

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

*All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Reflection by Michael Tate

Did you notice that Our Lord does not command us to love 'God'? No, we are to love 'the Lord your God', the One who rescued the Jewish people from slavery. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the Lord God as the liberator from the apparent final dominance of death. Loving such a liberator is the natural response. So, 'Love the Lord your God'.

Then Our Lord does not command us to love our neighbour! Rather, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' But who is 'yourself'? In the wonderful story-telling of Genesis, we are told that Adam, an earthen statue, had Divine Breath breathed into the nostrils, creating him as a human being.

We earthlings are conceived with the Divine Breath at the core of our being. The challenge for you and for me is to see 'yourself' in that way, and thereafter every human being whose lives we can affect: the neighbour. And in today's global world, the neighbour can be a person in a society geographically or culturally distant.

We could pause for a moment to see the true dimensions of God, self and the other, to more easily fulfil the dual command.



ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Catholic Parish

Avondale Heights

Today's Celebration is on pages:

Old Missal: 355 New Missal: 480



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

25 October 2026

First Reading Exodus 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

*If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan,
my anger will rage against you.*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans."

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour;
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my
stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

www.melbocatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tru

Secretaries: Lee Tran: Wednesday - Friday
Charles Meneze: Tuesday

Office Hours: Closed Monday

10am - 3pm Tuesday - Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm
Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

Phone: 9337 6016

E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10.00am
Saturday 5:30pm

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey

Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano

Maria Aloe

Phone: 9331 9000

E-mail:

principal@smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court,
Avondale Heights

Phone: 9337 4595

E-mail: sisaugustinian@gmail.com

Website: www.asjmoz.org

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick:

Anthony Caruso; Stella Raviola; George Pinpin; Nancy Green; Rossini Burns; Janice Murray; Kimberly Damanik; Vlad; Jan, Miecia, Zygyuch; Monica Marland; Emily & Grace; Mellisa; Kay; Angela; Zac; Mary; Mark; Franca; Susie.

Recently Deceased:

Luigina Zaffina; Timothy Gomez; Anthony Grech; Maria Mai Thi Thay; Caterina Spataro (Italy); Frank Tassone; Josephine Falzon; Salvatore De Luca; Frank Maisano; Roberto Clementi.

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Frank Tassone; Peter Falzon; Antonio Ferraro; Sarah & Juan Rivera; Vivian Lamicela; Ronald Rodillas;

Dominic Cumbo; Bernarda & Francis Grima; Teresa, Emmanuel, Tonina, Phillip Sammut; Emmanuel & Nazarena Farrugia; Adam Hood; Rita & Carmelo De Bono; Joseph Consiglia.

Parish Support Programme:

Pays Wages, Electricity, Cleaning, Insurance,
Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$1,951
Loose: \$1,362

Presbytery: Supports Parish Priest,
Retired Priests & Cathedral. \$1,580

The Kids Bulletin

A fun way for children to learn about our Catholic faith. Weekly updates, please visit thekidsbulletin.com/



Devotion to Divine Mercy

Mondays: 2.30pm Rosary
3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

followed by Stations of the Cross, 4pm finish.



Christian Meditation 2026

Maranatha ... Come Lord Jesus

All welcome: Monday 10 - 11am
Parent's Room in the Church

Term 4: Oct 26; Nov 9 & 23; Dec 7.



Foster Carers Wanted

Call 8398 6800 or go to
www.mackillop.org.au



CONFIRMATIONS LAST WEEK

We congratulate St Martin's School children and another child who were Confirmed last week. Please remember them in your prayers.



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

We congratulate and pray for:
Eve Proietto & Lucas Duong



ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

9.15am Friday 30th October
Everyone is Welcome



All Souls' Mass for Deceased Parishioners

Monday 2nd November 7pm
Invitations have been posted to the families.
Everyone is Welcome

OFFICE CLOSURES

The office will be **closed on Tuesday 27 October** due to maintenance works beyond our control. We apologise for any inconvenience.

The office will be **closed on Tuesday 3 November** due to the public holiday.

PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Dear Parishioners,
If you have been unable to find your envelopes, please check again now, as they should be available.
If you have experienced any issues, please contact the parish office.
Thank-you for your patience and understanding.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you and ask that you make yourself known to us by completing the New Parishioners Form in Documents and Forms under Recommended Links on our website and return it to the Parish Office. Thank you.

Prayer for Students Undertaking Exams

Loving God,
be with me now,
as I prepare for my exams.

Thank you for the many talents and gifts you have given me and for the opportunity of education.

Calm my nerves and anxiety, help me to remember all that I have studied, to express it clearly and to answer the questions the very best that I can.

Holy Spirit, sit with me in my exam
- and always.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.



worldwide marriage encounter

Live Your Best Life in Love...

A Marriage Encounter weekend is for you...

A Marriage Encounter weekend is a gift for every married couple. Every married couple deserves to experience this very special weekend. Time-out to focus on your most precious relationships. You will come away feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep it alive. No group sharing required. The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome. Just one weekend remains for 2026 - don't miss this opportunity to nurture your most precious relationship.

6 - 8 November at St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.

Starts Friday 7pm finishes Sunday 4:30pm. Information/Bookings: Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au
Website: www.wwme.org.au