



SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER, 2026 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A Reflection on the Gospel (Matthew 22:34-40)

Today's Gospel has Jesus affirming the most central of Jewish traditions, namely the command of Deuteronomy 6 known as the *Shema* (so called from the first word in the statement meaning "hear"). The words of the *Shema* are recited repeatedly every day by every faithful Jew: "Hear, O Israel: YHWH is our God, YHWH alone. You shall love YHWH your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."

Although not a prayer in itself, the *Shema* is an integral part of Jewish liturgy and prayer. It is a creedal statement that continues to function like an overture to Jewish life and practice. The doorpost at the entrance to a Jewish home generally features a tiny rectangular box known as a *mezuzah*. It contains a scroll bearing the text of the *Shema*. Those who enter touch the *mezuzah* with the greatest reverence. When I first encountered this practice, I was deeply affected by the power of the symbol to link one with the deep story of Judaism.

In Matthew's story, Jesus the Jew provides an honest response to the less than honest questioning of an expert in Jewish law. He overlooks the hostility of the lawyer and evokes the text of the *Shema*. Jesus thus invites the lawyer to return to the heart of their shared tradition. He links the teaching of the *Shema* on wholehearted love of God with a second commandment taken from Leviticus 19, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself". The lawyer's unfair "testing" of Jesus is evidence that this is precisely what he fails to do: he addresses Jesus as teacher, a term of respect, and yet fails to show him the respect due to him as neighbour.

For Jesus, the Law and the prophets can be summed up in the commandments to love God with all of one's being and to love one's neighbour as oneself. Not just love, but *intensity of love* is the issue here. One is to care for others as one cares for oneself. We see such intensity of love in those who are prepared to risk their lives for others: dedicated health

professionals and countless first responders such as paramedics and fire-fighters. During the COVID pandemic, front-line health workers were three times more likely to be infected than others and yet few hesitated to turn up day after day for their patients. The World Health Organisation estimates that some one hundred and eighty to two hundred thousand health professionals lost their lives to the virus.

The commitment of such people functions like the *mezuzah* in our lives: it draws us back into the heart of the Gospel tradition and calls us to a deeper, more intense love. It might also help us to deal with the insincerity of those who seek to score points by undermining the dignity of those who work for justice.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

BAPTISMS

We welcome and pray for **Kehlani Kruse-Orchard, Jack Breheny, Mila Staniec, Elliot Thong and Elias Bakkali** through the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Gregorio Bruzzaniti, John Buttacovola and Amadio Polidori** who died recently and for **Carmelo & John Libruzzi and John Baptist Luu Van Chinh** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

May they rest in peace.



SYNODALITY AND MISSION BEYOND THE CHURCH

A synodal Church listens not only inwardly but outwardly, engaging respectfully with society and culture.

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity." '

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
My shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
When I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven, *(All bow)*
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon: Psalm 19:6

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

PARISH CENSUS

We invite all Parishioners (families or households) to complete a census card provided in the Churches over the next 3 weeks.

Please feel free to either fill them in today and place them into the collection baskets as they come around or take them home and return them next week.

We are aware that there are many Parishioners have been long standing members of our three church communities and details may not have changed. We are also aware that there are many new people who have moved into the Parish or are choosing to make our three church communities their Spiritual home and we are keen to reassure all, that you are most welcome. We ask that all families and households fill in a census card and return it so that we can update our records and have a better sense of who we are as a Parish Community as we become a new entity on 29th November as Holy Spirit Parish.

Many thanks for your assistance with this administrative task.

Fr Werner

MUSICAL CATHOLICITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: A COMPOSER REFLECTS

ACU Centre for Liturgy warmly invites you to a public lecture by world-renowned Catholic Scottish composer and conductor Sir James MacMillan KT CBE, who will be visiting Melbourne in November and December to conduct the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) in a series of concerts.

Sir James will present this lecture at ACU in Fitzroy on **Friday 27 November 2026 at 5.30 pm.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear one of the world's leading composers reflect on his music in the light of faith.

We would be delighted if you could join us, either in person or online, for this special occasion.

Further details are available in the flyer on church notice boards and on the [ACU Centre for Liturgy](#) website, where you can register for the event. Registration is essential by Monday 23 November.

