



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / C

25 MAY 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 15:1-2,22-29

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to burden you beyond what is essential.

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3,5-6,8. R. v. 4

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!
(or Alleluia!)

1. O God, be gracious and bless us / and let your face shed its light upon us. / So will your ways be known upon earth / and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**



2. Let the nations be glad and exult / for you rule the world with justice. / With fairness you rule the peoples, / you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; / let all the peoples praise you. / May God still give us his blessing / till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

SECOND READING

Apoc 21:10-14, 22-23

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He showed me the holy city coming down out of heaven.

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Facebook



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: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: M Ellis

Lector - Sunday: D Joseph

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: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: D Sarah

Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving



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

Mon 26 May: St Philip Neri

Sat 31 May: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sun 1 Jun: The Ascension of the Lord

Celebrating our Parish Amalgamation

1. Save the Date - Sunday, 29 June 2025

A celebratory lunch will be organized at St Joseph's School Atrium, after 10:30am Mass. Details to follow.

2. Parish Prayer and Parish Logo

Please submit your Parish Prayer suggestions and Parish Logo designs by 28 May to the Parish Office. We realise this is 2 days earlier than the initial deadline but we are hoping to review this at our PPC Meeting on 29 May.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Isa 48:20)

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 14:15-16)

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, 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: **Chook Toh Lam**

Death Anniversary: -

Young Adults Hosting Mass: Saturday 25 May

Thank you to 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

ACYF.ORG.AU
@/ACYF2



Australia Catholic Youth Festival 2025

Sunday 30 November - Tuesday 2 December

The ACYF is wonderful opportunity for engagement with other young people while experiencing talks, prayer, workshops, live concerts, games, Mass and much more. It is right at our own doorstep and an opportunity not to miss!

Check out the posters on our notice boards. Scan the QR Code for more details.

Who: Year 9 - 25 years plus Youth Coordinators 25+

Where: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Cost: \$390-410 per person for the entire Festival. Travel and food at additional cost.

Registration for the Festival opens soon. St Anthony's, St Joseph's & Holy Cross will be registering a 'combined contingent' for those who would like to attend. Speak with Fr Leenus / Fr Pat or contact the Parish Office.

The Feasts of St Aloysius & St Anthony of Padua



A combined celebration of the Patron Saints of the parishes of St Aloysius and St Anthony's will be held on 14th & 15th June



The main Mass will be at St Anthony's Church at 11am on Sunday, followed by a BBQ at Padua Pavilion. After all the other Masses, there will be a cuppa. All welcome!

Novena to St Anthony

Novena to St Anthony will begin on 4th June in preparation for the actual Feast Day on 13th June.

Before weekday Mass, Rosary at 8:45am followed by Novena and Mass at 9:15am.

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.

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

Contact the Parish Office if you would like join our Parish Renewal Team or can attend any sessions.

Liturgical Ministry Training

Gain essential skills and deepen understanding. The Ministers of the Word training program examines what liturgical ministry is and details the practical and spiritual formation needed for those who proclaim the Word of God.

The Mass is explored, with a special focus on the Liturgy of the Word, and the layout and content of the Lectionary is examined in relation to the Liturgical Year. Vocal tone, eye contact, body language and movement are also discussed and modelled with interaction from participants welcomed and encouraged.

These free training workshops are offered by The ACU Centre for Liturgy, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Friday 27 June 6-9pm AND Saturday 28 June 9am-4pm at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church (Resurrection Hall), 441 Bluff Rd, Hampton East.

Register by 15 June 2025 via the Parish Office.



Perpetual Adoration Chapel



The Perpetual Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church.

The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to apply for a tag.

6th Sunday of Easter, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Promises are not anything new or strange to us. They have become part of our lives. We look forward to the promises being kept. We also experience broken promises. We, as human beings cannot guarantee that our own promises will be kept, despite our best of intentions. God makes promises too. God, being "God", is more than able to keep his promises without fail.



In the beginning chapters of the Bible, we read how God made a promise to our first parents, to send us a Saviour to right the wrong, and we live in a period when that promise has been fulfilled by the God who made the promise. In the Gospel of today, it is Jesus himself who is making a promise to his disciples. Jesus promised them the Holy Spirit. In two weeks we will be celebrating the anniversary of the fulfilment of that promise, "the Pentecost". Jesus had also promised us that he would be with us until the end of time; so he is truly with us in the form of the Holy Eucharist.

A story is told of a father and his son. When the son was about to graduate from college, his father promised him that he would gift him with a brand new car on the day of his graduation. In fact, both of them together had even spent months considering cars of different makes and models, and at last, a week before the graduation, they found the perfect car. But when the graduation day came, the father handed his son with a 'gift-wrapped-Bible'. The son was so angry that he threw the Bible down on the floor and stormed out of the house. He and his father never saw each other again. Many years later, it was the news of his father's death that brought the son back home again. And then a few days later, as the son was going through his father's possessions that he was to inherit, he came across the 'gift-wrapped-Bible' his father had given him. He brushed away the dust and opened it, and to his great surprise found enclosed in the Bible, a cheque dated on the day of his graduation – with the exact amount needed for the car they had chosen together. He was stunned and sat there with his heart broken. His father had kept the promise, while the son had not even bothered to look into the gift. God, our Father also has promised us the riches of heaven through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Today's readings are full of promises – the promise of divine indwelling, the promise of the gift of peace, the promise of the Paraclete, and finally, the promise of the New Jerusalem. Perhaps, it will not be wrong, therefore, to call this Sunday – 'Promise Sunday.'

Keep well, everyone!

Fr Leenus

The police were chasing after a thief, who ran into a cinema. The police followed him in and shouted to the people to shut all the exits. Immediately not one exit was left open. But even after a thorough check the thief was not to be found in the cinema. Then they realised that the entrance was not shut.

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 all weekends of May.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 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

Jn 14:23-29

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and
remind you of all I have said to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my
words. And my word is not my own;
it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you
while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift
to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say:

I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad
to know that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may believe.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

ULTIMATE UNION

In today's Gospel we become privileged
listeners to Jesus' prayer to God. The prayer
sums up John's theology of ultimate union
and Jesus ongoing promise to be with the
Gospel's audience, with us. Today's selection
also reaches beyond the present and into the
future.

This is a powerfully rich Gospel for the Easter
Season. As we reflect on the implications of
Jesus' resurrection, Jesus prays that we will
come to experience the heart of ultimate union
that exists between Jesus and the Father. In
later Trinitarian theology, this prayer will be
considered the highpoint of the believers'
experience of God and the foundation for a
later theology of the Trinity. In a sense, we
become part of the divine 'dance' (the word
is 'perichoresis') within the persons of the
Trinity.

Today's Gospel invites us to celebrate our
union with God, through Jesus' resurrection,
with each other, our natural world and the
whole of the Cosmos. It is for this reason
that a second theme in the Gospel concerns
mission. Jesus' followers are sent on mission to
the world to reflect and enact this experience
of divine communion.

Finally, we are reminded that the love which
the Father has for Jesus becomes the kind of
love which Jesus has for us. And how powerful
is that! What a wonderful Easter day this
Gospel invites us into.

Fr Michael Trainor