



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)

PARISH COORDINATOR

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 330W

WEEKLY BULLETIN NOTICES

The cut off for any weekly notices will be
NO LATER than 11am, Friday.

March 27th, 2022 - 4th Sunday of Lent

Message from Fr. Mark

Dear friends,

We all feel for the people of Ukraine at this time as they suffer so much.

Pope Francis has spoken out and challenged those responsible for the bloodshed, violence and destruction and called on all to pray for the people of Ukraine.

In response to numerous requests Pope Francis announced on Monday March 21 that he wished to "entrust the nations at war to the Blessed Virgin Mary by a solemn Act of Consecration of humanity, and Russia and Ukraine in particular, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary." Pope Francis says further in his letter, "this Act of Consecration is meant to be a gesture of the universal Church, which in this dramatic moment lifts up to God, through his Mother and ours, the cry of pain of all those who suffer and implore an end to the violence, and to entrust the future of our human family to the Queen of Peace."

In the Act of Consecration there is a beautiful prayer which we shall pray at all Masses this weekend. It reads:

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realise our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

Fr Samuel and I encourage you pray this prayer daily until the end of the conflict in Ukraine.

Fr Mark



First Holy Communion Catch-up

We pray for the First Holy Communion Candidates who missed out last year and receiving the sacrament this coming week.

May they trust in God and continue in His grace.

Easter Services

Palm Sunday: 9th & 10th April - Saturday, 6.00 pm | Sunday 9.00 am & 11.00 am

Holy Thursday: 14th April - 8.00 pm

Good Friday: 15th April - 10.00 am Ecumenical Way of the Cross (Stud Park Community Centre) | 3.00 pm (St Simon the Apostle Church)

Easter Sunday: 17th April - 6.00 am (Dawn Mass) | 9.00 am & 11.00 am

Rosters for weekend of 2nd & 3rd April 2022

| | 6.00 pm | 9.00 am | 11.00 am |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|----------------|
| Reader 1 | Pam Comerford | Ng Family | Alf Kakala |
| Reader 2 | Terry O'Donnell | Ng Family | Pilar Danlag |
| Commentator | Seymon Martino | Brian Philp | Christina Liew |
| Help Desk | Felicia Ahumada | Myrella Desfosses | Jenny Gray |
| Altar Society | Sheila Kelaart & Bernadette Fernando | Flowers: | Theresa Poh |
| Church Cleaning | Clara Gallo, Donna Lanzone, Ida Lancuba | | |

CHURCH & ONLINE MASSES THIS WEEK

Please note: NO MONDAY MASS

Tue, 29 Mar - 9.15 am | no vax check - livestreamed

Wed 30 Mar - 9.15 am | no vax check - livestreamed

Thu, 31 Mar - 9.15 am | no vax check - livestreamed

Fri, 01 Apr - 9.15 am | **(Anointing Mass)**
no vax check

Sat, 02 Apr - 6.00 pm | no vax check - livestreamed

Vigil for the 5th Sunday of Lent

Sun, 03 Apr - 9.00 am | **Masks required and full vax required** – for those vulnerable or at risk.
- 11.00 am | no vax check

Face coverings are recommended for parishioners and visitors who “service or face” members of the public and in large gatherings. Our priority is for others and especially those most vulnerable.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will be available at St Simon's Parish from 5.15pm on Saturdays before the 6.00 pm Mass Service.

Masks and full vax required.

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS

Prep 2023 - Information Night will be held online **via Zoom**: Tuesday 29th March at 7pm (30 min session) and a repeat session on Monday 2nd May at 7pm.

Please register for this event by clicking the link below:

https://groups.operoo.com/public_forms/869994/new

School Tours - Tours leave from front office.

All visitors undertaking a tour of the school site are required to “check in” with Service Victoria QR code and be vaccinated. (visual check of vaccination status is required)”

Please register for this event by clicking on the link below:

https://groups.operoo.com/public_forms/870022/new



ROSARY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Wednesdays

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

* Fortnightly via Zoom - Next meeting:
April 6th at 7.15 pm.

Contact Ricardo at: ricardo_drozario@hotmail.com

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the souls of:

Anniversary of Death: Dilip Manuelpillai, Antonio Muratore, Domenico Passarelli, Eileen & Lloyd Rees.

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

PARISH DIARY

Monday, 28 March

7.30 pm: Alpha (via Zoom)

7.30 pm: Lenten Group (Via Zoom)

Tuesday, 29 March

1.30 pm: Craft Group (Parish Centre)

7.30 pm: RCIA (Church)

7.30 pm: Lenten Group (Parish Centre)

Wednesday, 30 March

10.00 am: Rosary (After Mass)

10.00 am: Lenten Group (Parish Centre)

Friday, 1 April

10.00 am: Seniors Morning Tea (Parish Centre)

10.30 am: Lenten Group (Parish Centre)

7.30 pm: Stations of the Cross (Church)

8.00 pm: Dangers Meeting (Parish Centre)

Saturday, 2 April

11.30 am: Baptisms (Church)

Sunday, 3 April

12.30 pm: First Holy Communion Catch-up -Yr. 5 (Church)

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).

