



# THE SAVING WORD

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

2 MARCH 2025

## FIRST READING

Sir 27: 4-7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

*Do not praise someone before they have spoken.*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,  
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.

The kiln tests the work of the potter,  
the test of a man is in his conversation.

The orchard where the tree grows is judged on  
the quality of its fruit,

similarly a man's words betray what he feels.

Do not praise a man before he has spoken,  
since this is the test of men.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 91: 2-3, 13-16. R. cf. v. 2

**R.** Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord / to  
make music to your name, O Most High, / to  
proclaim your love in the morning / and your  
truth in the watches of the night. **R.**

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree /  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R.**

3. Planted in the house of the Lord / they will  
flourish in the courts of our God, / still bearing  
sap when they are old, / still full sap, still  
green, / to proclaim that the Lord is just. / In  
him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Cor 15: 54-58

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to  
the Corinthians.

*Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.*

When this perishable nature has put on  
imperishability, and when this mortal nature  
has put on immortality, then the words of  
scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up  
in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death,  
where is your sting? Now the sting of death is



sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let  
us thank God for giving us the victory through  
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never  
admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's  
work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you  
cannot be labouring in vain.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2: 15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Lk 6: 39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according  
to Luke.

*A person speaks from what is in his heart.*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. 'Can one  
blind man guide another? Surely both will fall  
into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his  
teacher; the fully trained disciples will always  
be like his teacher. Why do you observe the

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

**PARISH PRIEST:** Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

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## ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

[www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick](http://www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick)

### Mass

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

### Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

### Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA      Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

### Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: M Ellis

Lector - Sunday: La Bonne family

Counters: No counting

## HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

[www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth](http://www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth)

### Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

### Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

### Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA      Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

### Next Week's Roster

Lector: S McMillan

## 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

### This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 5 Mar: Ash Wednesday

Sun 9 Mar: 1st Sunday of Lent



### Facebook

St Joseph's Parish now has a Facebook page.

Thanks to @TuNinh. Scan the QR code or search

[www.facebook.com/stjosephcatholicchurchelsternwick/](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephcatholicchurchelsternwick/)

## Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please let the Parish Office know if you or anyone you know would like to receive Holy Communion at their homes or aged care facilities.

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 17:19-20)

The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Mt 28:20)

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, says the Lord.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill\*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Ian and Sue Besomo, Stella Bai, Pope Francis**

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

Recently Deceased: **Mary D'Cruz, Filippo Russo**

Death Anniversary: **Maureen Schaefer**

### Extra Weekday Masses at Holy Cross

St Anthony's Church is undergoing repair works. There will be no 9:15am weekday morning Masses at St Anthony's Church **until further notice**.

Instead, weekday Masses will be as follows:

**Holy Cross - Mon to Fri: 9:15am (no Thu 10:00am Mass)**

**St Joseph's - Fri: 10:00am**

No changes to time and place of Saturday and Sunday Masses at all parishes.

### Ash Wednesday Masses, 5th March

Holy Cross - Mass 9:15am and 7:00pm

St Joseph's - Mass 10:00am.

St Anthony's - Novena 6:40pm followed by Mass 7:00pm

### Stations of the Cross in Lent

Holy Cross: Thursdays after 9:15am\* Mass

St Joseph's: Fridays after 10:00am Mass

St Anthony's: Fridays after 7:00pm Mass

*\* Until further notice due to repairs at St Anthony's Church*

### Lenten Scripture Reflection - 5 Faces of Mercy

Starting on Monday 3rd March and every Monday thereafter during Lent from 7pm - 8pm at The Crying Room in St Anthony's. All welcome!

### Novena to St Joseph

Novena to St Joseph every 1st Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick. All welcome.

~ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ~

Rosary ~ Adoration ~ Novena to St Joseph

~ Divine Mercy Chaplet ~



### Parish Social Lunch - All Welcome

All parishioners and friends are invited to a social lunch at The Camden Hotel, 414 Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield South on Wednesday, March 12th, 12:30pm. Please come along for an afternoon of fun and friendship.

RSVP: Denise - 0410311326 by Monday, March 10th.

## Preparing for Lent

He stands with us, promising that love, justice, peace, and forgiveness are not nice ideas. They are the truths that guide us. And when we find that hard to believe, or when life changes in ways we would never expect, **he is there**. Lent is a season of repentance for the times we haven't lived our faith. But as we grow older, we understand Lent is also time of making space for gratitude.

Gratitude for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; how it is still for us a guiding light in times of personal struggle, and gratitude for the great men and women of faith, whose stories we hear at Mass throughout Lent. Our daily sacrifices should not be burdens but tokens of love for the One who loves us. It's a time to resolve and fall deeper in love with God.



### Project Compassion Boxes

Project Compassion Boxes are now available in the Church Foyer for collection. Please take one home for your family or friends. Your kind donations will be much appreciated.

