



# St. Simon the Apostle Parish

2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178

Office Hours: Tue - Thu | 10.00am - 5.00pm

☎ (03) 9764 4058    ✉ office@stsimonsparish.com.au

🌐 www.stsimonsparish.com.au

*"Thank you for  
your contribution,  
large or small,  
as it will help us  
to continue  
provide for you."*

## Parish Personnel

### PARISH PRIEST

**Very Rev Mark Reynolds EV**

(Episcopal Vicar for Catholic Schools)

Mark.Reynolds@cam.org.au

### ASSISTANT PRIEST

**Rev Samuel Pearson**

Samuel.Pearson@cam.org.au

### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mrs Abbie Ferdinands (Mon, Wed, Fri)

### BUSINESS & OFFICE MANAGER

Mr Peter Evans (Tue, Thu & Fri)

### SAFETY OFFICER

Mrs Julie Ashman (Tue, Thu, Fri)

### CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Ms Delisia Gonsalves  
(by appointment)

### SECRETARY

Mrs Felicia Ahumada (Tue - Fri)

### ST. SIMON'S SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mr Tom Wursthorn: 9755 4222

### NAZARETH COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Mr Sam Cosentino: 9795 8100

### AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS PROGRAM

Contact the Parish Office

### STANDARD CHURCH MASS TIMES

Sun: 9.00am & 11.00am

Tue - Fri: 9.15am

Public Holidays: 10.00am

Sat: 6.00pm (page 2 for full details)

### STANDARD ONLINE MASS TIMES

Sun, live from Sat: 6.00pm

Public Holidays: 10.00am

Tue, Thu & Fri: 9.15am

### RECONCILIATION

Sat: 5.15pm - 5.50pm

**Masks required and full vax required.**

### WEDDINGS & MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Contact Parish Office

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

By private arrangement with

Fr Mark Reynolds & Fr. Samuel Pearson

### PARISH COUNCIL

parishcouncil@stsimonsparish.com.au

### PARISH CENTRE FACILITIES HIRE

Please Contact Parish Office

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE

1800 305 330

## March 13th, 2022 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

### Message from Fr. Mark

Last Monday I was part of the Funeral Mass for Fr Kevin Mogg. Kevin retired about 10 years ago but prior to that was PP of Mornington and for many years PP of Nth Ringwood. I first met Kevin when he was the Rector of our Diocesan Seminary, Corpus Christi College and he was Rector for most of my time there. Kevin was both extraordinary and ordinary at the same time. That's a rare gift, but he had it in bucket loads. At one and the same time he could talk about the footy or the races, the struggles in the lives of everyday people and then he could offer great insight, vision and wisdom for just what the Church and its priests should really be on about. That I am a priest today is due in no small part to him.

His niece delivered a wonderful eulogy and a priest who had worked with him very closely, especially in the areas of Catholic Social Services, preached. They didn't compare their texts! and rather wonderfully, Kevin's niece ended her eulogy with a quote from Vatican II... "The joys and hopes, the fears and anxieties of the people of this age, these too are the joys and hopes, the fears and anxieties of the followers of Christ. For nothing truly human fails to recognise an echo in their hearts." And the priest homilist, remember without any consulting with Kevin's niece, began with exactly the same quote!!! Snap, as they say!

Recently I was attending the first meeting of the Archbishop's Council of Priests and one of the critical issues that emerged was that COVID has reinforced the fact that the way of being Church has changed. The priests around the table, and there are about 18 of us on this group, all spoke of what we called 'the new reality.' People aren't coming to us anything like as much. Our numbers in both Rowville and Scoresby, for instance, are at roughly 50% of pre-pandemic attendance. I think there is a wonderful challenge for us in this and it's this... perhaps the 'church' needs to go to people... after all, that's how it began!

And on Thursday a report was released by Catholic Social Services Australia which spoke to the fact that 3 million of our fellow Australians, including 750,000 children, are living in poverty. Just imagine how the recent flood disasters in both QLD and NSW will increase those numbers.

So with all of this, I'm left wondering. Should we be 're-thinking' what it is to be 'church?' After all, isn't being 'church' being people of the Gospel, people of Good News? I'm not saying we should throw 'the baby out with the bath water' but I do think it's time for a 're-think.' As Henry Ford once said: "if you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you've always had." Time for a change, me thinks?

### RCIA

Congratulations  
Sze and Rubeshan  
(either side of Archbishop  
Comensoli) who seek  
Baptism at St Simon's  
at Easter together with  
their sponsors, Fr. Samuel  
and Members of the our  
RCIA team.

