



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;

he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

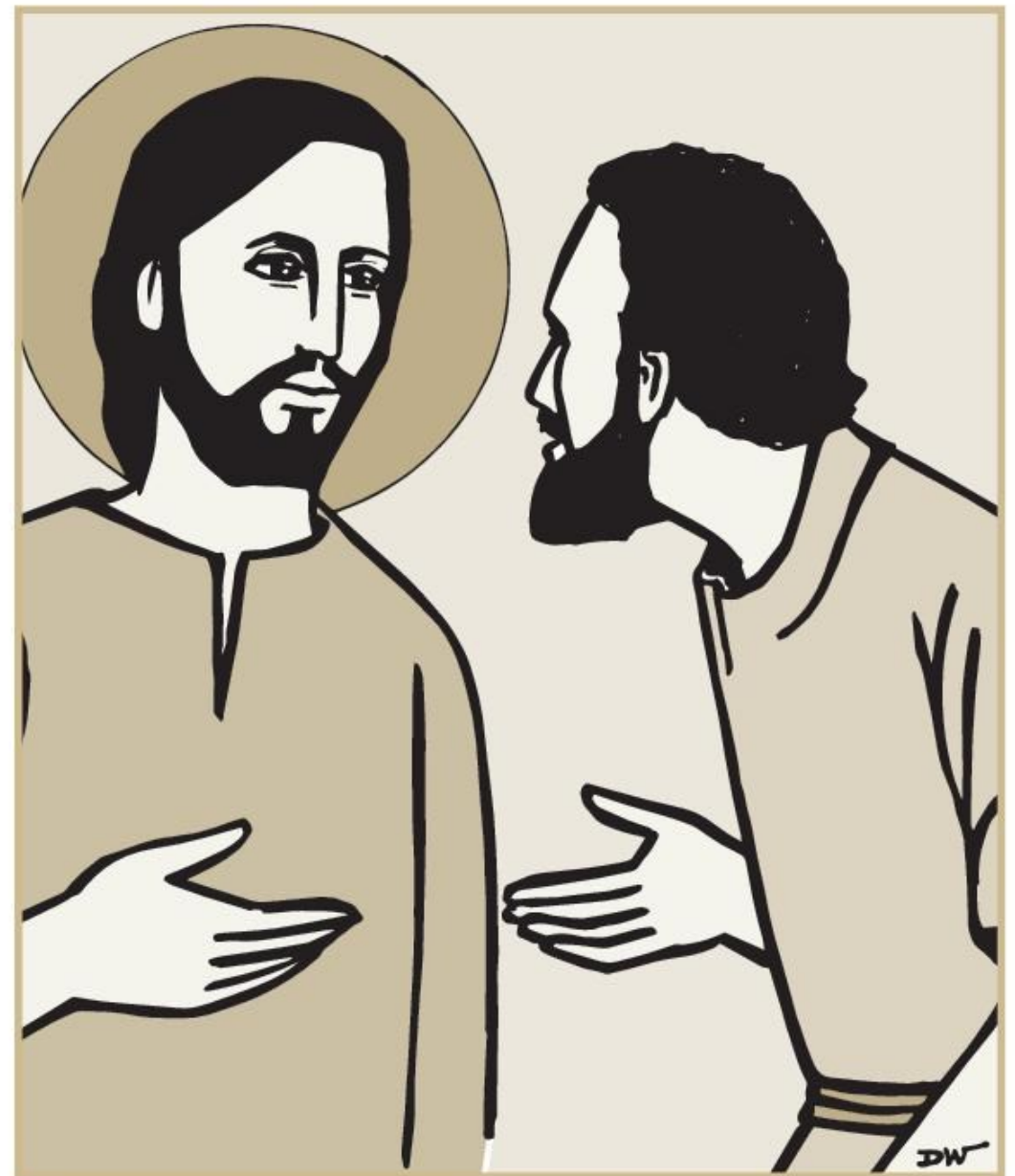
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, / you
have heard the words of my mouth. / Before
the angels I will bless you. / I will adore before
your holy temple. **R.**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love /
which excel all we ever knew of you. / On the
day I called, you answered; / you increased the
strength of my soul. **R.**



