

THE SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

26 OCTOBER 2025

FIRST READING

Sir 35:12-14, 16-19

A reading from the book of Sirach

The prayer of the humble will penetrate the heavens.

The Lord is a judge
who is no respecter of personages.
He shows no respect of personages to the
detriment of a poor man,
he listens to the plea of the injured party.
He does not ignore the orphan's supplication,
nor the widow's as she pours out her story.
The man who with his whole heart serves God
will be accepted,
his petitions will carry to the clouds.
The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds,
until it arrives he is inconsolable,
nor will he desist until the Most High takes
notice of him,
acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.
And the Lord will not be slow,
nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

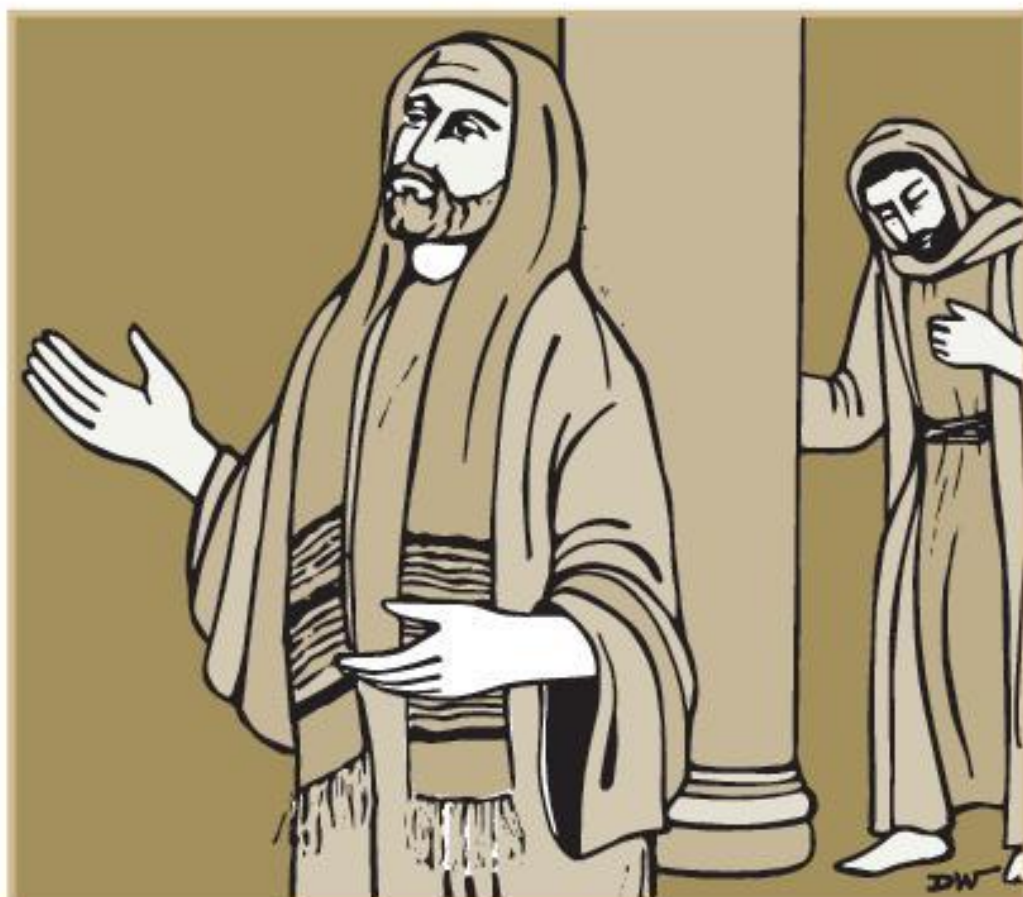
Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23. R. v. 7

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise
always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall
make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be
glad. **R.**

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked /
to destroy their remembrance from the earth. /
The just call and the Lord hears / and rescues
them in all their distress. **R.**

3. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; /
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. /
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. /
Those who hide in him shall not be
condemned. **R.**



SECOND READING

2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

*All that remains is the crown of righteousness
reserved for me.*

My life is already being poured away as a
libation, and the time has come for me to be
gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I
have run the race to the finish; I have kept the
faith; all there is to come now is the crown of
righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord,
the righteous judge, will give to me on that
Day; and not only to me but to all those who
have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence,
there was not a single witness to support me.
Every one of them deserted me – may they not
be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood
by me and gave me power, so that through me
the whole message might be proclaimed for all
the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from
the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from
all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to
his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever
and ever. Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.