*"6th March 2022"*



## Rosters for weekend of 19th & 20th March 2022

	6.00 pm	9.00 am	11.00 am
Reader 1	Anthony Thabesan	Cedric Fick	Forster Family
Reader 2	Paige Law	Enakshi Jayamanne	Forster Family
Commentator	Pam Comerford	Tony Fry	Pia Pagotto
Help Desk	Jilly Hickey	Maggie Braganza	Christna Liew
Altar Society	Elaine Gannon & Lidwin Hudson	<b>Flowers:</b>	Rossana Almojera
Church Cleaning	Yacintha Thabesan & Family		

### CHURCH & ONLINE MASSES THIS WEEK

**Please note: There will be NO MONDAY**

**& THURSDAY MASSES at St Simon's Parish this week.**

**Tue, 15 Mar - 9.15 am** | no vax check - livestreamed

**Wed 16 Mar - 9.15 am** | no vax check

**Thu, 17 Mar - 9.15 am** | **at St Jude's Scoresby**

**Fri, 18 Mar - 9.15 am** | no vax check - livestreamed

**Sat, 19 Mar - 6.00 pm** | no vax check - livestreamed

**Vigil for the 3rd Sunday of Lent**

**Sun, 20 Mar - 9.00 am** | **Masks required and full vax required** and will be checked – for those vulnerable or at risk. **- 11.00 am** | no vax check

### COVID RULES UPDATE

You're probably aware that the Government rules changed again on Friday, 18 February. The Archdiocese has clarified this for Parish life to mean that parishioners attending Mass no longer need to QR code in, UNLESS they are special Ministers of the Eucharist, members of a choir or COVID supervisor / marshals - all of whom must be fully vaccinated AND still QR code in. To be clear, readers and commentators don't need to QR code in and neither do parishioners not performing the roles named.

Any staff member or volunteer attending the Parish OFFICE must also be fully vaccinated.

For the moment we will still check full vaccination status for everyone attending the 9am Sunday morning Mass - this can be done either by presenting a valid vaccination certificate (whether on paper or on your mobile phone or via a previously issued Parish card), valid medical exemption or (if you wish) still using the Service Vic App and QR coding in.

Thanks for your understanding and stay tuned as rules will continue to change.

### ROSARY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

#### **Wednesdays**

\* **Weekly** 10.00am after Mass at St Simon's

\* Fortnightly via Zoom - Next meeting: **March 23rd at 7.15pm.**

Contact Ricardo at:  
[ricardo\\_drozario@hotmail.com](mailto:ricardo_drozario@hotmail.com)

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84371995652?](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84371995652?pwd=TC9mVELiTkNCcFBEEjBQ3BVMniWdz09)  
pwd=TC9mVELiTkNCcFBEEjBQ3BVMniWdz09

**Meeting ID:** 843 7199 5652

**Passcode:** K5r29Y



### PARISH DIARY

#### **Monday, 14th March**

7.30pm: Alpha (via Zoom)

7.30pm: Lenten Group (Via Zoom)

#### **Tuesday, 15th March**

10.00am: Lenten Group (Parish Centre)

7.30pm: Lenten Group (Church)

#### **Wednesday, 16th March**

7.00pm: Liturgy Meeting (Meeting Room)

7.00pm: RCIA (Church)

7.30pm: Lenten Group (Parish Centre)

#### **Friday, 18th March**

10.00am: Lenten Group (Parish Centre)

7.30pm: Stations of the Cross (Church)

### RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will be available at St Simon's Parish from 5.15pm on Saturdays before the 6pm Mass Service.

**Masks and full vax required.**

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

If you are a Eucharistic Minister, please see Julie at the end of Mass or email us at: [julie@stsimonsparish.com.au](mailto:julie@stsimonsparish.com.au)  
We are in the process of updating our current Eucharistic Ministers List, so we need just your name. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers at all our Masses.

### ALTAR SERVERS

Within a parish it is a tradition for children after receiving their First Holy Communion to be invited to be trained as Altar Servers. Those who serve will receive special blessings and reward from the Lord. If this is something your child would like to do, please contact us and full training will be provided for them.

Contact the Parish Office on 9764 4058 or email us at: [office@stsimonsparish.com.au](mailto:office@stsimonsparish.com.au)

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Parish is looking at re-starting Children's Liturgy of the Word in the near future. As such, we are asking for expressions of interest from Parishioners who would like to have their children attend CLOW during Mass. If you would like to join and assist in running the session (on a roster basis). Thank you to all who have already responded.

