



# St. Simon the Apostle Parish

2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9.00-4.00pm

(03) 9764 4058

☎ office@stsimonsparish.com.au 🌐 www.stsimonsparish.com.au

## Parish Personnel

### PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Kevin Dillon

Mobile: 0421 777 360

Email: frkd@stsimonsparish.com.au

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:

Mrs Loretta Hughes (Tue, Thu)

Mrs Abbie Ferdinands (Mon, Wed, Fri)

### SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR:

Mrs Marialisa Mandarino (Wed)

### BUSINESS & OFFICE MANAGER:

Mr Peter Evans (Mon - Thu)

### CHILD SAFEGUARDING:

Ms Delisa Gonsalves (Mon)

### SECRETARIES:

Mrs Felicia Ahumada (Mon - Wed)

Mrs Christina Liew (Thu, Fri)

### ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Mr. Tom Wursthorn: 9755 4222

### NAZARETH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL:

Mr Sam Cosentino: 9795 8100

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm

Sundays: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am

### OTHER MASS TIMES:

Mondays to Saturdays: 9.15am

Tuesdays: 7.00pm

### RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays: 9.45am

### BAPTISMS:

First Sat 11.30am, Third Sun 12.30pm

(Please check website for available dates)

### AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS

#### EDUCATION:

Tues (school term): 4:15pm - 5:15pm

### WEDDINGS & MARRIAGE PREP:

Contact Parish Office.

### ANointing OF THE SICK:

When required or at 9.15am Mass

on the First Friday of the Month

### PARISH COUNCIL:

parishcouncil@stsimonsparish.com.au

### MASS ON RADIO:

Mass from St. Simon's is broadcast

on 89.9 Light FM - at 7am Sundays

### PARISH HALL HIRE:

St. Simon's Parish Hall is available for

hire After School Hours and Weekends.

For enquiries, contact the Parish Office

during Office Hours. Phone: 9764 4058.

### PARISH CENTRE FACILITIES HIRE:

Contact the Parish Office.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE:

1800 305 330

## March 22nd - 4th Sunday of Lent

It's a word we're hearing more than ever before: "unprecedented". And it is, a pandemic that is global, affecting every person on the planet, with no clarity as to when "normality" will return.

Let's face it - it's a bit scary, no matter how brave a face we put on. However, like many "scary" things, it can bring out the best in us, and that has to be our focus over these testing times ahead.

So, as a parish, how do we manage this? How do we use our shared Faith, our sense of belonging to our Church and our Parish, and our sense of community responsibly, to manage the crisis as best we can?

You are probably aware that the Bishops of Victoria have "suspended" public worship indefinitely. Does that mean no Mass for anyone? If so, how do the many people for whom the Eucharist has been one of the, if not the most, sustaining part of life, especially when life is tough and uncertain. What about them? What about you?

The Government, quite rightly, has set down the limits for the assembly of people, to 100 indoors, and 500 outdoors.

While the suspension of Masses might seem puzzling with other areas of contact (including close contact) still operating, in the long run, these are times when we will need to pull together, irrespective of our personal viewpoints and preferences.

As some of you may know, as a priest and as a Catholic I am extremely distressed that I cannot bring to parishioners - just when it is most needed and wanted - the Gift of the Eucharist. I have wrestled with how to interpret what is "Public" and what is "Private" with regard to the celebration of Mass. I have looked at directives and found some of them confusing. Then again, maybe we're all confused. We've never been down this track before - ever - not just with regard to our Faith, but to life itself.

We have witnessed to disgraceful images of people fighting in supermarkets over groceries and toilet paper. Hopefully that will be a once off, and we'll find and live the humanity we share.

But we won't find that if everyone believes "I know better!" and goes down a different path. And that includes me!

So .. sadly, indeed tragically, the celebration of public and even semi-public Masses at St. Simon's will cease until further notice. The directives of the Archdiocese will be on our parish website so as to give you more information, with printed copies being available in the Church Foyer.

As indicated in the Archdiocesan directive, I am able to, and encouraged to celebrate Mass each day - for you. And I will, each day, as I have done every day since my Ordination.

