



St. Simon the Apostle Parish

2 Taylors Lane, Rowville 3178

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday | 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

(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

BUSINESS & OFFICE MANAGER

Mr Peter Evans (Tue, Thu & Fri)

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Loretta Hughes (Volunteer - Wed)

BAPTISM COORDINATOR

Theresa Abraham (Volunteer - Wed)

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Ms Delisa 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

Hedy Carvalho: 9755 4222

STANDARD CHURCH MASS TIMES

Sun: 9.00am & 11.00am
Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri: 9.15am
Sat: 6.00pm (page 2 for full details)

STANDARD ONLINE MASS TIMES

Sun, live from Sat: 6.00pm
Tue: 9.15am (page 2 for full details)

STANDARD RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 5:15 pm - 5:55 pm
(before the 6pm Mass)

BAPTISMS: 1st & 3rd SUNDAY of the month
Email: baptism@stsimonsparish.com.au

WEDDINGS & MARRIAGE PREPARATION
Contact Parish Office

ANointing OF THE SICK

By private arrangement with
Fr Mark Reynolds & Fr. Samuel Pearson
Contact St Jude's on 9763 7302

PARISH CENTRE FACILITIES HIRE

Please Contact Parish Office

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HELPLINE

1800 305 330

MUSICIAN IN RESIDENCE

Andrea O'Loughlin
Available for Funerals & Weddings
Mobile: 0404 051 401

26th March



5th SUNDAY of LENT

I BELIEVE IN DEATH

*I believe in death.
I believe that it is part of life.
I believe that we are born to die,
to die that we may live more fully;
born to die a little each day
to selfishness, to pretence, and to sin.
I believe that every time we pass
from one stage of life to another,
something in us dies and something new is born.
I believe we taste death in moments of loneliness,
rejection, sorrow, disappointment, and failure.
I believe that we are dying before our time
when we live in bitterness, in hatred, and in isolation.
I believe that each day we are creating our own death
by the way we live.
For those with faith, death is not extinguishing the light;
it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.*

- (Anon.) New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies

MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

for EVERY Volunteer at St Simon's
as per Archdiocesan Directive.

**This course will be approx. 20 minutes
AFTER THIS WEEKEND'S MASSES**

If you have not yet done, please ensure you attend;
alternatively online training will take approx. 1 hour.

PALMS REQUIRED

for Palm Sunday

If anyone can provide palms for our next weekend
services, please leave palms at the front of the church
by **this FRIDAY MORNING**.



Help will be needed also for SET UP
and decoration of the church.

10:00 am start on Friday.

**All help is most welcome
to lighten the load!**

EASTER SERVICES VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEETS

If you can assist us where needed, please see our sign
up sheets that can be found in our church foyer.

PARISH CENSUS THIS WEEKEND

A parish census will be
conducted following the
Homily at all Masses this
weekend. This is an
important process and will
enable us to update our
parish records – adding
new members of our
community and noting
changes with addresses,
emails and phone
numbers.

Census cards and pencils
will be placed in the pews
prior to each Mass and
you are requested to
return your completed
cards in the collection
baskets – leaving the
pencils in the pews for the
next Mass.

**Even if you have filled in
a card recently, please
do so again so we have
all our parishioners'
information in the
same form.**

Your assistance with this
important process is very
much appreciated.


THIS SUNDAY 26th March Garden Group's Sausage Sizzle!



**after the 9:00 am
& 11:00 am Masses**

Funds raised will go towards
the cost of maintaining our
parish grounds and garden.

Thank you to such
a dedicated team who meet
as a group on a Thursday.

