



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

12 OCTOBER 2025

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:14-17

A reading from the second book of the Kings
Naaman returned to Elisha, the prophet, and acknowledged the Lord.

Naaman the leper went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.

Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant.' But Elisha replied, 'As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing.' Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'Since your answer is "No," allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, because your servant will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

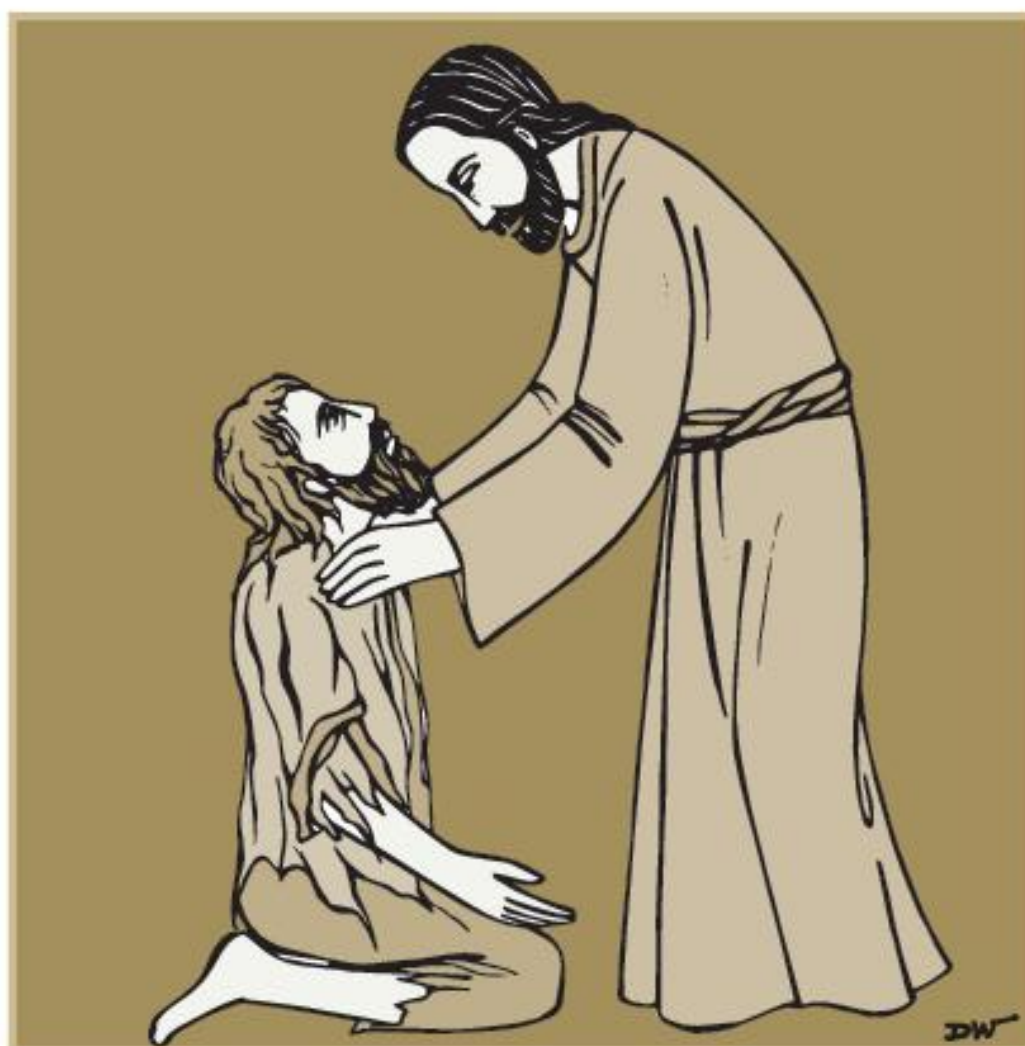
Ps 97:1-4. R. cf. v. 2

R. The Lord has revealed to the nations
his saving power.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has
worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy
arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; /
has shown his justice to the nations. / He has
remembered his truth and love / for the house
of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the
salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all
the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**



SECOND READING

2 Tim 2:8-13

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.

Remember the Good News that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal – but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on:

If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.

If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.

If we disown him, then he will disown us. We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful, for he cannot disown his own self.

■ The word of the Lord.



PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

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

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

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

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$1219.10 Presbytery: \$1219.10

Special Collection: -



Thanksgiving

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm M Ellis

Sunday 9:00am D Duffy 10:30am M Nelson

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 15 Oct: St Teresa of Jesus

Fri 17 Oct: St Ignatius of Antioch

Sat 18 Oct: St Luke

Sun 19 Oct: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 129:3-4)

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 33:11)

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Tony Messina, Paulette Dobbin, Carol Burgess**

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

Recently Deceased: -

All Souls Day - Sunday 2 November

A book has been placed on the altar rail or table closest to Our Lady's statue.

Please write the names of your deceased family and friends to be prayed for on All Souls' Day.

Envelopes for offering November Masses for the faithful departed are available at the church foyer. These can be placed with the weekend collections.

November is a special time to pray for the dead. A plenary indulgence may be gained for the dead by visiting a church on 2nd November and praying the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Three conditions are required for gaining the indulgence: sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the Pope's intentions.



Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

1. Do you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion at home or at a care facility?
2. Would you like to volunteer as a Special Minister for this important Ministry to help offer Communion Service and Pastoral visits on weekdays?

Please contact the Parish Office for more information. Training will be provided and visits are usually made with our Clergy or another Special Minister.

Lifeboat Foundation

For some years, the "Lifeboat Foundation" has been assisting victims of church-related sexual abuse with basic living costs, counselling, vehicle expenses – and just simply listening, believing and caring. The Foundation has been greatly assisted by donations of unwanted cars e.g. from deceased estates, or people relinquishing licence etc., either to give to victims who need them, or selling them to raise funds.

You could help this important work

- (a) by identifying people who might donate an unwanted motor vehicle, and
- (b) identifying someone to assist in the administration of Lifeboat's "Car Donation Project" e.g. speaking to potential donors of vehicles – it's not complicated nor over-demanding of time.

If you would like more information about the "Lifeboat Foundation" and/or the "Car Donation Project", please contact Fr. Kevin Dillon via the Parish Office.

Trivia Lunch @ Holy Cross Parish Hall

Join us on Wednesday, 15th October at 12-noon.

Bring your own lunch and enjoy the trivia session and a catch up. All are welcome.

Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father

We ask you to bless our Parish of
St Joseph's, Elsternwick and
Holy Cross, Caulfield South.

Make us faithful in our duties to you and each other
and open-hearted to all who need our help.

We ask you also to bless our Clergy
who lead us to our heavenly goal,
And all those who will come after us,
who strive to keep the faith alive.

Remain forever in our hearts and minds,
always drawing us closer to you.

May St Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family
and the Holy Cross of Christ,
be our guiding lights in our Parish's future.

May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
remain with us forever.

Amen.



Morning Cuppa and Cake Stall

Our ACYF 2025 Pilgrims and Leaders hosted the Morning Cuppa and organised a Fundraising Cake Stall last Sunday after 10:30am Mass at St Joseph's.



It was a huge success, thanks to the incredible efforts of everyone involved. From delicious homemade sweet treats to setting up the Morning Cuppa, speaking at Mass and just the wonderful energy of the young people being together, we couldn't have asked for a better turnout.

A special THANK YOU goes out to all parishioners for their support. Your purchases at the cake stall, generous donations and words of encouragement were truly heartwarming for the Pilgrims. The final total raised from the cake stall was an incredible \$585.

There are a few more events in the pipeline leading up to the Festival. Meanwhile, please keep our Pilgrims in your prayers.

Young Adults & Youth Mass - 25th October

We look forward to celebrating Mass with the Young Adults and Youth from our 3 churches.

This is an initiative from the Young Adults' Group to host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.

Our Young Adults are aged 18-35 and our Youth are those aged 7-17.

For the slightly older but still young-at-heart, you are most welcome to join the group as Youth Coordinators; to support the Young Adults and also to guide our Youth at Mass and during fellowship.

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.