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: \$895.00 Presbytery: \$955.00

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

Tue 28 Oct: Sts Simon & Jude

Sat 1 Nov: All Saints' Day

Sun: 2 Nov All Souls' Day



Thanksgiving

All Souls Day - Sunday 2 November

A book has been placed on the altar rail or table closest to Our Lady's statue.

Please write the names of your deceased family and friends to be prayed for on All Souls' Day.

Envelopes for the November offering for Masses for the faithful departed are available in the church foyer and can be placed with the weekend collections.



No Masses from 3 - 6 November

There will be Communion Services on 3 - 6 November instead of Masses at the usual times (St Anthony's, Holy Cross and St Joseph's) as Fr Leenus and Fr Pat will be attending a Pallottine Assembly.

We pray for the success of the Assembly.



St Carlo Acutis' First Class Relic

Final weekend of exhibition at Stella Maris Church in Beaumaris and St Joseph's Hall in Black Rock.

Further details on the notice board.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 104:3-4)

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 19:6)

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Tony Messina, Paulette Dobbin, Carol Burgess, Pam O'Reilly**

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

Recently Deceased: **Shirley Murphy**

Death Anniversary: -

Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

1. Do you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion at home or at a care facility?
2. Would you like to volunteer as a Special Minister for this important Ministry to help offer Communion Service and Pastoral visits to those in need?

Please contact the Parish Office for more information. Training will be provided and visits are usually made with our Clergy or another Special Minister.

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 25 October

Thank you to the Young Adults and Youth from our 3 churches for hosting this weekend's Vigil Mass.

This is an initiative from the Young Adults' Group to host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church. Our Young Adults are aged 18-35 and our Youth are those aged 7-17.

For the slightly older but still young-at-heart, you are most welcome to join the group as Youth Coordinators; to support the Young Adults and also to guide our Youth at Mass and during fellowship.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All children and young people who come to our parish have a right to feel and be safe.

All volunteers are reminded to ensure they:

1. Have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) card. When completing or updating your details online, please use the following details:
Organisation: St Joseph's & Holy Cross Parish
Address: 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185 or 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South, VIC 3162
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185
2. All parish volunteers over the age of 18 are required by the Archdiocese to undertake the Safeguarding online training every 3 years. Complete the training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>

Euthanasia Bill

The Bishops of Victoria have written to Catholics in Victoria asking them to contact their local Members of Parliament to urge them to vote against the State Government's proposed amendment of Victoria's euthanasia and assisted suicide laws. If passed, the Government's Bill would further weaken protections for vulnerable patients and reduce protections for medical practitioners who conscientiously object to euthanasia and assisted suicide. For full details, scan the QR code.

**Stand
Against
Euthanasia**





Christ is Our King

St Patrick's Cathedral Mass at on Sunday 23 November 2025 with **Cardinal Mykola Bychok** and **Archbishop Peter Comensoli**, starting 2:00pm followed by a special Eucharistic Procession, Benediction, and Consecration to Our King.

Our Lord promised:

He who declares Himself for me, I will declare myself for Him!

Please be an apostle of Our King, and invite your family members, the youth, parishioners, and every community to be part of this wonderful celebration.

A unique event organized by The Combined Societies of Mary



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

6:30pm every Thursday at St Joseph's Presbytery.

If you know of anyone interested in journeying towards becoming a Catholic, please have them contact the Parish Office to register.



Australian Catholic Youth Festival

Parish Leaders from both parishes completed training in Safeguarding and received useful information about the Festival last Saturday.

The venue (Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre) is almost at capacity and bookings will close on 30th October. Participants are still welcome to join our own parish group. Please ring or email the Parish Office for more details.

Formation for all pilgrims will be held in November as well as a general meeting for all pilgrims over 18. Pilgrims under 18 **and** at least one parent will also need to attend. Date to be advised.

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH FUNDRAISING DINNER DANCE

SAT 15 NOVEMBER

6.00 PM ONWARDS

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH HALL, 164-168 NEERIM ROAD, GLEN HUNTLY

DOOR / SPOT PRIZES

RAFFLES

Below 6 yrs: free (no seat) • 6-12 yrs: \$30 • Above 12yrs: \$50

Indian/Italian dinner included • BYO drinks

Dress to impress and enjoy music for a cause by Floyd

OUR SPONSORS

Quality Groceries, KIMCHI grandma restaurant, COSTCO WHOLESALE, hobba, Miss Mavis CAFE, KORNER & Co. — café —

ORGANISED BY FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH MAINTENANCE

TICKET SALES AFTER EVERY MASS

CONTACT - RON : 0417 153 086 / PARISH OFFICE : 9401 6336

"Holiness flourishes in those who serve the weakest, and Christians should defend the truths of the faith, no matter the cost, Pope Leo XIV said, highlighting key traits of the new saints," he proclaimed.



St Peter To Rot: He was a martyred lay catechist from Papua New Guinea who was arrested in 1945 during the Japanese occupation in World War II and was killed by lethal injection while in prison. The Pope said he offers 'an inspiring example of steadfastness and fortitude in preaching the truths of the Gospel when confronted by difficulties and challenges, even threats to our lives.'

St Ignatius Maloyan: He was an Armenian Catholic archbishop of Mardin who was executed in Turkey in 1915. The Pope prayed that his intercession would 'renew the fervour of believers and bring fruits of reconciliation and peace for all.'

St Maria Rendiles Martínez: She was the founder of the Congregation of the Servants of Jesus, was born in Caracas in 1903 and died in 1977. She became one of Venezuela's first two saints. Following their example, trust in God, who 'was present in their lives and transformed them' from being 'a normal person'.

St José Gregorio Hernández Cisneros: He too became one of Venezuela's first two saints. The Pope said they were 'people very similar to ourselves, who lived facing problems that are not unfamiliar to us.' The Pope said, 'the faithful should be motivated by the two saints'.

St Vincenza Maria Poloni: Founder of the Sisters of Mercy of Verona, Italy, who lived from 1802-1855; St Poloni 'bears witness to Jesus' compassion for the sick and marginalised. Her heroic virtues were praised.

St Maria Troncatti: A Salesian sister born in Italy in 1883, sent as a missionary to Ecuador in 1922 and killed in a plane crash in 1969. Her difficult work of evangelisation began in the midst of all kinds of risks. She was a nurse, surgeon, orthopaedist, dentist, and anaesthesiologist.

St Bartolo Longo: An Italian lawyer born in 1841, he had been a militant opponent of the church and involved in the occult, but converted, dedicating himself to charity and to building the Pontifical Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary of Pompei. He died in 1926. is example encourages us to pray to Our Lady of the Rosary.

Pope Leo said, encouraging the faithful 'to persevere in daily service to the most fragile: it is precisely there that holiness of life flourishes!' May the prayers of the new saints help us!

Q: What kind of car did the Apostles drive?

A: Honda, because in the book of Acts it says, "the Apostles were all in one Accord."

Plant Sale at St Anthony's - 9th November

Only 2 weeks away. PLANTS NEEDED!!!

Bring your plants to St Anthony's Parish House on Friday October 31st and November 7th between 8:30am and 2:00pm, or ring Veronica via the Parish House if you need them to be collected. Donations of potting mix are still required. Proceeds go to Tony's Café.

The Battle For Life Continues...

20 days down 20 days to go!

We're halfway through the 40 Days for Life campaign! Thank you to everyone who is praying and witnessing for life across the world.

Your faith is saving lives — let's finish strong!

Join your local vigil: <http://40daysforlife.com/locations>



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!

GOSPEL

Lk 18:9-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The publican returned to his home justified; the Pharisee did not.

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

PONDERING OUR ATTITUDES

Today's Gospel presents us with a mirror to help us reflect on the way we regard others. It is especially pertinent when we feel assured that our religious attitude and approach to our Faith and God is correct. It is even possible that out of this attitude we can regard others, especially those from other faith traditions, as uninformed or perhaps targets of divine condemnation.

Jesus offers Luke's audience an opportunity to reflect on similar attitudes. It takes the form of a parable focused on two people: a person of religious scrupulosity and a public sinner. The first is called a 'Pharisee', an identification that requires nuanced historical understanding. For Luke writing in the mid-80s of the first century in the period after the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, Pharisees enabled Judaism to survive and grow. They represented its leadership. To followers of Jesus at that same period they represented those who were critical of the Jesus-movement and didn't join in. In the time of Jesus, in the 30s, the situation was very different. They were very attuned to Jesus' mission and, like him, concerned about authentic Jewish faith and Torah practice.

In the story in Luke's Gospel, Jesus compares a 'Pharisee' (in this later historical understanding) to a tax-collector judged a sinner, collaborating in Rome's oppressive taxation system. This 'sinner' recognises his need for God's mercy; the Lukan Pharisee, self-assured about his religious credentials, arrogant and without any need for God, is self-focused. These parable characters invite us to ponder our attitude to God and others.

Fr Michael Trainor