



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

5 William Hovell Drv, Endeavour Hills 3802
T. 9700 3781 / F. 9700 6228
didi.karkas@cam.org.au
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>



Third Sunday of Easter, 18-19 April, 2026

God does not choose the perfect

(article is from Melbourne Catholic Magazine on Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ homily on Divine Mercy Sunday)

"God does not choose the perfect—he chooses those who trust in him." Those were the words of Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ, who celebrated Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on Divine Mercy Sunday. Thousands of devotees gathered at parishes across the Archdiocese to mark Divine Mercy Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter, and the culmination of a nine-day novena that begins on Good Friday.

At the Cathedral, Bishop Ramirez was the main celebrant of the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass, with music led by members of the Filipino Chaplaincy Choir.

In his homily, Bishop Ramirez reflected Jesus' response to their abandonment of their friend and master, Jesus.

'On that first Easter evening, the disciples are gathered behind locked doors—afraid, uncertain and burdened by their failure. They had abandoned Jesus. In his hour of suffering, they ran away,' he said. And yet, Jesus' first words to his disciples were not ones of reproach but rather of mercy. There was no rebuke or condemnation, 'only peace', the bishop said.

'This moment brings to mind the parable of the Prodigal Son. There, Jesus tells us about a father whose son had walked away, squandered everything and returned home in shame. The son prepares a speech of unworthiness, but before he can even finish it, the father runs to him, embraces him and restores him.

'No punishment. No interrogation. Only mercy.'

In that parable, Bishop Ramirez said, Jesus revealed 'the heart of the Father'. 'In today's gospel, the risen Christ becomes that Father, and the disciples are like the prodigal son.' Having failed, they are now in hiding, and Jesus comes to them not to demand an account 'but instead

to restore them'. 'He does not ask, "Why did you abandon me?" He simply says, "Peace be with you."

'This is Divine Mercy. Not an idea, but a reality. It is how God meets us, especially in our weakness.'

The bishop also reflected on his recent appointment to the Diocese of Sandhurst.

'The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has appointed me as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst,' he said, recalling how it was only 14 months ago that he had been made an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

'I must admit, like the disciples in the gospel, my heart is filled with many emotions: gratitude, but also a certain fear, a sense of unworthiness and the awareness of my own limitations.

'In many ways, I feel like the prodigal son, or like the disciples behind locked doors. And yet, in prayer, I hear those same words of the risen Lord: "Peace be with you."

'I was only able to say "yes" to this appointment because of one thing: trust. Trust in God's plan. Trust in God's providence. Trust in God's mercy. Not because I feel ready. Not because I feel capable on my own, but because I believe that the same Lord who calls also accompanies. The same Lord who sends also strengthens. The same Lord who forgives also sustains.

'In the gospel, Jesus does not just forgive the disciples; he entrusts them with a mission: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And then he gives them the power to forgive sins—to continue his work of mercy in the world.

'This is what humbles me the most: That God does not choose the perfect; he chooses those who trust in him. That God does not call the qualified; he qualifies those he calls. That God works not despite our weakness, but often through it.'

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

St Paul Apostle North
Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

St Paul Apostle South
Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's
Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for **NEXT WEEK**
Fourth Sunday of Easter, 2026

First Reader: Acts 2:14a. 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the day of Pentecost had come, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added about three thousand souls.
This is the Word of God

Second Reader:

1 Peter 2: 20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Beloved, if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."
When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. This is the Word of God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am a good shepherd, says the Lord
I know my sheep, and my own know me
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long

Gospel:

John 10:1-10

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly
The Good news of the Lord

Reflection

Amidst the clamor of different voices in my life today, do I truly recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd, and am I trusting Him enough to lead me to "life to the full"?

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.
St Paul Apostle safeguarding policies can be found on our website at
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> or in hardcopy in the Sacristy



PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP

A reminder to all who have put their name down on the sign up sheet for the Passionist Family event, it is this **Sunday 19th April, 12pm to 3pm** at the St Paul Apostle School Hall, 9 William Hovell Drive, Endeavour Hills VIC 3802. We are looking forward to an afternoon full of stories, culture, and connection. Will be great if you come in something that represents your story, and bring a cultural item, a family keepsake, colours, symbols—anything meaningful that reflects where you come from and who you are. And don't forget please bring a plate of finger food to share.

