



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 18-19 July, 2026

The art of the spiritual conversation

(written by Cathy Jenkins in Melbourne Catholic Magazine)

I remember the first time I participated in a spiritual conversation—I didn't like it. I had rushed to get to the meeting, the traffic had been horrendous and I arrived ready for business.

We were allocated a group of six at a round table with a facilitator. We had a reflective prayer and we were asked to sit in silence for a period of time that felt interminable. In fact, it was two minutes, but I was so wound up from the rush to arrive that I couldn't settle.

Then the spiritual conversation process commenced. It felt slow and ponderous. I'd come from boardroom tables, where thinking and responding quickly were valued, where jumping in with a 'yes, but' response was seen as a strength. This way of working was so ingrained in me that I found the pausing, the discipline of the process frustrating. With two days of this way of working ahead of me, I gazed at the very slow-moving clock and felt like saying, 'Get me out of here!' And then something transformative happened. A member of the group shared an insight so profound that I was shocked out of my self-indulgence. The silence that followed suddenly seemed rich with meaning and possibility. I was humbled. I suddenly realised that it was not my role to respond to the insight in my usual manner but to take it into my heart and let it form in me a new thought. This way of working was not about persuading the other, but about being attentive to them, recognising the wisdom they brought and allowing it to shape my own thinking. It was the way of allowing the work of the Spirit to emerge in our midst.

This experience was the beginning of a long journey to understand not just the spiritual conversation process but myself; to appreciate that my views alone are small and that when I listen properly to another, we can, together, think in new ways; to listen to silence.

As we now embark on our synod consultation process, we are encouraged to discern together using

this spiritual conversation method. It is an invitation to us to listen deeply to one another, to discern the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit, and to participate together in the mission of the Church. Rather than having debates or discussions aimed at winning an argument, our spiritual conversations create space for prayerful listening, mutual respect and communal discernment.

The process of spiritual conversation
While communities may adapt the format, a typical spiritual conversation, after a period of prayer, involves three rounds:

1. Sharing from experience

Participants respond to a theme being discerned, speaking briefly from their own experience while others listen attentively.

2. Reflection on what was heard

Participants share what touched them, surprised them, or resonated with them in what others have shared. The focus remains on listening rather than responding or debating.

3. Discernment together

The group reflects on emerging patterns, movements of the Spirit, areas where thoughts have met and possible invitations for action. The periods of silence between the rounds help us to listen to each other, and to God.

Our synod invitation

This is our Melbourne Synod invitation: to listen carefully to each other, to think deeply about what we hear and, together, to propose ideas that will strengthen the mission of our Church.

For those who would like to learn more about the spiritual conversation process, the synod guide will help. It can be found [here](#).

There is an art to a spiritual conversation. It transforms dialogue into discernment. It creates deep listeners who can listen not only to each other but also to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit. As a result, we may discover not only what we think but what God is calling us to become together as the Church in Melbourne.

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding Officer)

St Paul Apostle North
Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

St Paul Apostle South
Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's
Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for NEXT WEEK
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 2026

First Reader: *1 Kings 3:5. 7-12*

A reading from the book of King

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you
This is the Word of God

Psalm

The Lord is my portion;
I promise to keep your words
The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces

Let your steadfast love become my comfort
according to your promise to your servant.
Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;
for your law is my delight

Truly I love your commandments
more than gold, more than fine gold.
Truly I direct my steps by all your precepts;
I hate every false way.

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.

Second Reader: *Romans 8: 28-30*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters,
We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified
This is the Word of God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
You have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom
Alleluia!

Gospel: *Matthew 13:44-52*

Jesus spoke to the crowd:
"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."
The Good news of the Lord

Reflection

What stood out to you from the Gospel or Reflection/Homily?
What might it look like to abandon "the heavy burden of our worldly certainties"?

