



THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

6 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Ezek 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

R. O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia! / God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; / and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. / Alleluia!



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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📮 P.O.Box 664, Elsternwick 3185 🌐 www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Eugene San SAC
Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

Wednesday and Friday 10:00am
Saturday 6:30pm, Sun 10:30am

Reconciliation

After weekday Mass and Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am
Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

After weekday Mass

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163
In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am
Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-mins before all Masses and Saturday 9:45am - 10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA
Special Collection: -

Thanksgiving



Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm S Bettoni
Sunday 9:00am S McMillan 10:30am E La Bonne

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Tue 8 Sep: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sun 13 Sep: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 118:137, 124)

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 8:12)

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Virginia Poloie Tu'l, Paula Person, Sister Miriam-Elizabeth Cusack, Bernadette Duffy, Ian & Sue Besomo

**Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: Bilyanska Maria

Father's Day Book

Our Father's Day Book can be found at the foyer or the altar rail in the church. Please write the names of all fathers for whom you would like prayers to be offered on Father's Day. There will be a special blessing for all fathers at all Masses this weekend.



Communion Service in September

With both Fr Leenus and Fr Eugene away for the next two weeks, we will have Communion Service on weekdays:

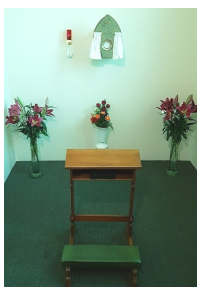
St Joseph's: 10am - Wednesday 9th and Friday 11th

Holy Cross: 10am - Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

RCIA has resumed

Those seeking renewal of faith or know someone desiring to become Catholic, please contact our parish office to learn more about the RCIA sessions which will take place on Thursdays, 6:30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, Elsternwick.



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Our Chapel offers a quiet, sacred space to pray and to spend time with Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 with a security tag. To apply, contact the Parish Office. A fully refundable security deposit will be required.

Prayer Service of Lament

On Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 4pm, Archbishop Peter Comensoli will be holding a Prayer Service of Lament for survivors of abuse. The service will also be livestreamed, enabling others to join in prayer from across the Archdiocese. Archbishop Comensoli's letter regarding this service has been placed on our Parish notice board.

Online Info Session on the Permanent Diaconate

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Tuesday, 22 September 2026, 7-8pm via ZOOM

Attendance will be by invitation. Email Deacon Kevin Pattison to express your interest - Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

Our Lady of Vailankanni 2026

The Novena and Feast of Our Lady of Vailankanni has become one of the most grace filled annual events organised by the Combined Societies of Mary at **Holy Cross Church**. Every year, so many who attend report of the most wonderful favours having been granted to them through the praying of this Novena to Our Lady of Health Vailankanni.



She is so powerful and always grants so many healings and graces through this Novena and Feast. In making this unique Novena we are inviting the saints of the Church to pray for us each night.

Saints' Relics will be available for veneration:

- * 30th August St Bernadette
- * 31st August St Rita of Cascia
- * 1st September St Francis Xavier
- * 2nd September St Anthony of Padua
- * 3rd September St Alphonsa
- * 4th September St Maria Goretti
- * 5th September St Teresa of Calcutta
- * 6th September St Peregrine
- * 7th September St Philomena

Powerful Novena:

Sunday, 30th August to Monday, 7th September at 7pm
- Adoration, Novena Prayers & Holy Mass

The Wonderful Feast:

Tuesday, 8th September on Our Lady's Birthday at 7pm
- Adoration, Prayers Benediction, Procession & Mass

Combined Societies of Mary.
www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com
Enquiries: Joy Hunt 9509 2207



Pope prays for dead and missing in Nepal

Pope Leo XIV expressed his sadness by the devastation wrought by a glacial collapse in the Nepal-China border, causing a deadly wave of floods and mudslides that killed 168 people with hundreds more feared dead.

Prayer for the Victims of the Nepal Floods

Loving God, we pray for all those affected by the devastating floods in Nepal. Bring comfort to those who have lost loved ones, strength to those who have lost their homes, and hope to those facing uncertainty. We pray for those still searching for loved ones in this great tragedy. Bless the rescuers and all emergency service personnel who are helping those in need. May Your loving presence bring peace, healing and courage to the people of Nepal.

Benedetta Women's Monthly Bible Club

Come and gather with us - a warm, intimate circle of women coming together to slow down, read Scripture and grow in faith side by side. We'll be praying with the Word in the beautiful lectio divina tradition: reading slowly, listening deeply and letting God's voice speak to our hearts. No experience needed - just an open heart. Whether Scripture is familiar ground or something new you're longing to explore, there's a place for you here.

