

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 Otober, 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 Tantarò, 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



Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A 21 - 22 March 2026

FR ANEESH: For some of you it is no longer news, but for others, it may still be news, that Fr Aneesh has been transferred from the Cathedral Parish to St Joseph Parish, Wonthaggi. This transfer takes effect from Wednesday 25th March, 2026. It has been over two years now since Fr Aneesh has been with us here in the Cathedral Parish - what I would refer to as two years of service, dedication, and commitment to duty. It has always been fun and laughter since he's been here, not just for his good looks and stylish hairstyle, but also for his friendliness, gentleness, and humility; not to talk of his cooking skills and cheeky jokes and smiles. I bless God particularly for the joy and happiness that he brings to many of us - as you can see, he has left us with JOY personified. I must confess, Aneesh is a delight to be with, and many of you shared in this wonderful quality of his personality. Now, with the retirement of Fr Denis O'Bryan as PP of Wonthaggi, Fr Aneesh George leaves for Wonthaggi to become the Administrator of the Parish. We commit Fr Aneesh to God's grace and mercy, while we continue to pray for Fr Denis, for good health and fulfilment in retirement. Aneesh has proven he can be trusted in little tasks; now the good Lord has entrusted him with greater (Luke 16:10). May God bless him and keep him in God's care. At our next PPC, we shall discuss how to go about his farewell.

CONGRATULATIONS: This weekend, over 40 of our young ones are making their First Holy Communion. This is a huge number, and we are grateful to God for guiding these young ones through this special journey. We remain grateful to their parents for their support; and to their teachers and school communities for their guidance and encouragement throughout the preparatory period. To our sacramental coordinator and her team, I say thank God. May God continue to bless these children and give them many opportunities to celebrate their faith in the community of the Church.

THANK YOU: on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to thank everyone for your support of the Lenten Reflection initiative. Thank you particularly to all who made it in person, and also to those who couldn't but offered prayers for the two-day event. For those who helped with food (morning/afternoon tea, lunch, supper) I cannot thank you enough. My heart goes out to you all. May God's grace continue to bless you all.

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND AND HOLY WEEK: Next Sunday, 28/29 March is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. It is the Week of weeks in the Christian calendar. During the week, we commemorate the Lord's Last Supper with his disciples (Holy Thursday), we hold services in honour of the Lord's Passion and death (Good Friday), we celebrate the triumphant Resurrection of the Lord (Saturday Vigil/ Easter Sunday). This is the highest point of the Christian faith, and I encourage you all to please make it a point of duty to participate in these celebrations. As is traditional in the Cathedral, Bishop Greg will preside over the Liturgies. Let us keep the week and our bishop in prayers please.

RCIA: This Sunday is the third scrutiny for our RCIA catechumens and candidate, and the last week before they receive the Easter sacraments. I cannot thank God enough for all of them; for their dedication and commitment from the start right through to the end. Despite challenges from their little ones and work schedule, they kept the spirit alive. Thank you friends. Next week, during the Holy Saturday Service, they will receive the sacraments. Let us continue to pray for them. This is the tricky time - post Easter. May the Lord be their guide and encouragement and support. On behalf of you all, I would like to specifically thank our RCIA team. God bless you heaps.

God bless you all and keep you safe in HIS love. Amen! *Fr Francis*

PARISH CALENDAR

Fri 20 Mar 6.30pm: Lenten retreat, Cathedral
Sat 21 Mar 10am: Lenten retreat, Cathedral
Fri 27 Mar 6.00pm: Stations of the Cross
Tues 31 Mar 11am: Chrism Mass, Cathedral

PARISH NEWS

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

LENTEN RETREAT On Friday, 20 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm, we will be having our Lenten Reflection. On Saturday 21 March the Lenten retreat will continue from 10am to 3.30pm. Please bring refreshments and lunch to share

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This year, each week, different groups will lead the Stations as follows the Indian community (27/03/26). 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
27/03/26	Indian Community	6:00pm

31 CLUB REMINDER: 2 - 8 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.

EASTER VOLUNTEER ROSTERS will be available in the Cathedral this weekend. If you are available please sign up for a role.

CHRISM MASS please sign the sheet in the Cathedral if you plan to attend the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral at 11am on 31 March 2026.



FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES 2026

Congratulations to the children and their families who are making their first communion in our parish this weekend. Thanks to Jennifer Fitzgerald, Sacramental Coordinator, our Priests and school staff who have prepared the children so well for this Sacrament. Please keep the children in your prayers.

William Anderson-Parks, Mardy Aninipot, Archie Aurisch, Axel Baker, Matthew Bendall, Illiana Booth, Calin Cleur, Alivia Costanzo, Derren Dela Torre, Brody Dessent, Rylan Dower, Alice Dowse, Amelia Driscoll, Lucas Driscoll, Dwayne Evardo, Teshan Fernando, Max Gumpold, John Jewkes-Torres, Connie Karanja, Hunter Kiss Ryan Lamb, Ruby Lazzaro, Evelyn Lee, Sonny Lewin, Hadley Light, Beau McGregor Bella McKenzie, Thomas Mead, Hayden Munckton, Harper Nicklen, Jemma Pattison, Daisy Rebbechi, Libby Ross, Missy Semodio, Calix Ramos, Sophie Ryan, Elijah Sanchez, Ashton Sanders, Jake Smith, Elsie Smolenaars, Nate Schuback Alexandra Smith, Matilda Steer, Bryn Wakeham, Audrey Zidarich.