3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly /
and the haughty he knows from afar. / Your
love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard not the work
of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his
wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible
to penetrate his motives or understand his
methods! Who could ever know the mind of
the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor?
Who could ever give him anything or lend him
anything? All that exists comes from him; all is
by him and for him. To him be glory for ever!
Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
Parish Office: 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162 ☎ 95285988 ✉ elsternwick@cam.org.au
📮 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: \$872.25 Presbytery: \$892.25
Special Collection: -

Thanksgiving



Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm M Ellis
Sunday 9:00am M Nelson 10:30am D Joseph

Counters: M Beaumont & B Leong

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 24 Aug: St Bartholomew
Thu 27 Aug: St Monica
Fri 28 Aug: St Augustine
Sat 29 Aug: The Passion of St John the Baptist
Sun 30 Aug: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



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.

Special Collection

This is the 3rd and final weekend for the **2026 Archbishop's Campaign**. We ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese.



Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code.

You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the special collection plate during the campaign weekends.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 85:1-3)

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 103:13-15)

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Virginia Poloie Tu'I, Paula Person, Sister Miriam-Elizabeth Cusack

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass: 22 August

Thank you to the Youth & Young Adults' Group of our Parish for hosting the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.



Mass is preceded by **Adoration and Confessions** starting at 5:30pm.

The group will then gather for a light supper and fellowship after Mass at St Joseph's Presbytery.

For August, the programme is as follows:

Young Adults - An evening with the group's Spiritual Director, Fr Eugene San, and fellow Clergy.

Youth - Music and games!

Fr Leenus on leave

Fr Leenus will be on leave from 22 August to 21 September 2026. During this time, Fr Eugene together with Fr Pat will fill in for Fr Leenus.

We wish Fr Leenus a well deserved holiday.



Synod 2026

Archdiocese of Melbourne

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has invited the community to focus on three key themes:

- Young Discipleship
- Missionary Leadership
- Formation and Participation

To facilitate conversation on the above topics, please read the relevant "Theme Papers" which are displayed on the Church noticeboard, ring the parish office for a copy or visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/series/melbourne-synod-2026>

Options to provide your feedback:

1. Scan the QR code
2. Visit: <https://melbcath.org/synod-formation>
3. Drop your reflections in boxes provided in Church
4. Attend our Parish level sessions



Parish level sessions will be held this weekend, both at St Joseph's and at Holy Cross, on Sunday 23 August during cuppa after each morning Mass.

Parish Social Afternoon Tea - Footy Theme

Wednesday August 26th, 2:00pm at Holy Cross Hall. Please bring along a plate to share. We'd love you to come in your favourite footy colours. All welcome for an afternoon of fun and friendship.

For further info or transport contact Denise: 0410-311326.



Combined PPC and PFC Meeting

Summary of combined Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and Parish Finance Committee (PFC) Meeting held on 23rd July.

1. Presbytery Renovations: Trades have been confirmed and works at St Joseph's Presbytery will commence on August 24. This will ensure we meet Safeguarding and CAM Property guidelines regarding separate common areas for parishioners and private living quarters for our Clergy in the Presbytery.
2. Community Space and Surroundings: Decision on engagement of an architect will be predicated on CAM's approval of our proposed project budget. Follow-up to determine what further information needs to be submitted.
3. Hungarian Community Chaplain: Pending a tenancy agreement, Fr Kiss Zsolt will be moving into St Joseph's Presbytery before end-September 2026.
4. Pillars of the Parish: This will be discussed further in September's meeting.
5. Parish Insurance: The upcoming renewal was approved by the PPC and PFC.

Father's Day Book

Our Father's Day Book is placed on the altar rail in front of Our Lady's statue in the church. Please write the names of all fathers for whom you would like prayers to be offered on Fathers Day. There will be a special blessing for all fathers at all Masses on weekend of 6th September.



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

Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady



The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady will arrive at St Anthony's Church on Friday 2 October and be with us till Saturday 10 October.

There will be a procession and rosary at 5pm on Saturday 10 October before the 6pm Mass.

All parishioners especially youth welcome!

Safeguarding

All volunteers are reminded to ensure they have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) card.

When completing or updating your details online, please register only ONE organization for our amalgamated Parish:

Organisation: The Parish of St Joseph's and Holy Cross

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185

Complete the Safeguarding Essentials training and sign the Code of Conduct here: <https://cam-parish.tribalhabits.com/accounts/register>

Please email your certificate to the Parish Office so that we can maintain updated records. Thank you.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Who is Jesus to you?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Who do you say I am? asked Jesus. Many say that this is the greatest and most important of all questions. Jesus wants each of us to answer it personally. So, have you considered answering it?