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.
St Paul Apostle safeguarding policies can be found on our website at
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> or in hardcopy in the Sacristy



PLAYGROUP

Many of us may not be aware that we have a small play-group which runs on Thursdays between 10am to 11.30am in the Annexe for children aged between 0 to 5 yrs old. The group is run by mothers & grandmothers who generally also bring their child/grandchild with them. The children who attend this group will be accompanied by a parent/ guardian. We are looking for volunteers to assist co-ordinate and run the sessions on a roster. You will not be required to run the session every week. However, you will be required to comply to the Archdiocese's safe-guarding policy, we will help you to obtain all the necessary documents.

If you think this is something that you are interested in taking part, please contact the parish office on 9700 3781 (Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm) and we will provide you with more information regarding this group.

ADORATION GROUP is inviting everyone to join on TUESDAY 28 July between 6-7pm to attend our Church Chapel for prayers of the sick and lonely for healing both physical and spiritual. Come along, bring your family and friends for an hour, even if you can make it for 30 minutes, let's pray together for the healing of our loved ones. Further details please contact John Hendriks 0418308051 or Johnhendriks@gmail.com

SAFEGUARDING CORNER

Child Protection Refresher—online course

Discover the most up to date information for the care sector in relation to Child Protection and mandatory reporting for 2026, including emotional abuse signs and symptoms; signs of inappropriate parent behaviour; how to write a formal report and more.

Course Details

As a Mandatory Reporter, you are required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect to government au-

thorities.

Are you currently aware of how to identify indicators of abuse in children and young people, and how to make a report of these concerns?

Our online short course can help.

Upon completion a certificate will be available for immediate download.

If you are interested in this course please visit this [link](#)

COME AWAY

Come Away Retreats are conducted at the Holy Cross Centre. This retreat is for those:

seeking peace in their hearts

Needing quiet time to reflect on their life

those caring for others

A time for both sharing and quiet time in the beautiful garden setting of Holy Cross; guided meditation, silence, Mass and Anointing, opportunity for individual guidance. Session times: 9.30 a.m. (start with a cuppa) to 3.00 p.m. (BYO lunch)

During this day of reflection opportunities will be offered for:

Prayer/meditation

Mass/Communion Service

Silence/solitude

Small group sharing (optional)

Anointing

Our next session is Wednesday, September 16th, 2026

There is no need to book for these days unless you are a group. We would appreciate knowing numbers to enable us to have enough hand out material ready.

This long-standing Passionist Ministry at Holy Cross is valued by many. We invite you to support it financially according to your means. Suggested Donation \$20 – \$25 For more information, please phone 9846 6014

Readings:

16 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

Romans 8: 26-27

Matthew 13:24-43

www.universalis.com

17 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12

Romans 8: 28-30

Matthew 13:44-52

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Joanne Folino, Cecil Harper, Peter Shaw-Dennis, Peter Van Helmond, Pandry Jackson, Irma Dias, Fr Chris Mithen CP, Kerryn Carney, Mary Antoun, Anne McCallister, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Cecile Potier, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Eduardo Dias, Sally D'Cruz, Yvonne Sherwin, Beatrice Cramer, Sandra Quodros, Kelvin Wilson, Monica Tissera, Clare Foster, June Kitto, Cyril Sextus De Silva, Conrado Casiano Omega, Carmelo Cicero, Philippe Larosse, Giuseppina Materia, Cheryl Anthony, Lancy D'Silva, Rudy Aurelio Sr., Genevieve Grubert, Marilyn Hedrich, Minoo Jones, Camilo Dizon **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Janina Gorski	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio William Roncon
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Alvita Dias Harendra Alwis	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Anne Astin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Glenys Tran Rohan Wickramasinghe Jennifer Cunningham	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Stephen Herbert Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Aloma Pereira Folole Faleafa Rinku Arora	Dominique Maclou Sai Dlinger Naomi Falo Stephen Nasalio Santhanamary	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Dalreen Fernandes Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe Kyle Hoad Emma Hoad	Naomi Falo Dominique Maclou Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Mignonne Meerwald Swineetha Disanayake Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Nila Fernando Rinku Arora Kyle or Emma Hoad	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Vianney Clark Patricia D'Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Marg Keating Peng Chee Jenny Catania

Please note that the above rosters are subject to the completion
of the required SAFEGUARDING documents and training