### YOUTH CHOIR - THANK YOU

Eliza Giuliano has led the Youth Choir on a Saturday evening once a month. Due to work commitments, she will no longer be able to do this. We thank her for her generous time, commitment and beautiful talent!



### WOMEN'S GROUP

We are looking at starting up a women's group in May to be held on Thursdays for a couple of hours in the Parish Centre. Details to follow after Easter.

## THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION

Ever wonder what people see when they look at us? It is said that eyes are the windows to our soul - what do we show others when we look at them? Kindness, care, love... or criticism, judgement, maybe indifference.

Today we hear of Jesus being transfigured. His human body making way, if just for a few moments, to 'reveal' His Divinity, His true splendour, full of light, with no darkness in Him.

We too have an inner goodness waiting to shine out of us. I know of someone who spends significant time in Adoration after which her face has a glow that others notice. In the same way we consume God when we receive Holy Communion, when we spend time in front of the Real Presence of God, we cannot but 'absorb' some of God into us. Our faces will reflect this, our actions will reflect this. Our very hearts will begin to beat to the rhythm of God.

During this Lent, why not spend a few extra moments before or after Mass, before the Tabernacle, being conscious that we have true access to God's goodness.

Provided by: **St Simon's Faith Development Team**

## Facilitated Gatherings

### LENTEN GROUPS

Refer to Parish Diary.

### MAY YOU ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY!

Clement Kueh, Evan Hart, Aidan O'Connor, Surani De Silva, Krispin Martin, Doug Luzmoore, Miles Hart, Nathan Redden, Alan Hughes, Jessica Woods, Maria Todesko, Nisha Duggan, Trent Ciampoli, Nicholas Mackey, Matthias Chan, Anne Garvey, Stefan Ekanayake, Albert Bussac.



### FLOOD APPEAL - SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

The floods in Queensland and New South Wales are having a devastating effect on the people living in these regions of Australia. For those wishing to support the long-term recovery work to be undertaken by St Vincent de Paul Society in Queensland and New South Wales, financial donations can be made either directly to either state through:

[www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au) - Flood appeal - St Vincent de Paul Society - Good Works ([vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au)) or by calling - Queensland - (07) 3010 1000 or New South Wales - (02) 9568 0262

### CARITAS AUSTRALIA - UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

The people of Ukraine are **living** through a crisis that will impact the country for years to come. Caritas Australia has launched an appeal to support Caritas Ukraine and other partners in the region. The appeal will support the provision of clean water, hygiene and food kits to vulnerable families, as well as safe collection centres for families on the move, emergency accommodation and support for distressed children and families.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/> or contact 1800 024 413

### PIETY STALL

A selection of religious items including gifts for sacramental celebrations, Columban Calendars, Rosary beads and cards are available for purchase. Please ask the Parish Team before or after Mass for assistance.

## MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Recent Death:** Tessie Cassar

**Anniversary of Death:** David Fernando, Yolande Riviere.



***And we lift our prayers to you Lord, for all the sick people throughout the world.***

### 2022 ALPHA PROGRAM

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and God in a friendly, open and informal environment. A series continuing online via Zoom every Monday with a 7.30pm start, finishing 9pm. More information? contact Jacqui 0410 457 034



### PROJECT COMPASSION

**Biru 30**, lives in a rural village in Jharkhand State in India's east. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child, which makes it difficult for him to walk. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods development program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the skills, support and encouragement he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business.



Now, Biru is able to provide a good life for his family – and an essential service to his community. He has discovered a sense of pride, confidence and hope which has inspired others living with a disability and paved the way ***For All Future Generations***.

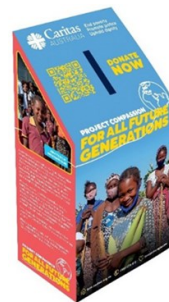
**Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help people living with disabilities in India gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to build a better future for all.**



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations***.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by Visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**Project Compassion Boxes are to be returned by Palm Sunday if possible, so that they can be placed in a basket and taken up to the Altar at Offertory.**



### TO REQUEST A SPECIAL INTENTION FOR WEEKEND MASS

Please ensure to advise the parish office **no later than Thursday of that week** via email at: [office@stsimonsparish.com.au](mailto:office@stsimonsparish.com.au) or fill out a memorial request form found at the helpdesk.



# March 13, 2022 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

## First reading

Genesis 15:5-12,17-18

Taking Abram outside, the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can.' 'Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

## Responsorial Psalm

26 (27):1,7-9,13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

## Second reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

## Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

## Next Week's Readings:

3rd SUNDAY in LENT

1 Sam 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Luke 6:27-38.

## SLOGAN OF THE WEEK

Champions are made not born.

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