Many people are puzzled by Jesus. Innumerable people are searching to know Jesus. Even John the Baptist wanted to know; who this Jesus was, that he was hearing about. So, he sent his own disciples to find out more about Jesus. They asked Jesus "Are you the Messiah?" Later, King Herod was puzzled too. He was curious to know the truth about Jesus. Still later Pontius Pilot too asked Jesus "Who are you, tell us plainly, are you the King? Even in our own times millions of people keep asking the same question "Who is Jesus?"

Even though we think we know him, or we have found him and even though we are already his followers, yet we should keep searching for Jesus; to know him more closely and to love him more dearly. We read about Jesus in the Bible and in thousands of other books that are written about him. It's good to know, what other people think about Jesus. It will help us to get a clearer picture or understanding about Jesus.

But the question Jesus is asking us is, 'Who do you say I am'. It's a very personal question, no one else can answer it for you or me. "Who is Jesus to you and me? There can be many correct answers. Whatever maybe your answer; your life should show you mean it. Suppose my answer is, 'Jesus is my Good Shepherd', then I should allow him to lead me. Suppose my answer is, 'Jesus is my King', then I should allow him to rule over my life. If I take him to be My Friend, then, I should regularly talk to him. It would be strange if one does not talk to his/her friend.

As said earlier, this is the most important question. Your answer can change your life. Your past, present and future depends on your answer. Our whole outlook on life will change; everything will have a new meaning and purpose in your life. You will never regret having answered this most important question.

Peter answered it the way it was revealed to him. And his life was changed. How about you? Would you not consider making Jesus your "All"?

Fr Leenus

Q: Which Bible character had no parents?

A: Joshua, son of Nun.

Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father

We ask you to bless our Parish of
St Joseph's, Elsternwick and
Holy Cross, Caulfield South.

Make us faithful in our duties to you and each other
and open-hearted to all who need our help.

We ask you also to bless our Clergy
who lead us to our heavenly goal,

And all those who will come after us,
who strive to keep the faith alive.

Remain forever in our hearts and minds,
always drawing us closer to you.

May St Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family and the Holy
Cross of Christ, be our guiding lights in our Parish's future.

May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
remain with us forever.

Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia! / You are Peter, the rock
on which I will build my Church / the
gates of hell will not hold out against it. /
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the
kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea
Philippi he put this question to his disciples,
'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And
they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist,
some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of
the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you
say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You
are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living
God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you
are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and
blood that revealed this to you but my Father
in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter
and on this rock I will build my Church. And
the gates of the underworld can never hold
out against it. I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth
shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever
you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in
heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders
not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited.
Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS
PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135.
Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture
readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder &
Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from **The Psalms,
A New Translation**, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New
translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation.
All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout,
commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026.
No 2157. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Who is Jesus? What would I want to say
to him? Today's Gospel brings us to one of
the most important questions posed by the
evangelist to the Gospel's audience – and to
us: Who is Jesus for us?

Jesus first asks the disciples about the gossip
circulating concerning him and who they
believe him to be. Their response reflects
how the disciples understand Jesus and how
they will follow him as they draw closer to
Jerusalem, the city where Jesus' ministry will
conclude in his death and resurrection. The
disciples respond to Jesus' question as to what
others say about him: He is John the Baptist,
or Elijah who will return at the end of time,
or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asks them,
'Who do you say I am?'

Simon Peter, speaking for the group,
acknowledges Jesus as 'the Christ', the Greek
for the Hebrew word 'Messiah', literally 'the
anointed one'. Jesus is God's emissary anointed
with the Spirit. Jesus affirms Peter's response
as divinely inspired and declares that Peter –
Petros, 'rock' – will be the foundation or 'rock-
base' for the growth of the Jesus movement.

For Matthew's audience, this is an affirmation
of the movement's authority through time and
history. It is within this graced community that
we gather today. As contemporary followers
of Jesus, we are invited to give our response
personally and communally as to Jesus'
identity: Who do you, who do we say Jesus
is? Our response will shape how we act, with
whom we engage and the kind of community
of Jesus' followers we will be.

Fr Michael Trainor