## Summary of PPC Meeting 20 February 2025

- Amalgamation Petition completed and submitted to Archbishop's Office on Friday 14 February 2025.
- The 5 Pillar Model for our Parish was reviewed. PPC members will focus on assisting groups that are start-ups and those needing more help to flourish. Updates will be displayed in the coming weeks.
- Planning to commence for other upcoming Feast Days, and parish events e.g. Holy Cross centenary in 2026.
- All new parish programmes must be formally proposed to the PPC before being presented to the congregation.
- Focus in the next 6-months on a Parish Strategy, in line with the growth and revitalization of our parishes.
- Meetings to be held on the 4th Thursday of every month. Next PPC Meeting: 27 March 2025.

**JUBILEE YEAR  
OF HOPE 2025**



It is now properly underway, and local pilgrims hungry to know more about how to participate

can find everything they need on the webpage <https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/jubilee>.

Parishes, schools and communities of faith across the Archdiocese can access specially developed resources to help plan their Jubilee celebrations. These include digital resources such as phone wallpapers featuring the Jubilee prayer and printable material like banners, posters and templates for flyers. For the musically inclined, there is also a hymn for the 2025 Jubilee. The official Jubilee Prayer is available in English, as well as 18 other community languages - and even in the international auxiliary language Esperanto! May this Jubilee Year of Hope be a time of reconciliation and renewal for all!

## Thank You For Your Generosity

Thank you to all of the parishioners who, on the occasion of the celebration of Saint Vincent Pallotti's Feast Day, donated a total of \$1,311 to Flamme D'Amour orphanage in Keshero, Democratic Republic. This was an amazing response and I know all at the orphanage will truly appreciate your kindness, particularly in light of the recent unrest. God Bless you for your generosity

*Cheryl Sullivan, Chair of the Union of Catholic Apostolate (Pallottine Family) ARM Committee. 3/2/25.*

## Lenten Regulations 2025

The Lenten season has a twofold character:

1. it recalls baptism or prepares for it;
2. it stresses a penitential spirit.

By these means especially, Lent readies the faithful for celebrating the paschal mystery after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer. In the liturgy itself and in the liturgy-centred instructions, these baptismal and penitential themes should be more pronounced Hence:

- a) Wider use is to be made of baptismal features proper to the Lenten liturgy.
- b) The same approach holds for the penitential elements. During Lent, penance should not be only internal and individual but also external and social.

In any event, let the paschal fast be kept sacred. It should be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection may be visited on uplifted and responsive spirits.

*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II*

### Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat.

On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

- a) **Prayer** - for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways.
- b) **Self-Denial** - for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country or elsewhere; or in other ways. Project Compassion is a major means of expressing our self-denial in Australia.
- c) **Helping Others** - for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened; or in other ways.

All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain (Canon 1252)

The Season of Lent is a time of penance. During this season the faithful are exhorted to devote themselves in a special manner to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves.

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled between Ash Wednesday, 5 March 2025 and Trinity Sunday, 15 June 2025 unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year.

The wonderful gift of the Lord's merciful love is offered in a special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a most appropriate time to receive this Sacrament. All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion are bound faithfully to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

**HOLY WEEK** - The 2024 Ordo contains instructions for the Rites of Holy Week.

**FUNERALS** - On Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday all Masses for the Dead, including Funeral Masses, are forbidden. Funerals on these days are celebrated with the Liturgy of the Word and without the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

**WEDDINGS** - Weddings should be discouraged during the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. Should a couple be particularly insistent on a wedding for one of these days, then please indicate that no decorations (including flowers), no music nor Nuptial Mass will be permitted.

*Very Reverend Anthony Kerin JCL, Vicar General*

# Breaking Open the Word

## REMOVE THE PLANK

Who thought that the Gospels and Jesus' words are humourless? Today's Gospel reflects on one of the key issues that touches all of us and does it in an exaggerated and humorous way. It is about judging others. In my criticism of others and judging them, according to Jesus, I ignore the bigger issue: my inability to self-reflect and see the larger personal weaknesses in my own condemning character. Jesus compares the 'splinter' in the other's eye to the huge 'plank' in one's own.

The eye, in Luke's world, was the gateway to the soul and the primary organ of decision making. For a disciple to be critical of others and not recognise the plank in their own eye is to be blocked from authentic soulful and considered living. This plank must be removed by careful and sustained spiritual surgery through closeness to Jesus. This is the ongoing quest for disciples journeying with Jesus.

In the second half of today's Gospel the image turns to the production of sound fruit. This is more about authentic discipleship than about agricultural production. It is again about the heart. Jesus' words encourage Luke's Gospel's audience, and us, to draw on the heart and live from its reservoir of goodness. As with the earlier humorous parable about seeing, we are invited to see deeply and act with integrity so that our hearts can grow in goodness. Authentic conduct will follow. This is the intent behind the Gospel's final piece of wisdom, that 'words flow out of what fills the heart'.

splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit; people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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**Fr Michael Trainor**