Please feel free to share this invitation with your parish and parish school communities, and with anyone else who may be interested in attending. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via [email](#) or phone 03 9230 8539.

CHANGE OF MASS TIME

Next Thursday 29 October there will be
NO MORNING MASS.

Mass will be celebrated at 6pm at St. Augustine's

SACRIFICIAL ENVELOPES

New sets of envelopes are available for subscribers in **Annunciation, Corpus Christi** and **St. Augustine's churches this weekend.**

DONATIONS FOR ALTAR CANDLES

For some time now I have been searching for appropriate candle holders for our Altars at all three churches. It has taken a fair bit of hunting around and some fabrication and making of new candle holders of a good quality that would be appropriate for the celebration of Mass. As you can imagine, solid brass and bronze, locally handmade and refinished religious objects are difficult to source and expensive to buy. To mark the beginnings of the next phase of our story as the people of God at St Augustine's Yarraville, Corpus Christi Kingsville and Annunciation Brooklyn, I have purchased and had refurbished 16 Altar Candle holders to mark the occasion. It is my intention to use them on the first Sunday of Advent 28/29 November, the date we officially become, Holy Spirit Parish. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the cost of these would be most welcome. The total cost of these was just over \$5,000.00 but they will be a part of the patrimony of the Parish and will be a part of the regular celebration of the Mass for many years to come. All contributions, most welcome.

With thanks, Fr Werner

A MESSAGE FROM AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church. During this Red November, we invite you to pray, support and act in solidarity with 388+ million Christians persecuted for their faith. Around the world, churches and public buildings will light up in red as a symbol of the sacrifice and suffering of our modern-day martyrs. In Australia and New Zealand, over 20 Cathedrals will be lit in red, with some holding Masses and prayer vigils for persecuted Christians.

Visit www.rednovember.org to learn more.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan

PHONE: 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au

ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.melbocatholic.org/yarraville

SAFEGUARDING: Pat Mc Laughlin

patmac766@gmail.com

PARISH CHURCHES

ST AUGUSTINE'S

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

For email copy of Bulletin



Click QR Code

LITURGY TIMES

TUESDAY MASS

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi...9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi...11.00 am

St Augustine's...11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAYS after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

BEYOND BOTANY BAY Presented by Excelsis (a Catholic Choir) on **Friday 30 October 7.30pm -10.00pm** at Melbourne Recital Centre 31 Sturt St, Southbank. Call (03) 9699 3333 business hours.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

November 6-8th, 2026 at St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South. Friday 7pm - Sunday 4:30pm. Contact **Mercy & James 0409 183 676**

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au

'THE MISSION WE SHARE:

CO-RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CHURCH'

With Cardinal Mario Grech. Wednesday **4 November 9am-12.00pm** at Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Pde East Melbourne. Email: gcccl@nd.edu.au

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

Ordinations 10.00am – 1.00pm

Saturday 14th November 2026

COMMUNITY FAIR at CORPUS CHRISTI

Annunciation, Corpus Christi

& St. Augustine's

Saturday 14th November 2026

10.00am to 4.00pm

FEAST DAY DURING THE WEEK

- **Wednesday 28 October**
Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Thank you to parishioners at Annunciation, Corpus Christi and St. Augustine's for your regular donation of food items placed in the churches each week.

In addition to **no-perishable food**, (cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits), items such as **shampoo, soap, deodorant, washing powder/liquid, toothpaste and brushes** are also needed.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK

24th & 25th October 2026

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm John Ryan

9.30am Pina Guzzardi

Sam Polzella

READERS: Corpus Christi

11am Joe Fusca

Mary Huynh

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Greg Buhagiar

9.30am..... Gerald Bain-King

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am..... Imelda Gibson

COUNTING: John Ryan

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK

31st Oct & 1st November 2026

All Saints A

READERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm Krystyna Biront

9.30am Gerald Bain-King

Sam Polzella

READERS: Corpus Christi

11am Cass Pelino

AJ Pelino

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Kath Baker

9.30am..... Phillip Marques

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am..... Joe Fusca

COUNTING: Phillip Marques

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office. www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.