephesians 5:8-14**
Gospel: **John 9:1-41**

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.