All volunteers are reminded to ensure they:

1. Have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) card. When completing or updating your details online, please use the following details:
Organisation: St Joseph's & Holy Cross Parish
Address: 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185 or 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South, VIC 3162
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185
2. All parish volunteers over the age of 18 are required by the Archdiocese to undertake the Safeguarding online training every 3 years. Complete the training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>

Legion of Mary at St Joseph's & Holy Cross



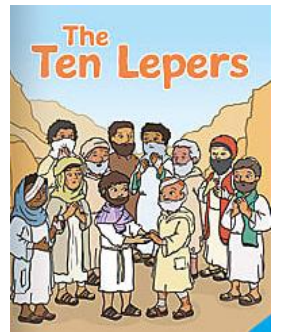
A new Praesidium has been formed at The Parish of St Joseph's & Holy Cross. Weekly meetings are held at 7:30pm on Fridays at the Holy Cross Parish Hall. New members are welcome. Contact Mable 0493-5926154.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Grateful Leper

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Today's readings highlight the importance of being grateful. Former US President Abraham Lincoln, realising that the people of his country were ungrateful to God, was deeply sad. He knew America had received from God the choicest of blessings. God had preserved them in prosperity and in peace, wealth and power, glory and majesty, yet the people of the nation had forgotten the God who gave them all these and more. Instead, they had vainly imagined that all these were their own making. And then he went on to declare a national day of fast, and thanked God for all that God had done for them.



The Sin of Ingratitude is prevalent here as it is elsewhere. It is prevalent today as it was at the time of Jesus. During his time, Jesus had worked wonders in the lives of thousands of people; not only in the lives of ten lepers, but how many of them were really grateful to him?

In the Old Testament we have good examples of grateful people. For example, King David was grateful to God for his people and their generous contributions in building God's Temple. He expressed his earnest and sincere gratitude to God by glorifying and praising him and by singing and dancing for him when he brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. King David acknowledged that all good things came from God.

Today's first reading reminded us of Naaman, who was thankful to God for his cure. In the second reading, St. Paul asks us to remember Jesus with gratitude, for healing and strengthening us to face any adversity. St. Paul again writes, "In everything give thanks to God"; in our good times as well as in our bad times, thank God. In sickness and in good health, we are to thank God. Above all, we should thank him for his death and resurrection.

We never run out of reasons to thank God! Countless are the blessings we have received; look within you, look around you. Thank God also for all the terrible things that God preserved you from. Thank God for all the illnesses and perils that never came your way.

But does God need our gratitude? NO! Yet God asks us to be grateful, because it helps us. One leper came back to thank Jesus and therefore he found the True Saviour; Naaman was grateful and he found the Only True God, Abraham Lincoln was grateful to God and in his time America grew prosperous and experienced peace and joy.

Let's always be grateful to God for all his favours.

Fr Leenus

A Sunday school teacher was teaching the Ten Commandments to her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" One little boy shouted, "Thou shall not kill."



St Carlo Acutis' First Class Relic

Exhibition at Stella Maris Church in Beaumaris, and at St Joseph's Hall in Black Rock. Details on the notice board.

Plant Sale - 9th November at St Anthony's

Now is a good time to think about preparing seedlings if you would like to donate to the Plant Sale. Donations of potting mix also very welcome.

Please support the upcoming Plant Sale. Proceeds go to Tony's Café. Thank you!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Thess 5:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

For all things give thanks to God,
because this is what he expects of you in
Christ Jesus.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 17:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

*It seems that no one has returned to give thanks to
God except this foreigner.*

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Breaking Open the Word

THE CRY OF THE ABANDONED

In this very familiar Gospel story, often titled 'the healing of the ten lepers', Jesus is in an unholy and impure setting. He is travelling, as Luke notes, between the borders of Samaria and Galilee. In technical terms, this is a 'liminal' place. It is 'on the edge' between an area familiar to Jesus (Galilee) and one that is unfamiliar and even potentially dangerous (Samaria).

He enters a village. Jesus' generic placement (it is 'a' village, not a definitively named location) allows Luke's audience to see themselves in this situation. It is us as we move through life not knowing what awaits us. Jesus is approached by ten contaminating and impure characters. They are called 'lepers'; their leprosy is not our traditional Hansen's disease but a contagious skin condition. It has the potential to disrupt and contaminate the community.

As they distance themselves from Jesus they appeal: "Jesus, Master, have pity on us." The Greek literally reads, '...have *mercy* on us'. This is the cry of the abandoned who seek God's comforting presence. It is also our cry in desperate times. Jesus tells the ten to go to the priests, the officials that can declare their healed cleanliness. Only one returns to thank God's healing work revealed in Jesus. It is the unexpected one, the 'foreigner' that recognises God's action through Jesus, a theme that echoes throughout Luke. Today's Gospel invites us to look for God's actions in the most surprising places among God's most unexpected people. These become the sources of eucharistic thanksgiving.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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