Given that, I am exploring ways by which the centrality of the Eucharist in the spiritual life of Catholics can be maintained, even if the daily / weekly availability of mass cannot happen. Despite this, yet I know I'll be hurting as much as any and probably more. But if we all "go our own way", then disunity will be the defining characteristic of these dark days, and the toilet paper debacle will be repeated over and over in different guises, even including our own prayer and worship.

The directive mentions "Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament". And this may well prove a productive and ongoing answer. For some time we have planned to introduce a Eucharistic Chapel, and the value of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed in the Monstrance, has been and long a treasured Catholic tradition. Over the next few days, we'll devise a effective way that this can be introduced as soon as possible, and available to all.

So stay tuned (by email!). We'll stick together, I'll do what I'm told (for once!), and the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist can be experienced and valued in a new and wonderful way.

Fr. Kevin Dillon

## Rosters for weekend of 28th & 29th March 2020

<b>Mass Recorder</b>	Kevin D'Rozario	<b>Homily Typist:</b>	Sonya Rose'meyer
<b>Altar Society</b>	Luvy Esquejo + volunteer needed (this week only)		
<b>Church Cleaning</b>	Sharon Melder, Vincent Pius, Victor Dare		
<b>Counters</b>	Anna Smith, Frances Bowker, Lorraine Van Vloten, John Duhau, Cedric Gomez		

### PARISH DIARY

**All regular timetabled Mass Services are suspended until further notice.**

As per the guidelines of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.



#### POPE FRANCIS DAILY.COM

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of good health and peace that we have enjoyed for so many years. As we find ourselves in this time of crisis today, we ask for your divine intervention and mercy to be upon each of us.

Come and guide the minds of those working to discover a treatment to the COVID-19 virus. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, and clarity of mind, so that all peoples will be free from the threat of this ailment.

We also pray for the healthcare workers that are standing in the front line of this battle. Father, we thank you for their hearts of service, putting the needs of society before their own, generously responding to the cry of Your people. We ask that You will grant them strength and protection. As they give of themselves in selfless service, may You fill them with your Holy Spirit as they work to be Your healing hands and feet!

Father, we also surrender to You all those who have been afflicted with the virus. Grant them Your healing grace, merciful Father, so that they may recover swiftly and continue to be witnesses of Your love in their lives.

Mother Mary, we ask for your intercession in this great time of need. Cover each of us with your blue mantle of protection, so that we may be preserved in good health to continue to glorify your son, Jesus Christ. We make this prayer through Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer.

#### MAY THEY REST IN PEACE Risen in the Lord

**Recent Death:** Fr. Peter Robinson P.E.

**Anniversary:** Francesco Cosentino

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Filomena Gilbert, Katrina Vo, Francis Orbien, Kirk Dias, Raveena Fernando, James Turnbull, Joshua D'Rozario, Jason De Silva, Julius Ting, Daniel Kanigowski.

#### NEW PARISHONERS

**We would like to welcome you personally!**

Have you recently moved into the area, or have decided to make St. Simon's your parish home? Please register your details with us. And one of our Welcoming Team members will be in touch.

### MEETINGS

**No parish meetings until further notice.**

#### OUTREACH - RELAY FOR LIFE

The St Simon's Striders team of 10 parishioners was due to walk last weekend (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March) in the Knox 2020 Relay for Life to raise funds for cancer research. Sadly, like many things, it has been **cancelled** for 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation. Recognition of donations will now roll to the 2021 event, although we will bank them this year. There will be a donation point in the foyer after weekend Masses for those who wish to support the team and cause. We know times are tough for some and that you have been generous already this year with the bushfire appeal, but any contribution would be welcome.



#### UPDATE ON CHILD SAFEGUARDING

A reminder that **all volunteers need a current Working With Children Check in place registered to the Parish - this is free.** They **also need to review, sign and return the Parish Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct.**

Some volunteers also need a Police Check (name check only) in place. For this, we have registered for a reduced fee for volunteers. Please access the form via the Victoria Police website at <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/national-police-records-checks#apply-for-a-national-police-check> and enter the code **CVF 04/223** under Option 2 in Section E of the "Consent to Check and Release National Police Certificate" form to claim the reduced fee. This section needs to be completed and signed by a Parish Representative – either Peter Evans or Delisa Gonsalves.

