



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C, 2-3 August, 2025

From Far To Near:

Egypt and God's Transforming Presence

During the Sunday homily, the priest shared a reflection that stayed with me long after Mass.

He spoke about Egypt in the Bible, not just as a physical place but as a symbol of a deep spiritual journey.

As I pondered this, I discovered that Egypt — my country of birth - is mentioned 659 times in Scripture, the second most—referenced country after Israel. That number alone caught my attention, but even more striking is how Egypt's story mirrors the path many of us take in our faith: from being far from God to coming to know Him and ultimately learning to dwell with Him

In the early books of the Bible, Egypt represents a place of bondage, idolatry, and spiritual resistance.

It was in Egypt that the Israelites suffered under the harsh rule of Pharaoh, their lives made bitter by forced labour. Egypt, with all its grandeur and might, stood as a nation that did not know or honour the God of Israel. Pharaoh's hardened heart is often seen as a warning against pride and self—reliance, which block us from receiving God's grace. The prophet Ezekiel even speaks of God standing against Pharaoh, likening him to a monster of the Nile, powerful but ultimately accountable to the Sovereign Lord. In its early biblical role, Egypt represents the world turned inward, distant from the trustworthy source of life.

Yet Egypt was not cast off. What touched me most in the homily was the reminder that God reveals Himself even to those far from Him. Through the signs and wonders of the Exodus, God's intention was not simply to free Israel but also to make Himself known to the Egyptians. "The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord," God says in Exodus. These words echo throughout the biblical narrative as a promise of revelation. Even in judgment, God's desire is not to punish but to transform. This is a God who reaches out, who speaks through plagues, prophets, and miracles to awaken even the most hardened hearts.

The prophet Isaiah offers one of the most beautiful visions of this transformation. He speaks of a time

when Egypt, once opposed to God, will worship Him with offerings and keep vows in His name. The same people who once enslaved God's chosen ones are pictured kneeling before the altar in sincere worship. This reversal is not forced — it is born out of recognition and reverence.

"Blessed be Egypt, my people." (Isaiah 79:25). This stunning phrase reminds us that no one is beyond God's embrace.

Alongside Assyria and Israel, Egypt is called a blessing on the earth. It's a complete re—imagining from stranger to family, from oppressor to blessed.

What does this mean for us today? Sitting with these scriptures, I saw that Egypt's journey is deeply personal. At some point, each of us finds ourselves in a spiritual Egypt - distant from God, perhaps even unknowingly resisting Him. But God is never far. He comes to us in our places of confusion, stubbornness, and fear. He reveals Himself in unexpected ways through moments of grace, acts of kindness, the voice of a friend, or the stirring of our conscience. And when we respond, however imperfectly, He draws us near and calls us His own.

This journey from far to near is not just Egypt's story — it is ours. It is the story of how God takes what was broken, makes it whole, and turns hearts of stone into hearts that worship. It is the story of grace that never gives up, of a God who desires all nations, peoples, and individuals to know Him and live in His love.

May we be encouraged by Egypt's transformation. If God could speak to Pharaoh, bless Egypt, and call them His people, surely there is hope for all of us?

Let us open our hearts anew to the One who reaches across every border, breaks every chain, and calls each of us by name.

May the God be with you today and always.

(taken from Fart East Magazine, written by Maha Shawky)

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note
Sunday 11am online
Mass is

[https://youtube.com/
live/pzHTG6uoe1o?
feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/pzHTG6uoe1o?feature=share)

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr OBrien Chanda CP
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

St Paul Apostle North
Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

St Paul Apostle South
Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's
Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for **NEXT WEEK**

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading

Wis 18.6-9

The night of the deliverance from Egypt was made known beforehand to our ancestors, so that they might rejoice in sure knowledge of the oaths in which they trusted. The deliverance of the righteous and the destruction of their enemies were expected by your people. For by the same means by which you punished our enemies you called us to yourself and glorified us. For in secret the holy children of good people offered sacrifices, and with one accord agreed to the divine law, so that the saints would share alike the same things, both blessings and dangers; and already they were singing the praises of the ancestors.
The word of the Lord

on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them
The word of God

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Keep awake and be ready
for you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Responsorial Psalm

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.
Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
to deliver their souls from death,
and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you

Gospel

Lk 12.35-40

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?” And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives.

Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, “My master is delayed in coming,” and if he begins to beat the other slaves, Men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating.

But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.”

This is the Gospel, the Good News of the Lord

Second Reading

Heb 11.1-2, 8-12

Brothers and sisters: Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

For Abraham looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself, though barren, received power to conceive, even when she was too old, because she considered him faithful who had promised.

Therefore, from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners

Reflection

What do you think it means to rely on God rather than on wealth or success?

