

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 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 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



PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD ***28 - 29 March 2026***

IT IS PALM SUNDAY: Also known as Passion Sunday. Today we hear the story that is at the heart of the Christian faith—that the death of Jesus was no ordinary execution. The Church teaches that Jesus' death had a meaning that touches all human life. The author of Matthew's Gospel writes for a Jewish community who are familiar with daily sacrifices of animals and the pouring out of their blood for the forgiveness of sin.

Matthews applies this meaning in Jesus' death. During the final meal with his disciples Jesus takes wine and says, "This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." This is the meaning of the Cross and is the extraordinary good news that the disciples proclaimed. In Jesus' death sin has been forgiven. The barrier between God and humanity has been overcome.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: reminds us that God has forgiven our sins. Let us now bring in our hands our strength, our challenges, our failures, our small-minded less than-generous actions, and surrender these to God in order to be open to receive the blessings of Easter. As we listen to the passion narrative this Sunday and on Good Friday, let us hear it in the depth of God's love for us. As St John Paul II puts it: "The Cross is like a touch of eternal love upon the most painful wounds of our earthly existence."

CHRISM MASS: As you may have known from last Sunday, the Mass of the Oils during which the clergy of the Diocese renews their vows/promises before the Bishop is this Tuesday, 31/03/26. "It is always beautiful to witness the recommitment of our priests", as someone testified last year. You are all welcome to be part of this wonderful celebration. A livestream link is provided for those who cannot make it in person. See the inside of the bulletin for this please.

TRIDUUM: This is that time of the year when we climb onto the height of our Christian celebration: the three-in-one event called the TRIDUUM: the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday Service of the Lord's Passion, and the Holy Saturday Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection. Please check the various time schedules in the bulletin and let's meet to celebrate our faith.

RCIA RITE OF RECEPTION: In a special way, I would like to congratulate Kobi who will be officially received into full communion with the Catholic Church this weekend in preparation for receiving the Easter Sacraments on Holy Saturday. Continue to pray for our RCIA team, the catechumens/candidate, their families, and their sponsors as they journey on to Easter.

FR ANEESH: Fr Aneesh has left the Cathedral Parish for St Joseph's, Wonthaggi. As most of you rightly observed, we didn't get a chance for a farewell before he left. He needed to leave immediately given the urgency of the transition. However, I am talking with him to find a suitable day for a befitting farewell for someone who worked tirelessly and generously with us all. I will let you know once a date is agreed upon. Meanwhile, he asks that you please continue to pray for him and his new mission.

YOUTH MINISTRY: With the departure of Fr Aneesh, Fr Joy is now fully committed and ready to engage with the Parish Youth Ministry. We need now to beef up the youth ministry team. We need younger parishioners/families who are enthusiastic and passionate about engaging with young people in the life and ministry of our parish to please indicate interest. We need your help to form a team of about five members who will work closely with Fr Joy to strengthen our parish youth engagement program. Please if you can help reach out to the parish office, or to Fr Francis, or Fr Joy.

BAPTISM PREPARATION TEAM: We are desperately in need of a team of two people who will help with preparing families and their children for the sacrament of baptism. This is mainly for infant baptisms. There's currently only one team and the work load is really heavy on them since the retirement of the second team. The requirement is that you are Catholic who is passionate about the faith, and has a WWCC. A brief training session will be provided. Please if you are keen to assist the parish in this regard, reach out to the parish office or to Fr Francis.

Blessings on you all and Happy Easter in advance. *Fr Francis*

PARISH CALENDAR

Fri 27/3 6.00pm: Stations of the Cross

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

Wed 1 - Sunday 5 April: Refer to page 3 for Holy Week Masses and Services

PARISH NEWS

SERRA CLUB: The Serra Club will gather in the Cathedral on **Thursday 9 April (due to Holy Week)** at 4.40pm for Rosary and 5.00pm Mass followed by their meeting in Chapter House. All welcome. Apologies to Claire Everard

31 CLUB REMINDER: 30 Mar - 5 April. 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 are available in the Cathedral this weekend. If you are available please sign up for a role. These will be finalised on **31 March 2026**. If you sign up to be a reader the readings will be emailed to you.

FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES 2026

Congratulations to the children and their families who are making their first communion at Stratford 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.

Jemma Pattison, Alivia Costanzo, Illiana Booth, and Elijah Sanchez.



HOLY LAND COLLECTION will take place on Good Friday, 3 April. Thank you for supporting the Holy Land (Good Friday) Collection as encouraged by Pope Leo XIV and every Pope before him. Through this Collection, you join with Catholics around the world to stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. When you contribute to the Holy Land Collection, you become an instrument of peace in the land where Jesus walked.

DIOCESAN NEWS

INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL CHRISM MASS

You are invited to attend the annual Chrism Mass on Tuesday, 31st March 2026. This ancient and symbolically rich liturgy manifests the unity of the priests of the Diocese with Bishop Greg as they renew their priestly promises. During the liturgy, Bishop Greg will bless the three Holy Oils (the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of the Holy Chrism) which will be used in the celebration of the sacraments throughout the Diocese for the year. The Chrism Mass is a great way to come to a deeper appreciation of the sacramental life of the Church.

Details: 11.00am Tuesday, 31st March 2026 at St Mary's Cathedral, Sale.

To join the Mass online please go to: YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/live/iB4Yf8Pb-tM>

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.

DIVINE MERCY FEAST DAY CELEBRATION –

12TH April from 1.00pm A combined Divine Mercy Feast celebration with St. Agatha's Parish Divine Mercy and all nearby Parishes in the Diocese of Sale. Location: Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, 496 Princes Hwy, NARRE WARREN. Contact Twina 0402 077 576.

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*

As Project Compassion 2026 comes to a close, we thank you for your generous support throughout Lent. This year, we shared the stories of four inspiring people whose lives are being uplifted through your compassion.

Your support is helping them overcome challenges and build stronger futures. There is still time to donate! Together, we can continue nurturing hope and empowering communities facing poverty and injustice.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code. Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au to donate or by calling: **1800 024 413** or refer to **our Parish link in Parish News**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Friday from 10.00am—11.30am

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

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.

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: \$684.00

Presbytery: \$1,224.05

Credit Cards \$40.00

Direct Debits & Credits: \$2,205.00

Cathedral EFTpos: \$590.00

With thanks from a grateful parish.



For all your **accounting, financial planning & taxation** needs, whether personal or business, simply call:

(03) 5144 4422

www.dmgfinancial.com.au

Pre-planning your funeral really takes the pressure off loved ones at a difficult time.

We've been helping Gippslanders with care and respect for over 125 years.

1390 Maffra Road Sale
03 5143 2477

**GIPPSLAND
FUNERAL SERVICES**

To find out more please call 1300 386 375 or visit gippslandfuneralservices.com.au

**Mass Timetable this week
PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD
28 - 29 March 2026**

Day/Date	Time	Place
Saturday 28 March	9.30am	Cathedral
	11.00am	Loch Sport
	5.30pm	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Rosedale
Sunday 29 March PALM SUNDAY	9.30am	Stratford
	9.30am	Cathedral
	5.30pm	Cathedral
WEEKDAY MASSES		
Monday 30 March	NO	MASS
Tuesday 31 March		
MASS of the OILS	11.00am	Cathedral
Wednesday 1 April	9.30am	Cathedral
Thursday 2 April	7.30pm	Cathedral
Friday 3 April		
Stations of the Cross	9.30am	Cathedral
Walk of the Cross	10.30am	Cathedral
PASSION OF THE LORD	3.00pm	Cathedral
WEEKEND MASSES		
Saturday 4 April - EASTER VIGIL	7.30pm	Cathedral
Sunday 5 April	9.00am	Loch Sport
EASTER SUNDAY	9.30am	Cathedral
	9.30am	Stratford
	11.15am	Seaspray