*The Parish will reimburse volunteers for this reduced fee.*

#### THE ROWVILLE LIONS CLUB



The Rowville Lions club is looking for new members to assist with the many projects that they do in the community. If you are one of them, please contact Antony on 0422 313 306.



#### MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM



Sessions led by Gisella Koroknai and Jacqui Giuliano.

For more details please contact the Parish Office on **9764 4058** or via email: [office@stsimonsparish.com.au](mailto:office@stsimonsparish.com.au)

#### MEN'S GROUP BBQ

Unfortunately, our Men's Group BBQ that was scheduled for this Thursday, 26 March at 7.00pm has had to be **cancelled**.

We hope the one for next month can materialise.

## CORONA VIRUS SAFEGUARD

1. Even at Private Masses, until the current crisis is over, **Holy Communion** will be distributed in **one form only** - the **Consecrated Host**.
2. Holy Communion will be given to communicants, **ONLY on the extended hand** - as flat as possible, not cupped. Please do not request reception of the Host on the tongue - the almost inevitable transfer of saliva creates a high and quite unnecessary risk to others' health.
3. **No** Mini-bus Service until further notice.
4. Bulletins and Weekday Reading Sheets are now **single use**. We ask parishioners to please **not** put them back but take home with you.

## GROCERY SHOPPING

If you are elderly and need assistance with no one to help you, please contact the Parish Office.

## GROUP CHAT – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

We are looking for someone who would like to start up a group chat e.g. WhatsApp for parishioners, particularly the elderly who are isolated, to keep in touch.

Also, if you are interested in joining this group chat, please contact the Parish Office with your name and mobile number.

## DO YOU USE SOCIAL MEDIA?

If you have basic skills with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc., you might be willing to assist a new and exciting community help project, to be initiated by St. Simon's Parish.

Contact Fr. Kevin on [frkd@stsimonsparish.com.au](mailto:frkd@stsimonsparish.com.au) or 0421 777 360 for more details.

## 2020 COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE (CCPR)

Parishioners who wish to help sell more books can collect one (or more!) from the Parish Office.

Sold Tickets can be returned to the Parish Office. Please note that tickets need to be **returned latest by April 24**.

## CHURCH FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

**2 new volunteers needed once church reopens.**

Training will be provided by our leader, Jackie Devienne. Please call Parish Office if interested.

## CHURCH CLEANING

**5 new volunteers needed once church reopens**

to join our existing teams. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office on 9764 4058.

## ST. SIMON'S CINEMA - Coming Features

You haven't seen a movie until you've seen it on a BIG screen, as it was meant to be seen.

*There is no admission charge for screenings at St. Simon's Cinema. However, a donation of \$5 per person towards the cost of building our Parish Centre will be gratefully accepted.*

Unfortunately, all sessions have been suspended.



Full listing will become available when safe to do so.

## ST. SIMONS YOUTH MOVIE AND PIZZA NIGHT

### "The Blind Side"

Award-winning movie with Sandra Bullock.



Has been postponed until a date to be set.



## STAFF CARPARK

Please do **NOT** park on either of the **two pathways** to the Parish Centre as this creates a major safety hazard.

## REACH BEYOND: BECOME SIMPLY RICH...

All trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people.



Look at [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) and talk to Roger on 0422472567, or email [palms@palms.org.au](mailto:palms@palms.org.au)

## ALL PARISH GROUPS

Unfortunately, **all parish groups** have been suspended until further notice.

## COLLECTIONS: March 15, 2020

**Presbytery** \$1,470.40  
**Loose donations** \$ 395.45

Stewardship - Envelope. (2nd Collection)  
Stewardship - Credit Cards / Direct Debit (cumulative Average)  
2016 campaign pledge (weekly)

Weekly Pledge	Received	Cumulative
\$2,550.31	\$1,773.80	85.1%
\$3,570.34		
\$6,120.65		

*Thank you for sharing your treasure*





# March 22nd - 4th Sunday of Lent

## First reading

1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 Gospel

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as man sees: man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22(23)

## Second reading

Ephesians 5: 8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him, he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

*Next Week's Readings: 5th Sunday of Lent  
Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11;  
John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45*

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