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.

CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group will re-commence on Tuesday, 29th March 2022 in the Parish Centre @ 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm. Do come along and learn or show us a new craft. All we require is your time. Materials will be supplied. Contact Melanie Jacobs on 0411 572 732

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Currently provides the following services for parishioners:

- * Communion to the sick
- * Bereavement support
- * Meals for needy families
- * Shawl ministry

Facilitated gathering: CARERS GROUP

Is planning to provide assistance for sufferers of dementia and other chronic illnesses and the impact it has on their carers. The Carers Group provides a safe, anonymous space to connect with other carers and support each other. The first meeting will be on **Wednesday, 27th April** from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm in the Parish Centre. To join the group please contact Brian Crowley on 0429 090 770.

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION

What will be our experience if we take time to encounter each of the three characters in this weekend's Gospel story?

Maybe sit in prayer and choose one encounter each day - perhaps start with the prodigal son and end with the Father.

Listen to the prodigal son, how his self-centred ways led him astray, how he had to sink so low before he had a wakeup-call and felt remorse. Was it hard to acknowledge his wrongdoing and decide to return with a repentant heart? What did it feel like to meet his father, be forgiven and reinstated? How did he feel about his older brother's attitude towards him? What life lessons did he learn?

Approach the older brother sensitively. Can you listen to his complaints without judgement? What are your reactions? Do you find yourself giving him a moral lecture or do you attempt to hear him out? Can you identify with his situation? What would you say to him? What would you say to the father?

Come into the presence of a God whose arms are open wide, ready to forgive, and love you back into life. Open your heart to God and talk to him as a trusting child. Allow God to embrace you and restore you.

What was your experience like? Call God Father as you say the Lord's prayer.

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

Facilitated Gatherings: LENTEN GROUPS

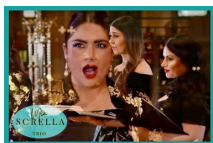
Refer to Parish Diary.

MAY YOU ENJOY YOUR BIRTHDAY!

Joshua D'Rozario, Jason De Silva, Julius Ting, Daniel Kanigowski, Olivia Terno, Elysia Gouez, Joel Welsford, Cassandra De Mel, Daniel Banac



MIA SORELLA IN CONCERT AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL



Friday, 1 April 2022 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm

\$25 - tickets online or at the door.

Children under 15 are admitted free of charge. Online tickets and further details:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BRYBS>

The concert comes highly recommended; it will be a wonderful experience, where artists, music, Christianity, spirituality and the magnificent building of St Patrick's Cathedral combine to make a truly memorable event. Wiradjuri Soprano Shauntai Batzke, the Italian-Australian Soprano Michelle Francis Cook, and Australian songbird, Soprano Helen Ling combine to present songs that inspire with soaring vocal lines and thrilling harmonies with an array of genres including original repertoire and unique arrangements of favourites.

HEART OF LIFE

'Pondering Grief', Sat 30 April 2022, 10.00 am - 3.30 pm

Facilitated by qualified Counsellor/ Supervisor/ Educator Linda Espie, this reflection day offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop offers a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern. Cost \$80 (Materials provided, BYO lunch). Book and pay via www.heartoflife.melbourne, or email info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel 9890 1101.

SLOGAN OF THE WEEK

Someone's Friend. BE A FRIEND FIRST.

PROJECT COMPASSION

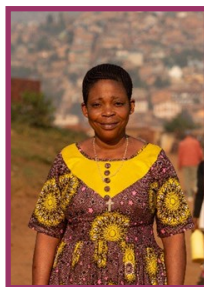


Rosalie 44, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.



With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope For All Future Generations.



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,

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.



COOK REQUIRED

Silkwood Stars Kindergarten and Early Learning Centre in Rowville is currently seeking an experienced and passionate cook to join our team.

- Working casual hours Mon to Fri 10.30 am - 1.30 pm
- Run your own kitchen
- Nourish the minds of our extraordinary children
- Working within a supportive team environment

Part-time hours: 15 per week

Job Types: Part-time, Casual

Salary: Negotiable depending on experience / required qualifications COVID-19 considerations:

All staff, parents and visitors are required to wear masks. Hand sanitiser will be provided onsite. The Centre will adhere to strict COVID-19 guidelines as per the Department of Education and DHHS.

If interested please email your resume to management@silkwoodstars.com.au or call Jayanthi on 0488124300 for further details.

SPECIAL INTENTION REQUESTS

Please note, we now have Holy Mass Request Envelopes available at the helpdesk and parish office. Names to be submitted **no later than Thursday of that coming week.**

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

If you are a Eucharistic Minister, please see Julie at the end of Mass or email us at: 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.

March 27th, 2022 - 4th Sunday of Lent

First reading

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm

33 (34):2-7

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening." 'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Next Week's Readings:

5th SUNDAY in LENT

Isaiah 43:16-21:

Philippians 3:8-14:

John 8:1-11



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