Cathedral Date & Time	Sat 28 March	Sun 29 March	Sun 29 March
	5.30pm	9.30am	5.30pm
Welcomer	John Dykun	Marie & Nick Centra	Veronica Stewart
Commentator	Liz Tabuteau	Christine Lyon	Andreena 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		

Cathedral Date & Time	Sat 28 March	Sun 29 March	Sun 29 March
	5.30pm	9.30am	5.30pm
Welcomer	PLEASE OFFER	SIGN UP SHEETS	IN CATHEDRAL
Commentator	PLEASE OFFER	SIGN UP SHEETS	IN CATHEDRAL
Reader	PLEASE OFFER	SIGN UP SHEETS	IN CATHEDRAL
Eucharists	PLEASE OFFER	SIGN UP SHEETS	IN CATHEDRAL
Eucharist	PLEASE OFFER	SIGN UP SHEETS	IN CATHEDRAL
Counters	Len and Lyn Althaus		

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun 29 March 9.30am: Jacobus Toonen (A); 5.30pm: Mary Spykers

PLEASE PRAY FOR: We offer prayers for those who died **Wilbert Smits, Noel Butcher** and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Mary Lee, Jacobus Toonen, Mary Spykers, deceased Clergy of the Diocese.** We pray for those who are sick **George, Rochelle,** 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:
Easter Sunday** 9.00am Mass - Loch Sport
 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

**Barry & Annette Lett
FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

We offer care, compassion and service with dignity, for the people of Gippsland
 Caring and personal 24-hour service .
 Chapel facilities available.

**67 Macarthur Street, Sale
Phone: 5143 1232**

www.lettsfunerals.com.au
 Member **Australian Funeral Directors Association**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Six days before Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! He is the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah 50:4-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

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

GOSPEL: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ Matthew 26:14 -27:66

N When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus. They had him bound, and led him away to hand him over to Pilate, the governor. When he found that Jesus had been condemned, Judas his betrayer was filled with remorse and took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders, saying:

O I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood.

N They replied:

C What is that to us? That is your concern.

N And flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary he made off, and went and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said:

C It is against the Law to put this into the treasury; it is blood money.

N So they discussed the matter and bought the potter's field with it as a graveyard for foreigners, and this is why the field is called the Field of Blood today. The words of the prophet Jeremiah were then fulfilled: And they took the thirty silver pieces, the sum at which the precious One was priced by children of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord directed me.

Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and the governor put to him this question:

O Are you the king of the Jews?

N Jesus replied:

J It is you who say it.

N But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him:

O Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?

N But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at this time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered Pilate said to them,

O Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Christ?

N For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,

O Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.

N The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them:

O Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

N They said:

C Barabbas.

N Pilate said to them:

O What am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?

N They all said:

C Let him be crucified!

N Pilate asked:

O Why? What harm has he done?

N But they shouted all the louder,

C Let him be crucified!

N Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said:

O I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.

N And the people, to a man, shouted back:

C His blood be on us and on our children!

N Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying:

C Hail, king of the Jews!

N And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothes by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'. At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said:

C So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!

N The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying:

C He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God'.

N Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice:

J Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?

N That is: 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said:

C The man is calling on Elijah,

N and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:

C Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.

N But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

All kneel and pause a moment.

N At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people,

Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said:

C In truth this was a son of God.

N And many women were there, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and looked after him. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate thereupon ordered it to be handed over. So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. Now Mary of Magdala and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.

Next day, that is, when Preparation Day was over, the chief priests and the Pharisees went in a body to Pilate and said to him,

C Your Excellency, we recall that this imposter said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I shall rise again.' Therefore give the order to have the sepulchre kept secure until the third day, for fear his disciples come and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead'. This last piece of fraud would be worse than what went before.

N Pilate said to them:

O You may have your guards. Go and make all as secure as you know how.

N So they went and made the sepulchre secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting a guard.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

EASTER SUNDAY, Year A

1st Reading: **Acts 10:34, 37-43**

2nd Reading: **Colossians 3:1-4**

Gospel: **John 20:1-9**