Service/ Event	Mon - 27 Mar	Tue - 28 Mar	Wed - 29 Mar	Thu - 30 Mar	Fri - 31 Mar	Sat - 1 Apr	Sun - 2 Apr
Mass at St Simon's, Rowville		9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am	9:15 am	6:00 pm	9:00 am 11:00 am
Livestream		✓					✓ (9am)
Individual Reconciliation					5:00 pm - 6:00 pm (Church)	5:15 - 5.55 pm (Church)	
Prayer			Rosary 10:00 am (Church)  7:30 pm (Zoom)		Euch. Adoration 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm at St Simons Stations of the Cross - 7:00 pm at St Simon's, Row. 7.30 pm St Jude's, Scoresby		
Faith Development	Lenten Group 7:30 pm (Parish Centre)	RCIA: 7:30 pm Parish Centre Lenten Group 7:30 pm (Mtg Rm)	Lenten Group 10:00 am (Parish Centre)	Lenten Group 10:00 am (Parish Centre)	A training session for all parish altar servers in preparation for Easter services will be held soon. <u>Details are:</u> ALTAR SERVER TRAINING APRIL 2, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm in ST SIMON'S CHURCH New altar servers are especially encouraged to attend.		
Outreach			We Care group PLANNING @ 1:00 pm				
Social		Craft Group 1:30 pm (Parish Centre)					

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND: 1 & 2 April 2023 - PALM SUNDAY ** SPECIAL ROSTERS **

Mass Times	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 9.00 am	Sun 11:00 am
If you would like to help at any of our PALM SUNDAY & EASTER Services/ Breakfast, please see the SIGN UP SHEETS in our church foyer.			
Help Desk	Gillian Elias	Maggie Braganza	Noelle Parson
Children’s Liturgy	No Children’s Liturgy	No Children’s Liturgy	No Children’s Liturgy
Flowers	Melanie Jacobs	Altar Society: Elaine Gannon & Lidwin Hudson	
Church Cleaning	Yacintha Thabesan & Family		

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS TIMETABLE

April 1: CHRISM MASS (St Patrick's Cathedral) - **10:00 am**
PALM SUNDAY (Saturday Vigil) - **6:00 pm**
April 2: PALM SUNDAY - **9:00 am & 11:00 am**
April 3: MONDAY - **No Mass**
April 4: TUESDAY - **9:15 am**
April 5: WEDNESDAY - **9:15 am**
April 6: HOLY THURSDAY (Our Lord's Supper) - **7:30 pm**
(Altar of Repose concludes) - **11:00 pm**
April 7: GOOD FRIDAY
(Ecumenical Stations of the Cross) - **10:00 am**
(The Passion Service of Christ) - **3:00 pm**
April 8: HOLY SATURDAY - **No Mass**
April 9: EASTER SUNDAY (Dawn Vigil) - **6:00 am**
Followed by Easter Breakfast - **7:00 am** (Parish Centre)
- **9:00 am & 11:00 am**



ST VINCENT DE PAUL PIETY STALL

To purchase any of items, please ask at the Helpdesk or contact the Parish Office on 9764 4058.

MORNING ROSARY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

10:00 am on Wednesdays after 9:15am morning Mass.

EVENING ROSARY PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

7:30 pm 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Contact Ricardo at: ricardo_drozario@hotmail.com

Join NEXT Zoom Meeting on the 29th March 2023:

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86911214142?](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86911214142?pwd=RWkzK1R1QXV2cWw3Wm05T0VhYTAvQT09)

[pwd=RWkzK1R1QXV2cWw3Wm05T0VhYTAvQT09](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86911214142?pwd=RWkzK1R1QXV2cWw3Wm05T0VhYTAvQT09)

Meeting ID: 869 1121 4142 | Passcode: 8xVJF7

FACE COVERING REMAINS OPTIONAL AT ST SIMON'S

Parishioners are encouraged to be sensitive to the well-being of others when in close proximity. To support this, face coverings (masks) are strongly recommended to be worn indoors, especially at 9:00 am Mass.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Recent Deaths: William Jansfed.

Anniversary of Death: Alonzo Puey (1Yr), William Lee (1m), Rolando Veloso & Karlo Agapito.

We lift our prayers to you Lord, for all the sick people in this world especially for:

Loredana Pellegrini and Mary Thisgaard.



INTERESTED IN JOINING A MINISTRY?

Ministries within the parish can be very rewarding and just a little of your time can lighten the load and share your talents!

NEEDING HELP FOR CHURCH CLEANING: If this is something that you would enjoy doing, please contact the parish office on 9764 4058. We are needing to fill one of our existing teams as soon as possible.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We are looking to put together a small group to plan for Stations going forward to draw on the rich history and different forms available to offer the Stations best suited to our parish - Contact the parish office if interested in being part of this group.

COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH EVENTS

ADORATION WITH BENEDICTION

Eucharistic Adoration happens every Friday evening at St Simon's Church, **from 6:00 pm**. All are welcome to join fellow parishioners for quiet prayer, contemplation and meditation with the Blessed Sacrament.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

After Eucharistic Adoration **at 7:00 pm** during Lent.

RCIA

Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm (Parish Centre)

Sessions commenced last year for all candidates **receiving sacraments soon this Easter!**

CRAFT GROUP

Tuesdays @ 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm (Parish Centre)

Do come along and learn or show us a new craft. All we require is your time. Materials will be supplied.

THANK YOU for your generous support at our first Craft Stall! We look forward to holding another later in the year. Contact: Melanie Jacobs on 0411 572 732.

WE CARE FOR YOU

Next meeting: **Wednesday, 19 April @ 11:30 am - 2:30 pm.** (Parish Centre) Lunch will be provided.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month @ 10:00 am.

(Parish Centre) Next meeting: **Thursday, 13 April 2023.**

Theme: Connecting with each other, baking and dance exercise!

YOUTH GROUP FOR ST SIMON'S & ST JUDE'S!!

Next meeting: **Sunday, 30 April** (Parish Centre)

Who: Year 5 -Year 10 Students

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Dinner will be provided: \$5 Donation.

Contact: youthteam@stsimonsparish.com.au

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

This weekend: Sunday, 25 March at 6:00 pm Mass.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL.

"St Simon's Parish community, is committed to the Victorian Child Safe Standards & acknowledges that child safeguarding is everyone's responsibility."

SAFEGUARDING

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne requires that ALL Volunteers at St Simon's MUST HAVE a CURRENT

Working with Children Check Card

registered with St Simon the Apostle, Rowville.

Unfortunately, any person that does not have this card, will no longer be able to volunteer in any capacity.

If you need assistance or for more information, please contact the parish office on 9764 4058.

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First reading

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.

Responsorial Psalm 129(130)

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Second reading 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.

Gospel

John 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. 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.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

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.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him.

Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews 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.

Next week's Readings: PALM SUNDAY OF LENT

Entrance: Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

To join any of these groups

please email: loretta@stsimonsparish.com.au

FAITH INSPIRATIONS - Faith Development Team

The powerful story of the rising of Lazarus. It has inspired the hearts and minds of many artists through the centuries. Because it is an event that, despite the lack of faith Jesus encounters, He is able to perform a miracle that no man could perform, unless he be God. Those who see this event are changed. They go forward with belief that Jesus is the Christ, the saviour of the world. But is this belief, our belief, powerful enough to move God?

Like any Bible passage, there is a myriad of meanings that confront us in this story. I would like to focus on one in particular. The ways Martha and Mary interact with Jesus and the different ways Jesus responds to them.

Both women say to Jesus "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

But it seems the difference is the way Mary threw herself at his feet with tears in her eyes. Martha did not do this, she simply approached Jesus.

The response Jesus gave to Martha, is he taught her that he is the resurrection and the life and her brother will rise again. Martha responded in agreement to "knowing" this fact about her faith. But we hear Jesus remained where he was, he did not move.

The response Jesus gave to Mary, however, was quite different. 'Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, "Where have you put him?"'

Jesus wept. This is the shortest sentence in the Holy Bible but perhaps the most moving!

So why the different responses from Jesus?

I think it lies in the previous story of Martha and Mary, where we hear Mary chose the better way. Sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to him, adoring him, loving him and not just serving him as Martha was. This way of Mary is what God is showing us. We have the power to move God in a powerful way, draw close to his heart with our heart, not just our minds. Let us increase our prayer, our adoration, our scripture reading, not so we just increase our knowledge of the faith but that we feel it in the core of our being. So that our prayer is in the same spirit as Mary. Who moved Jesus more than any of his apostles did but perhaps a reflection of how Mother Mary moved Jesus to action when he performed his first public miracle, though his hour had not yet come.