



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / C

11 MAY 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 13:14,43-52

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

We are now turning to the gentiles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers.

Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

■ The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99:1-3.5

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock. (*or Alleluia!*)

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. / Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**

2. Know that he, the Lord, is God. / He made us, we belong to him, / we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, / eternal his merciful love. / He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING

Apoc 7:9,14-17

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are

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

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

Phone: 95238407 / 95285988

Mail: PO Box 664, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

Email St Joseph's: elsternwick@cam.org.au

Email Holy Cross: caulfieldsouth@cam.org.au

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

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

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: \$TBA

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: S Bettoni

Lector - Sunday: M Nelson

Counters: No Counting

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: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: \$TBA

Next Week's Roster

Lector: D Duffy

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

Wed 14 May: St Matthias

Sun 18 May: 5th Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 32:5-6)

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, 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: **James Van Dort**

Death Anniversary: **Jim Boland**

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 the four weekends of May.

Parish Social Afternoon Tea

Wednesday May 14th, 2:00pm at Holy Cross Hall. Please bring along a plate to share.

We'd love if you also bring your baby photo. Will we recognise you?

All welcome for an afternoon of fun and friendship. For further info or transport contact Denise: 0410311326

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

Facebook



Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving

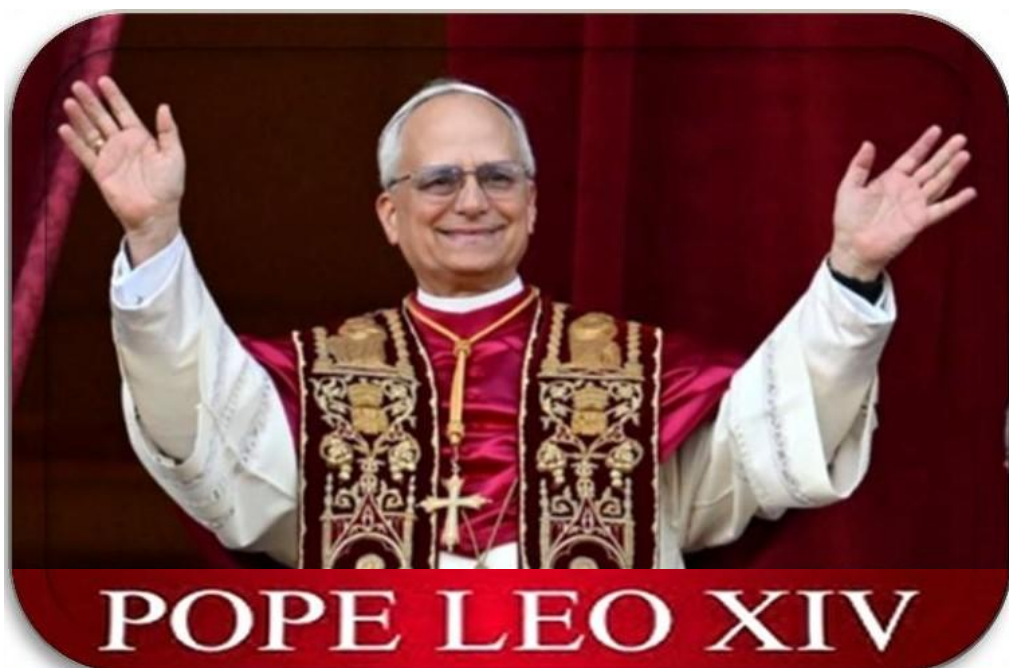


Mother's Day Prayer

We pray for all mothers, grandmothers, step-mothers and motherlike figures in our lives. May God bless them abundantly.

May we be inspired by Mary our Mother to journey with Jesus, in good times and in challenging times.

Our Mother's Day Book can be found on the altar-rail or in front of Our Lady's statue in the church. Please write the names of all mothers for whom you would like prayers to be offered on Mother's Day.



Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost
now known as

Pope Leo XIV is the 267th Pope
May God grant him grace to follow in the
footsteps of the Good Shepherd, Jesus.

Congratulations! We are now ONE Parish.

Effective Saturday, 3rd May 2025, St Joseph's Parish and Holy Cross Parish are amalgamated and is now called **THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK AND HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH.**

1. Celebration

To celebrate this special occasion, we will be organising a luncheon at St Joseph's School Atrium, at 12:30pm on Sunday, 29th June 2025. More details to follow in the coming weeks. Please save the date.

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.

May 13: Formation

- The Superpower of Small Groups with Everett Fritz.

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. 14/5, 11/6, 2/7, 13/8, 10/9

If you would like to be a part of our Parish Renewal Team and can attend any of the sessions, please contact the Parish Office.

4th Sunday of Easter

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus

This year, it so happens that Good Shepherd Sunday and Mother's Day fall on the same day.

The title "Good Shepherd" points to one of Jesus' leadership roles, a role which can also be seen in our mothers. As the Good Shepherd leads us towards spiritual growth and salvation, so do mothers give their children spiritual, physical and emotional support.

The Good Shepherd is a symbol of the care and protection given to us by Jesus. Mothers are also seen as caring for, and protecting their children. As their primary caregivers, mothers provide a safe and loving environment, fostering in them a sense of security.

The Good Shepherd, Jesus, extends his care beyond his own followers to include even the non-believers; so also does the love and care provided by a mother extend beyond her own family to include the larger community or the society.

Both the Good Shepherd and mothers share the commonality of leading, guiding, providing and protecting those in their care.

Both figures are associated with love, compassion, and a desire to see those whom they love, do well.

Each year, Good Shepherd Sunday is also celebrated as Vocation Sunday, mainly focusing on the need for more vocations to various walks of life, with an extra focus on the vocation to priesthood.

On this Mother's Day we reiterate the fact that being a mother is also a Vocation, a sacred call from God.

Fr Leenus



Daughter: Mum, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the world?

Mum: I don't know dear, you'd have to ask your Grandma.

Good Shepherd Sunday

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The annual Seminary Enquiry Day at Corpus Christi College is on Saturday 24 May.

Prayer for Vocations:

O God, who chose the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, and who by Baptism and Confirmation has called us to build up Your Holy Church, we implore You to choose from among us, your children, many priests and religious who will love You with their whole hearts and will gladly spend their lives to make You better known and loved by all. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

St John Vianney, Patron Saint of Priests, pray for us.

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.

The welfare of the children and young people in our care will always be our first priority and we have a ZERO tolerance for any form of abuse. For more information on Safeguarding: melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding



the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 10:27-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I give my sheep eternal life.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

CLAIMED BY THE FATHER

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, our Gospel attention turns traditionally to John's 'parable' of the Good Shepherd. Each of the lines in today's Gospel deserves special and lingering attention. 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice': The sheep are the members of John's Gospel household. Listening to the voice of Jesus is what links to the next line: Jesus 'knows' those who listen to him. 'Know' refers not to information about, but an intimate link with. Jesus 'knows' with a depth of intimate love.

This intimacy flows over into the experience of 'eternal life' (the next line). It also brings about a communion that leads to identity and 'being found'. If you have ever felt lost, either personally or in life direction, Jesus offers a centre, an eternal promise of identity that will never be taken away. This is the sense behind Jesus' reassurance to John's audience of never 'being stolen'. Those who follow Jesus are claimed by the Father. They will always be found, and are one with Jesus' God because, as John asserts at the Gospel's conclusion, Jesus and the Father are 'one'.

Today's Gospel is rich and powerful. We celebrate Jesus' love of us, his desire that we 'know' our communion with him and his Father. Through Jesus we are one, eternally, with the Father. He continues to shepherd us.

Fr Michael Trainor