For any women who would like to begin the day in prayer, we'll be attending the 11am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral beforehand. Come along and we'll walk over together afterwards. Sunday, 6 September 2026 from 12:30pm-2:30pm at Hap Café, 693 Rathdowne Street, Carlton North

Trivia Lunch - 9th September

Join us at the Holy Cross Parish Hall every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12-noon.

Bring your own lunch and enjoy the Trivia session and a catchup. All are welcome.

Happy Father's Day

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

One main reason why we should honour our dads is that they represent God in our lives. They are here on behalf of God. So, each dad has one or another quality of God. Some dads are very strict; God is very strict too. Today's Gospel speaks of a demanding God; so also, some dads are very demanding. Dads who are not so strict or demanding also represent God, who is so lenient and soft. Some dads are very just and at the same time very kind, just like God who is just and merciful.

All dads do not have all the qualities of God. But all of them share bits and pieces of the different qualities of the same God. Some dads are very funny and jovial. "gods must be crazy" too, to love us so much like our dads. Some dads are most of the time angry and upset. But that does not mean that they do not love and care. In them we experience protection and discipline. Some dads are friends with their children. But some children cannot even imagine for example, sitting together with their dad at the same table. So dads are very different from each other; but they are all representatives of our loving Father in heaven.

Being a father means facing many struggles and difficulties. It means going to work for the sake of his family, even when he would prefer to stay in bed a bit longer. Thank God we have a heavenly Father who helps our dads to be their best. Who of us can live up to the example of God the Father? Even to be a model like St. Joseph can seem impossible. So, being a father does not mean that everything works well. Sometimes things don't work-out the way we want it. A good dad doesn't necessarily mean being privileged to hear 'I love you, dad'.

As we celebrate Father's day, we reflect on the graciousness and mercy of God our Father and thank him for giving us dads who dedicate and sacrifice their time, energy and resources to make our lives happy. We thank God for every kind of dad!

May God bless them all!

Q: Why did the dad bring a ladder to church?

A: Because he wanted to take his faith to a higher level.

Mannix Library Book Sale

Mannix Library receives many generous donations of books. We also regularly remove books from our collection if we have more than two copies, or if the item is no longer relevant for the collection. We sell our books at very low prices. This year the Spring Book Sale runs till September 21. Prices: Hardcover \$5, Paperback \$2. Location: 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne 3002.

National Child Protection Week: 6-12 September

National Child Protection Week is an important opportunity for us all to renew our commitment to creating safe, welcoming and respectful environments where every child and young person is valued, heard and protected.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility and a shared mission, which at its core is central to Catholic teachings. It is reflected not only in our policies and procedures, but in the everyday actions of our parishes, ministries, and communities.

It is demonstrated in how we listen to children, respond to concerns, and ensure that their safety, wellbeing and inherent dignity remain at the heart of all we do.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants: 26 September



Feast of Sts Cosmas and Damian. Holy Mass in 'Reparation for and Healing from Abortion' at 9am **every 4th Saturday** at St Patrick's Cathedral. Confessions from 8:30am. Rosary Procession after Mass. Join us in prayer to the edge of the 150m Abortion Prayer Exclusion Zone, Wellington Pde, East Melbourne (Opposite Jolimont Station Ramp Exit). Contact 0407-090367.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

SEEK RECONCILIATION

Last Sunday reminded us that following Jesus is not free from struggle. Challenges, even misunderstandings, will be part of the disciple's vocation. This Sunday, the evangelist moves deeper to highlight further concerns that beset the community of disciples—internal struggles, tensions, even rejection.

The evangelist draws on the wisdom of Jesus to address these realities and suggests a three-step process towards reconciliation. It begins with personal dialogue. The one wronged seeks to invite the wrongdoer to reconciliation. If this fails, witnesses to what has happened verify the authenticity of the issues and encourage resolution. If this fails then the whole faith community, the *ekklesia*, witness to the wrong that has created the division, inviting the wrong doer to a change of heart and reconciliation.

Even if this third step fails then Matthew advises to treat the wrong doer 'like a pagan or tax collector.' In other words, as Jesus welcomed strangers and invited a tax collector to become one of his disciples, the door must always be left open. The final words of the Gospel contain Jesus' assurance that he is always present to even a small discipleship gathering, of even two or three, no matter what they are dealing with.

Today's Gospel is as relevant for our day as it was in the time of Matthew. No faith community is tension free. Disagreements arise and, sometimes, are not easily resolved by faith leaders. Rather than gossiping or character assassination, personal approaches that invite conflict resolution and community building are essential. In everything, Jesus is present.

Fr Michael Trainor