SACRAMENT PROGRAM—FIRST COMMUNION

Our next program for this year is the Sacrament of the First Communion. Please note of the following important dates:

- First Family Night is on **TUESDAY, 5 May** at 7pm in the Church
- This will be followed by 4 session either at school (those attending our parish schools) or at ASRE (for those attending non parish schools)
- Last Family Night is on **TUESDAY 16 June** at 7pm in the Church

CHILDRENS LITURGY

As we are all aware, the running of the parish relies heavily on the generosity of parishioners who volunteer their time to run many of our Church activities and programs. One such program, our Children's Liturgy group is growing in attendance and is in great need of additional leaders. Children's Liturgy is held on Sunday 11am Mass, during the school term. It commences at the beginning of the Mass and ends at offering time (during the second collection). Each time, there must be at least 2 volunteers to run it, under the safeguarding policy. If you have time and are willing to assist this group, please contact the Parish Office and we will give you more information. Please consider to help this group.

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF)

Last month we had a visit from the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) which is a financial Institution assisting to fund projects across Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese organisations, including parishes (one of them being our parish), hospital wings and classrooms as well as charity groups (such as St. Vincent de Paul). These funds are generated from maintaining the accounts which are entrusted to CDF.

While the account holder gains interest from their savings or any other investment form, CDF is able to help fund charities, churches and other Catholic organisations with their needs.

For more information, you can either use the QR code provided, call 1800 134 135, or use this link www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund

PROJECT COMPASSION!!

If you have Project Compassion box/es at home, it is now the time to bring them back to the Church so that we can bank in the money to the Caritas.

DANDENONG DEANERY

Theme The Voices That Echo the Glory of God through Peace & Mercy on **Wednesday 29th April 2026** at Graduate's Restaurant, St John's Regional College, Caroline Street, Dandenong. At 5.30pm for 5.45pm start. Cost is \$48 per person (incl. 3 course meal wine & Beer) Guest Speaker is Dalal Smiley Wellsprings for Women CEO. RSVP phone Paddy 0422 296 961 e-mail: dandenongdeanery@live.com.au. by Friday 24th April 2026

COME AWAY

Come Away Retreats are conducted at the Holy Cross Centre on a monthly basis. This retreat is for those:

- seeking peace in their hearts
- Needing quiet time to reflect on their life
- those caring for others

A time for both sharing and quiet time in the beautiful garden setting of Holy Cross; guided meditation, silence, Mass and Anointing, opportunity for individual guidance. Session times: 9.30 a.m. (start with a cuppa) to 3.00 p.m. (BYO lunch)

During this day of reflection opportunities will be offered for:

- Prayer/meditation
- Mass/Communion Service
- Silence/solitude
- Small group sharing (optional)
- Anointing

Our next session is **Wednesday, June 24th, 2026**

There is no need to book for these days unless you are a group. We would appreciate knowing numbers to enable us to have enough hand out material ready.

This long-standing Passionist Ministry at Holy Cross is valued by many. We invite you to support it financially according to your means. Suggested Donation \$20 – \$25

For more information, please phone 9846 6014

Readings:

Third Sunday of Easter Yr A

Acts 2:14. 22-33

1 Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

www.universalis.com

Fourth Sunday of Easter Yr A

Acts 2:14a. 36-41

1 Peter 2: 20-25

John 10:1-10

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Fr Chris Mithen CP, Kerry Carney, Mary Antoun, Anne McCallister, Giuseppina Materia, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Tyronne Wallis, Cecile Potier, Fr. Michael Willemssen, Sebastian Nowakowski, Maria Terezia Szabo, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Sinta Nugraha, Milica Kosi, Kuntjoro Setyo, Raffaella Di Gennaro, Ronald Harris, Amato Ganino, Betty Scanlan, Monica Mary Sleeman, Robert Stellato, Mareka (Mareta) Dunlop, Jacinta Martyn, Cheryl Anthony, Gnanamma Abraham, Stephanie Bouquet, Gaetan Brouard, Solange Pondard, Yvonne Clark, Gaetan Clark, Margaret Cavigan, Antonino Bartuccelli **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Janina Gorski	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio William Roncon
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Alvita Dias Rinku Arora	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Anne Astin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe Jennifer Cunningham	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Stephen Herbert Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Aloma Pereira David Goh Rinku Arora	Dominique Maclou Sai Dlinger Naomi Falo Stephen Nasalio Santhanamary	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Binitha Mathew Patricia De Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe David Goh Daphne Goh	Naomi Falo Dominique Maclou Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Brendan Keating Swineetha Disanayake Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Nila Fernando Rinku Arora Daphne Goh	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Vianney Clark Patricia De Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Marg Keating Peng Chee Jenny Catania

Please note that the above rosters are subject to the completion
of the required SAFEGUARDING documents and training

