

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

28 SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Amos 6:1, 4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

You who give yourself to licentiousness and revelry will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion
and those who feel so safe on the mountain
of Samaria.

Lying on ivory beds
and sprawling on their divans,
they dine on lambs from the flock,
and stall-fattened veal;
they bawl to the sound of the harp,
they invent new instruments of music like
David,
they drink wine by the bowlful,
and use the finest oil for anointing themselves,
but about the ruin of Joseph they do not
care at all.

That is why they will be the first to be exiled;
the sprawlers' revelry is over.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:6-10. R. v. 2

R. Praise the Lord, my soul! (*or Alleluia!*)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,
who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, /
who raises up those who are bowed down. / It
is the Lord who loves the just, / the Lord, who
protects the stranger. **R.**

3. He upholds the widow and orphan / but
thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord
will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to
age. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Tim 6:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to Timothy

Obey the commandments until the coming of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to
be saintly and religious, filled with faith and



love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight
of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life
to which you were called when you made your
profession and spoke up for the truth in front
of many witnesses. Now, before God the source
of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke
up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius
Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that
you have been told, with no faults or failures,
until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who at the due time will be revealed
by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all,
the King of kings and the Lord of lords,
who alone is immortal,
whose home is in inaccessible light,
whom no man has seen and no man is able
to see:
to him be honour and everlasting power.
Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 16:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

*During your life good things came your way just as
bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being
comforted while you are in agony.*



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after 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 & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: TBA Presbytery: TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm S Bettoni

Sunday 9:00am D Sarah 10:30am E Zheng

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 29 Sep: Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

Tue 30 Sep: St Jerome

Wed 1 Oct: St Therese of the Child Jesus

Thu 2 Oct: The Holy Guardian Angels

Sat 4 Oct: St Francis of Assisi

Sun 5 Oct: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Thanksgiving



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The Perpetual Adoration Chapel was blessed in 2018 to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Contact the Parish Office to apply for one.

Young Adults & Youth Mass - 27th September

Thank you to the Youth and Young Adults, from our 3 churches who have come together this Saturday to host the 6:30pm Vigil Mass at St Joseph's.

We pray that these young people are strengthened in their good work, and may God bless them with authentic friendships that help them grow in Christ!

Parish Social Lunch

All parishioners and friends are invited to a social lunch at The Camden Hotel, 414 Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield South on Wednesday, October 8th, 12:30pm. Please come along for an afternoon of fun and friendship. RSVP: Denise - 0410311326 by Monday, October 6th.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Dan 3:31, 29, 30, 43, 42)

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (1 Jn 3:16)

By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Tony Messina**

* Names will be published for a month, unless otherwise requested.

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: **Vincenzo Bettoni**

Month of the Holy Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. According to an account by fifteenth-century Dominican, Alan de la Roch, Mary appeared to St. Dominic in 1206 after he had been praying and doing severe penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy. Mary praised him for his valiant fight against the heretics and then gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others.

On October 7, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the yearly feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Known for several centuries by the alternate title of "Our Lady of Victory," the feast day takes place in honour of a 16th century naval victory which secured Europe against Turkish invasion. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe.

Feast of the Most Holy Rosary

Our Lady at Fatima declared: "Say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world"

The world definitely needs peace, our families need peace and our souls need the peace that the Rosary gives.

In praying the Rosary we meditate on the essential mysteries of the faith, but its power goes way beyond any explanation that one may give of this beautiful prayer.

1:30pm Sunday, 12th October at Holy Cross Church with Adoration, Prayers, Rosary Holy Mass.

* Free quality rosaries for all who attend

* Present during the afternoon and available for veneration at the conclusion of the afternoon will be the First Class Relics of St Louis De Montfort, one of the greatest Marian saints of all times, and St Gemma Galgani, an amazing lay Italian mystic.

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



St Carlo Acutis' First Class Relic

Exhibition at Stella Maris Church in Beaumaris, and at St Joseph's Hall in Black Rock. Details on the notice board.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Summary

- This month’s meeting was held on Tuesday, 23 September.
- 1. Parish Fellowship: We will trial holding morning tea at the church foyer after Sunday 10:30am Mass on 5th October.
 - 2. Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF): We have 8 pilgrims and 2 above-25 leaders confirmed attending the ACYF. Fees and other costs will be covered by parish contribution, pilgrim contribution and fundraising. Pilgrims pledge to share their experience and contribute to our Parish life upon their return from the event.
 - 3. Small Group Discipleship: A meeting will be held with Emma Bakker – Youth Discipleship Specialist from the Proclaim Team to further discuss how our 2 parishes can benefit from this programme with Everett Fritz.
 - 4. RCIA: Sessions have been running every Thursday at 6:30pm since 31st July at St Joseph's Presbytery. Fr Pat is the main facilitator, supported by Fr Leenus and 3 other volunteers. We are journeying with 2 Catechumens. Our facilitating team attended a recent regional RCIA networking gathering to share and learn from each other.
 - 5. Proposed Presbytery Renovation: A new floor plan of the Presbytery is being drawn up for the PPC to continue discussions on the proposed renovation to build a more functional community space. Key considerations include separation of the actual Presbytery from the community space, ease of access and the existing heritage overlay.
 - 6. Safeguarding: Numerous notices have been put in the news bulletin to remind all volunteers to ensure they have current Working With Children Checks and to complete the online Safeguarding Essentials training. Many have completed the necessary but still a few to follow-up on.
 - 7. PPC Member Update: John and Denise Frederick have both resigned from the PFC and PPC respectively citing health and family commitments. We thank them for their invaluable service on both committees.
 - 8. Post Amalgamation Survey: We were requested to participate in a survey from the Proclaim Team aimed at obtaining feedback to build on the support offered to parishes that are about to go through the amalgamation process. Our PPC felt that the process was smooth and support from the Proclaim Team was much appreciated.
 - 9. Revisiting the Pillar System: Fr Leenus requested that we revisit the Pillars of Parish Life; in particular to assist the specific Ministries in need of immediate attention, for example the Communion Ministry to the sick at home and at healthcare/aged-care facilities.