How can we find lasting purpose in our everyday actions?

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

4:12 YOUTH (our Parish Youth for grd 5 to yr 9)

Please remember that this group is open for children in grade 5 to grade 9. They meet regularly on the second Friday of each month, in August their meeting will be on **FRIDAY, August 8th in the Tim O'Toole Annexe**. A variety of activities is arranged for each gathering. For planning purposes, please contact Candice on 0423 482 537 if you wish to attend.

2025 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM (for children)

Registration for this year's program is now closed.

All of you who have registered, please ensure that you receive an email from PARISH OFFICE on the first week of August 2025.

Should you receive no email from us, please contact us as we may have an incorrect detail from you.

For children who attends NON Parish school, you **MUST** attend the ASRE classes (Tuesdays from 4pm to 5pm) we will provide the dates soon.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER COLLECTION

Last weekend we have a special collection to support the work of this group in the hope of keeping the disadvantaged warm during this bitter winter. We thank you for your ever generous support as we collected \$1979.35 this year from this special collection.

Please feel free to contact Parish Office if you would like to get involved with this ministry and we will direct you to the leader

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

This group welcomes all primary school children and younger to our Children's Liturgy program at 11am Mass each week. Please note that the 11am Mass is being LIVE-STREAMED every week. **We wish to remind parents that all children under 4 or with special needs be accompanied by a parent or older sibling who is older than 13 yrs old.** Our leaders will be easily identifiable, if your child has any allergies, a serious medical condition or special needs, please alert the leader on the day. Due to possible allergic responses we ask that you refrain from bringing any food into the Children's Liturgy space. When the children are returning to their seats after the session please ensure they are aware of where you are seated. We have provided labels for you

to write your child's name if you wish. If you have any questions or feedback please feel free to chat to one of our Children's Liturgy volunteers or someone on the parish team.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK **(3 AUGUST TO 10 AUGUST, 2025)**

This Sunday is the beginning of the National Vocations Awareness Week. Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

SAFEGUARDING CORNER

Australian Catholic Safeguarding LTD (ACSL) is running a webinar on:

Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives

Webinar: Tuesday 5 August 1.30pm - 2.30pm AEST

It's not always easy to spot when a relationship becomes controlling, especially for young people. Coercive control is a pattern of abusive behaviours that uses manipulation, monitoring, surveillance, pressure, and fear to limit someone's freedom and independence. When technology is involved, it can be even harder to recognise. This training explores: how technology-facilitated coercive control impacts young people the common red flags to watch for

practical ways to respond and support those experiencing it.

About the presenter: Presented by Stef Tipping from the eSafety Commissioner, Australia's independent regulator for online safety. eSafety educates Australians about online safety risks and help to remove harmful content such as cyberbullying of children, adult cyber abuse and intimate images or videos shared without consent. Session details: This will be a 60-minute webinar with the opportunity for interactivity and questions via the slido app and the chat box. ***THIS IS A FREE WEBINAR***

[Register here](#)

Readings:

18h Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

Colossians 3:1-5. 9-11

Luke 12:13-21

19h Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C

Wisdom 18:6-9

Hebrews 11:1-2. 8-19

Luke 12:32-48

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Yolande Bonnefin, Ann Marlene Rea, Keith Kilmore, Anne Marlene Rea, Maria Terezia Szabo, Mavis David, Elaine Gillett, Parama Sivam, Nethanjal Tu'ulakitau, Christopher de Zilva, Christina Williams, Italia Fata, Eva Marie, Dominique Balmano, Marie-Noelle Herchenroder, Kevin Ooi, Rose Liew, Annabelle Ghatt, Maranatha Fidow, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Merlinda B. Szuba, Marian Meade, "Horse" Ian Price, Josip Dujic, Anton Nadarajah, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Naniek Tandoko, Fr Thomas Thanh CP, Genevieve Grubert, Lucy Ramirez, Angie Pereira, Lomaga Pau, Martha Mung Thi Pham, Anthony Dinh Pham, Peter D'Souza, Therese Curé, Octave Maclou **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady

FRIDAY, 15 August, 2025

**Masses are at
9am and 7pm**

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2025

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe Jennifer Cunningham	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Stephen Herbert Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Aloma Pereira David Goh Rinku Arora	Sharon Normington Sai Dlinger Naomi Falo Stephen Nasalio Santhanamary	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Binitha Mathew Patricia De Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe David Goh	Naomi Falo Sharon Normington Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Swineetha Disanayake Dominique Maclou Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Nila Fernando Rinku Arora	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Sharon Normington	Peng Chee Jenny Catania Marg Keating

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2025

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Janina Gorski	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio William Roncon
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Alvita Dias Rinku Arora	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating Luiza Monteiro
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Janina Gorski	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu