

THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / C

18 MAY 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v. 1

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. (*or Alleluia!*)

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, / slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, / and your friends shall repeat their blessing. / They shall speak of the glory of your reign / and declare your might, O God, / to make known to men your mighty deeds / and the glorious splendour of your reign. **R.**

3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom; / your rule lasts from age to age. **R.**

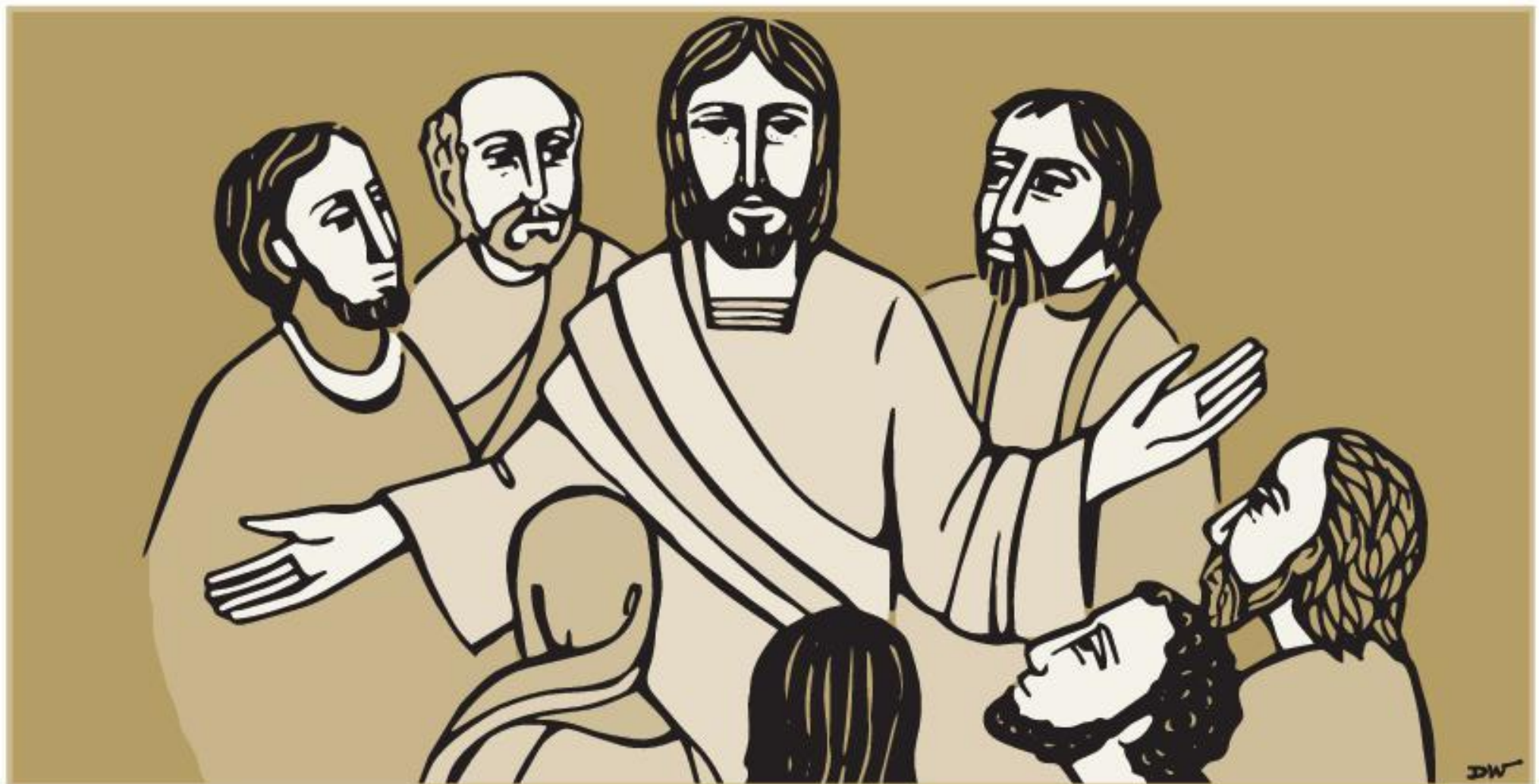
SECOND READING

Apoc 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city?



THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

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Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Facebook



Mass

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

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$609.10 Presbytery: \$609.10

Special Collection: \$518.80 (CatholicCare)

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: R Rodrigues

Lector - Sunday: P Donohoe

Counters: M Beaumont & B Leong

Thanksgiving



HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$275.00 Presbytery: \$275.75

Special Collection: \$279.00 (CatholicCare)

Next Week's Roster

Lector: A Powell

Thanksgiving



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-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sat 24 May: Our Lady, Help of Christians

Sun 25 May: 6th Sunday of Easter

Pallottine Cenacle Prayer Session

Topic: Mary, Help of Christians (Patroness of Australia)

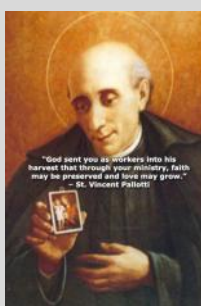
Date: Thursday 22nd May, 7:30pm

Venue: Unit 3, 22 Rathmines St, Fairfield
@ Mary Whiting's

Zoom: Meeting ID: 320 213 0959

Passcode: 37gsK9

All are invited to this next prayer session.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 97:1-2)

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Jn 15:1, 5)

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Paul Donohoe**

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: **Irene Mackey**

Perpetual Adoration Chapel



The Perpetual Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church.

The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to apply for a tag.

Young Adults Hosting Mass: Saturday 25 May

The Young Adults aged 18-35 from our 3 churches come together every 4th Saturday of the month to host the 6:30pm Vigil Mass at St Joseph's.

For those who are slightly older but still young-at-heart, you are most welcome to join the group as Youth Coordinators.

This is an important role, as you will be supporting the Young Adults and also guiding our Youth aged 7-17 at Mass and during fellowship.

It is our parishes' blessing to witness a renewed energy for our parish community. They will be our future leaders and contributors, enriching the church's overall spiritual life and ministry.

Please encourage the young people of our parishes to join the Young Adults and Youth groups. For info, email elsternwick@cam.org.au

Celebrating our Parish Amalgamation

THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK AND HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH.

1. Celebration



A luncheon will be organized at St Joseph's School Atrium, after Mass at 12:30pm on Sunday, 29 June 2025. More details to follow.

2. Parish Prayer and Parish Logo

We welcome suggestions and designs for our new Parish Prayer and Parish Logo respectively. Please email the Parish Office by Friday, 30th May 2025.

Fr Leenus and the Parish Pastoral Council will then deliberate to decide on what best represents our new Parish.



The Vibrant Parish Formation Series

Local and international guest speakers will share how we can strengthen the five characteristics of a vibrant parish with Worship, Evangelisation, Formation, Fellowship, and Service ('Take the Way of the Gospel' Framework for Parish Renewal).

Tuesdays: 6:30-9:00pm at Mulgrave Country Club, Corner of Wellington and Jells Roads, Wheelers Hill.

June 10: Worship

- I have called you friends with Katherine Stone MGL

July 1: Hospitality

- Transformation for host and guest

August 12: Service

- Beyond the church doors

September 9: Evangelisation

- Bridging the gap between parish and school

Repeat Sessions: Wednesdays 6:30-9:00pm at Club Italia, 128-132 Furlong Rd, Sunshine. 11/6, 2/7, 13/8, 10/9

Contact the Parish Office if you would like join our Parish Renewal Team or can attend any sessions.

ACYF.ORG.AU
ACYF2



Australia Catholic Youth Festival 2025

Sunday 30 November - Tuesday 2 December

The ACYF is wonderful opportunity for engagement with other young people while experiencing talks, prayer, workshops, live concerts, games, Mass and much more. It is right at our own doorstep and an opportunity not to miss!

Check out the posters on our notice boards. Scan the QR Code for more details.

Who: Year 9 - 25 years plus Leaders 25+

Where: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Cost: \$390-410 per person for the entire Festival. Travel and food at additional cost.

Registration for the Festival opens soon. St Anthony's, St Joseph's & Holy Cross will be registering a 'combined contingent' for those who would like to attend. Speak with Fr Leenus / Fr Pat or contact the Parish Office.

New pope calls for 'joyful' Christian witness to a world that finds faith 'absurd'

Where Christians are 'mocked, opposed, despised or at best tolerated and pitied' is where the Catholic Church's 'missionary outreach is most desperately needed', Pope Leo XIV said in his first homily as leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics.

Today, 'there are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd, meant for the weak and unintelligent, settings where other securities are preferred, like technology, money, success, power or pleasure,' the new Pope told cardinals on 9 May during Mass in the Sistine Chapel.

'This is the world that has been entrusted to us, a world in which, as Pope Francis taught us so many times, we are called to bear witness to our joyful faith in Jesus the saviour,' he said.



5th Sunday of Easter, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Today's readings speak of a radical commandment to love one another as Jesus has loved us. It is difficult to practice this teaching of Jesus, yet it would be most rewarding if we could.

It is hard to love when faced with hatred and anger. Yet, that is the type of love with which Jesus loved us. Jesus called us his friends even when we were still sinners.

We know that the love that Jesus talks about is not a sentimental type of love; rather a type of love that is expressed in service and in sacrifice; not 'self-centred love', but 'other-centred love', which we may call 'Christ-like love'.

Christ-like love is expected of us in our ordinary day-to-day life's circumstances. In our daily lives, we come across very many instances which reveal to us whether our love is self-love or selfless love.

For example, when your good is spoken of as evil, and you are shown in poor light, or accused of some wrong you have not done; and yet you refuse to defend yourself, thinking of another's good reputation; then your love is Christ-like.

When your advice is ignored, your opinion ridiculed, you are made a fool of, yet if anger doesn't rise up in your heart, rather you speak well of them; then your love is Christ-like.

If you never care to refer to yourself in your conversation, nor keep a record of your own good work; if you prefer to remain unknown and care to put another in the lime-light; then your love is Christ-like.

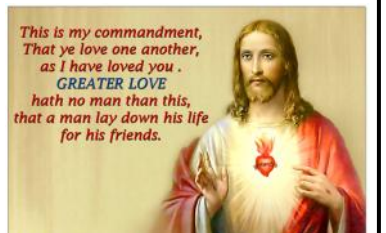
When you see your neighbour prosper and see that his needs are being met; and you can honestly rejoice with him and feel no envy, nor question God, while your own desperate prayers are not answered, then your love is Christ-like.

Our greatest goal in life is to live a life of love and do all things in love. Love centred on God and love centred on others. The greatest homage that we can pay to our Christian faith is to live in such a way so as to give witness to the love of God. Keep well, everyone!

Fr Leenus

Where do chicken come from?
From Eggplants!

Why did the chicken go hiding?
Because it was a Fryday!



Mass Count

An annual Mass Count is taken for the Archdiocese for the purposes of pastoral planning activities and allows for comparisons to be made across the years.

Our parish will be undertaking this during all weekends of May.

**Recruitment
Drive**



St Vincent de Paul Society
CAULFIELD SOUTH & ELSTERNWICK *good works*

A member of the Caulfield South and Elsternwick Conference of SVDP will be speaking at next weekend's Masses to encourage participation and sign up new volunteers for our Conference.

Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 13:31-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.

If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.

My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.

I give you a new commandment:
love one another;

just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.

By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my
disciples.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

In John's Gospel, Jesus prepares his disciples for his death and departure from them. Today's Gospel offers his final testimony to them about his relationship to God and final words that sum up his teaching legacy. Jesus will be glorified by God, even despite the indignation and suffering that await. Jesus will also 'glorify' God. His life and death reveal God's presence. The way that John portrays this in the story of Jesus' passion, death and glorification, we have already heard in John's Gospel proclaimed on Good Friday.

The second part of today's proclamation characterises Jesus followers throughout history: They ('we') are to love one another as Jesus loved: with humility, commitment, and selflessly. This style of living, typical of authentic discipleship, is so needed today in a world in which the selfish and great power-mongers seem to have the upper hand. The style of humble loving discipleship is what will change the world.

The Gospel's final words ('By this love you have for one another...') affirm this. They also shape the style of discipleship that frames local faith communities and parishes: Genuine love of one another, reflective of the spirit and heart of the kind of love that Jesus emulated for his disciples, will have its influence on the world. It will especially affect those seeking a faith nourishing community.

Fr Michael Trainor