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.

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.

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*

LENTEN 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) All are welcome to this powerful encounter with the Lord.

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. We are currently offering 2 weekends in 2026. Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend:

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
 Email: Vicbookings@wwme.org.au

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND:

Planned Giving: \$901.00
Presbytery: \$790.90
Credit Cards \$20.00
Direct Debits & Credits: \$2,600.00
Cathedral EFTpos: \$456.00
 With thanks from a grateful parish.

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.



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**Mass Timetable this week
Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A
21 - 22 March 2026**

Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 21 March <i>Lenten Retreat</i> <i>Youth Mass</i>	10.00am 5.30pm 5.30pm	Cathedral Cathedral Rosedale
Sunday 22 March	9.30am 9.30am 5.30pm	Briagolong Cathedral Cathedral
WEEKDAY MASSES		
Monday 23 March	NO	MASS
Tuesday 24 March	9.30am	Cathedral
Wednesday 25 March	9.30am	Cathedral
Thursday 26 March	9.30am	Cathedral
Friday 27 March <i>Benediction & Exposition</i> <i>Mass</i>	10.00am 11.00am	Cathedral Cathedral
WEEKEND MASSES		
Saturday 28 March	9.30am 11.00am 5.30pm 5.30pm	Cathedral Loch Sport Cathedral Rosedale
Sunday 29 March PALM SUNDAY	9.30am 9.30am 5.30pm	Stratford Cathedral Cathedral

Cathedral Date & Time	Sat 21 March 5.30pm	Sun 22 March 9.30am	Sun 22 March 5.30pm
Welcomer	Please offer	Catherine McKinnon	Mary Chiller
Commentator	Clare O'Brien	Nick Hall	Please offer
Reader	Liz Tabuteau	Mildred Semodio	Faye Flint
Eucharists	Brenda B, Jenny G	Doug & Lenie Waite	Len & Lyn Althaus
Eucharist	Jonathan Peckley	Dr Salle	Please offer
Counters	Theo and Sandra Smolenaars		

Cathedral Date & Time	Sat 28 March 5.30pm	Sun 29 March 9.30am	Sun 29 March 5.30pm
Welcomer	John Dykun	Marie & Nick Centra	Veronica Stewart
Commentator	Liz Tabuteau	Christine Lyon	Andrea Jolly
Narrator	Brenda Burditt	Susan Mattson	Claire Everard
Crowd/Other	Emma Morrison	Vince Beer	Lyn Althaus
Eucharists	Theo S, Carmel W	Brenda B, Margaret S	Doug and Leny Waite
Eucharist	Frank Fidge	Abi Udiano	Veronica Stewart
Counters	Sue Harvey and Clare O'Brien		

MASS INTENTIONS:

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We offer prayers for those who died **Wilbert Smits, Peter Walsh** and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **deceased Clergy of the Diocese**. We pray for those who are sick Meraya, 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.**

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL PARISH, SALE

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

Saturday 28 March: 10.15am Loch Sport
Saturday 28 March: 5.00pm Rosedale
Sunday 29 March: 9.00am Stratford
Wednesday 1 April: 6.00pm Cathedral

**HOLY WEEK MASSES & SERVICES
TIMETABLE**

Saturday 28 March: 9.30am Mass – Cathedral
11.00am Mass – Loch Sport
5.30pm Mass - Cathedral
5.30pm Mass - Rosedale

Sunday 29 March: 9.30am Mass - Cathedral
Palm Sunday 9.30am Mass - Stratford
5.30pm Mass - Cathedral

Monday 30 March: NO MASS

Tuesday 31 March: 11.00am Mass of the Oils - Cathedral

Wednesday 1 April: 9.30am Mass – Cathedral
6.00pm Lenten Reconciliation - Cathedral
7.30pm **Service of Shadows** at Uniting Church Sale

Thursday 2 April:
Holy Thursday - 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Cathedral

Friday 3 April: 9.30am Stations of the Cross - Cathedral

Good Friday: 9.30am Stations of the Cross - Stratford
9.30am Stations of the Cross - Rosedale
10.30am Walk of the Cross to St Paul's Cathedral
3.00pm Service of the Lord's Passion - Cathedral

Saturday 4 April: 7.30pm Easter Vigil - Cathedral

Sunday 5 April: 9.00am Mass - Loch Sport
Easter Sunday 9.30am Mass - Cathedral
9.30am Mass - Stratford
11.15am Mass – Seaspray Fire Station



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:

**Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **(R.)**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**
Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them

over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

**Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.**



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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:

PALM SUNDAY, Year A

1st Reading: **Isaiah 50:4-7**

2nd Reading: **Philippians 2:6-11**

Gospel: **Matthew 26:14 - 27:66**

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.