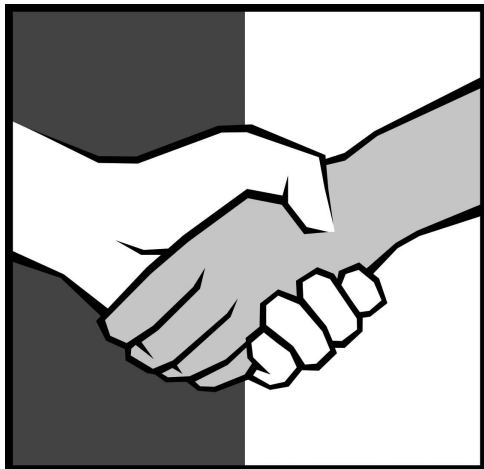




Gospel Shorter form Mt 5:20-22. 27-28. 33-34. 37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When you say yes, you must mean yes.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. What is referred to as the 'Law' is generally used as shorthand for the Torah – the first five books of the Bible – which first of all establishes the history of relationship between God and humanity through the books of Genesis and Exodus and then provides detailed instructions about how that relationship should be honoured and observed. When Jesus speaks about the Law and the Prophets, he is deliberately including the extensive collection of prophetic writings that interpret the Law in terms of justice and right relationships with others as being a reflection of the right relationship with God.

By declaring that he has come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete – or fulfil – them, Jesus is making it perfectly clear that his ministry and teaching is in alignment with and in accordance with the historical tradition and he is not setting out to overthrow the Jewish tradition. Rather, throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication. His constant complaint is against those who live by the letter of the Law and ignore what we would call the spirit or intention of the Law. This is the root of his swipe at the shallow virtue of the scribes and Pharisees in today's gospel. The criticism that Jesus levelled at these two groups was that their adherence to the Law made no room for the compassionate heart that the writings of the Prophets demanded.

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ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Catholic Parish

Avondale Heights

Today's Celebration is on pages:

Old Missal: 273 New Missal: 383



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

15 February 2026

First Reading Sirrach 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him.

For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. (R.)
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. (R.)

4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

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

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

🌐 www.melbocatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tru

Secretaries: Lee Tran: Wednesday - Friday

Charles Meneze: Tuesday

Office Hours: Closed Monday

10am - 3pm Tuesday - Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm

Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

Phone: 9337 6016

E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10.00am
Saturday 5:30pm

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey

Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano

Maria Aloe

Phone: 9331 9000

E-mail:

principal@smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court,
Avondale Heights

Phone: 9337 4595

E-mail: sisaugustinian@gmail.com

Website: www.asimoz.org

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick:

Teresa Demaio; Emmanuel Sammut; Mellisa; Peter Falzon; Nancy Green; Monica Marland; Nazzi Demaio; Emily & Grace; Charles.

Recently Deceased:

Nazzareno Care; Nola Edwards; Pasqualina De Filippis; Juanita Curran (Ireland); Francesco Pachi; Martin Tabone; Anna Ho Thi Kim Hiep; Salvina Falcone (Switzerland).

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Haydee & Margurita Barra; Gioakim Tran Van Ton; Giuseppe Scarcella; Giuse Bui Minh Dac; Domenico Nguyen, Maria Nguyen, Domenico, Maria, Phero Dau, Maria Dau; Nevanka Gallic; Victor Degabriele; Dominic Cumbo; Bernarda & Francis Grima; Teresa, Emmanuel, Tonina, Phillip Sammut; Emmanuel & Nazarena Farrugia; Adam Hood; Rita & Carmelo De Bono; Joseph Consiglia.

Parish Support Programme: Pays Wages, Electricity, Rates, Cleaning, Maintenance

Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$2,051
Loose: \$1,021

Presbytery: Supports Parish Priest,
Retired Priests & Cathedral \$1,487

Contributing to the Collections

QR Code

You may wish to use the QR code if you have left your cash at home.



Donation Tap

Through the Archdiocese, we've introduced a simple Donation Tap Machine (like EFTPOS).

It's an easy method to donate to the parish if you forgot your cash and has a limit of \$99.

Please see one of our friendly volunteers with the machine in the back of the church if you wish to tap your card/phone to donate.

Apologies for the minor technical issue we had with the machine last weekend.

It is full steam ahead this weekend!

Thank you for your generosity.



CELEBRATION THIS WEEKEND

Baptisms:

We congratulate and pray for:
Siena & Dolce Baldacchino.

Special Masses this Week



ASH Wednesday 18 February

English

Mass: 9:15am School Attending
6.30pm

Lunar New Year – Vietnamese Masses

Monday 16 February Lunar NY Eve 8pm

Tuesday 17 February Lunar NY Day 8pm

Wednesday 18 February 8pm

- Remembrance of our Ancestors

Thursday 19 February 8pm

- Giving thanks for our Career/Vocation

Friday 20 February 8pm

Ash Wednesday for those who
Celebrated Lunar New Year



Caritas AUSTRALIA

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Project Compassion Sunday

14-15 of February 2026

This Lent, we are called to **Unite Against Poverty** through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.

This Lent, as in 2025, there is a single Project Compassion donation envelope – rather than the six weekly envelopes used previously. This is to reduce waste and support our shared commitment to caring for our common home. You can still give weekly by taking several envelopes.

Thank you for

Uniting Against Poverty

with us this Lent.

Donation boxes/envelopes

will be available on **Ash Wednesday**.



this Lent

Project Compassion Lenten Prayer

God of all love,

We remember that on the night before he died

Your son, Jesus, prayed
that his friends 'may all be one.'

Yet we see so much division in the world.

War, conflict, violence and hatred
must all distress you.

Millions of people suffer
when they don't have peace and respect.

They lack the necessities of life: food,
water, health, education and security.

We pray that we may all

Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

May our support for **Project Compassion**

be a sign to ourselves and others,
of our hope for a better world.

This Lent, we pray that our dedication
to prayer, fasting and almsgiving
will help restore your vision of justice
and peace.

Guided by the Holy Spirit,
we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen



Devotion to Divine Mercy

Mondays: 2.30pm Rosary

3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

followed by Stations of the Cross, 4pm finish.



Christian Meditation 2026

Maranatha ... Come Lord Jesus

All welcome: Monday 10 - 11am

Parent's Room in the Church

Term 1: Feb 16; Mar 2, 16 & 30.

St Martin's Prep Enrolments 2027



Applications Now Open

Please apply at the School Office
or phone 9331 9000.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you and ask that you make yourself known to us by completing the New Parishioners Form in Documents and Forms under Recommended Links on our website and return it to the Parish Office. Thank you.