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage 2025



Saturday 11th October, travel by car and bus from ...visiting Churches to the west and north of Melbourne.

Returning to St Patrick’s Cathedral in time to allow those wanting to participate in the ‘March for the Babies’ (see *details below*). Please see flyer on the notice board for more information.

If you are interested in joining the pilgrimage please complete the Expression-of-Interest on the clipboards at the church foyer.

March For The Babies www.marchforthebabies.com

Come and show your support and march for the babies at 1.00pm Saturday, 11th October at the Treasury Gardens, Cnr Spring St and Wellington Pde, Melbourne.

This is the 17th annual March for the Babies, and every year since 2009, thousands of Victorians have gathered peacefully with grief and hope to remember the ever-increasing number of babies killed by abortion in this state since the Government legalized abortion-till-birth.

Wear pink and blue for the babies!

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
Lazarus and the Rich Man

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Reading the first part of the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, we feel sorry for Lazarus. In the second part of the parable, it is the rich man we feel sorry for.

Suppose the parable had a third part, who would we feel sorry for? In fact, the parable has a third part, though it is not yet told. The untold third part of the story is about us. The rich man was crying for his five brothers still living on earth. Who are his siblings still living on earth? We ourselves; our life-stories forms the third part of the parable. The tragic end of the rich man shall not be ours too.

Therefore, today’s Gospel comes to us as a warning. How did the rich man end up in hell? We see him to be a good man. What was his sin? Being rich is not a sin. Did he become rich by unfair means? Probably not; Did he harm Lazarus or anyone else? Did he kick Lazarus out? Did he get rid of Lazarus for being a nuisance? Nothing of this sort happened.

According to our understanding, the rich man was a kind-hearted person. He allowed Lazarus to be there and allowed him to eat of the crumbs etc. Then why was the rich man punished for all eternity? He was punished not for doing anything bad, rather for not doing anything good. His way of life was so self-centred. He did not bother to care for anyone. Even though Lazarus was at his doorsteps, still he closed his eyes to him. Caring for the poor was not an aspect of his life. Therefore, he was punished with an eternal punishment.

In today’s first reading Prophet Amos strongly speaks against the rich people and warns them if they do not care for the poor. Now, that we are still here on earth, let’s do something for the poor. Though the poor are not at our doorsteps, we know that they are within our reach. St. Vincent De Paul used to say, “If we love the poor and do something for them, we can die without fear”.

According to St Mary MacKillop, “Never see a need without doing something about it”. Jesus said, "whatever you did to the least of my brothers you did also to me." So, we have an obligation to reach out to every person in need; be it spiritual, emotional, physical or financial help.

Some people are so poor that the only thing they have is plenty of money

Fr Leenus



Q: What’s an astronaut’s favourite part on a computer?

A: The space bar.

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING (VAD)

Many thanks to all who have sent the campaign letters to the politicians to oppose the Victorian government’s plan to make the Voluntary Assisted Dying more readily available by amending the ACT by the end of 2025.

Those who would like to send the letters by post, should contact the Parish Office or Fr Pat.

If you prefer to send the letters by email, contact maritadunphy@yahoo.com or the Parish Office (with VAD in the subject line).

Stand Against Euthanasia

Plant Sale - 9th November at St Anthony’s

Please support the upcoming Plant Sale. Proceeds go to Tony’s Café.

Now is a good time to think about preparing seedlings if you would like to donate to the Plant Sale. Donations of potting mix also very welcome. Thank you!

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

We live in relative wealth and comfort, although we are aware of many who suffer from impoverishment and homelessness. We know that the wealthy get wealthier as the gap between the rich and poor grows. This is a global issue.

Today's Gospel reflects on this same issue characterised in a person of great wealth and another who is impoverished, hungry and sore-covered. He is called 'Lazarus'. The evangelist wants our sympathy to be with him. He is named and even attended to by God's creature, the dog, who seeks to heal Lazarus' sores. In contrast, Luke paints a picture of a nameless wealthy householder. He feasts daily, dressed in the garb of imperialism with a table overloaded with food, inaccessible to the famished Lazarus barred by a gate. Both die and the roles become reversed in the afterlife vividly portrayed. Lazarus is comforted by God; the other separated by a huge gulf in the flames of punishment. Even in this scene of the hereafter the man of wealth continues to look down on Lazarus and suggest he even be his servant, bringing water to quench his intolerable thirst.

The promise of comfort for those who suffer and the reversal of fortune for those of wealth echoes throughout the Gospel. This is the future that awaits everyone and is in God's hands. To those of high status and wealth in the Lukan household, the story would be heard as a sobering reminder of how to live generously, caring for those in need. Today's Gospel might also nudge us into action.

Fr Michael Trainor