



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

9 FEBRUARY 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 6:1-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Here am I! Send me.

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out one to another in this way,
'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.
His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost,
for I am a man of unclean lips
and I live among a people of unclean lips,
and my eyes have looked at the King, the
Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips,
your sin is taken away,
your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send? Who will be our
messenger?'

I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 137:1-5, 7-8. R. v. 1

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing
your praises, Lord.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, / you
have heard the words of my mouth. / Before
the angels I will bless you. / I will adore before
your holy temple. **R.**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love /
which excel all we ever knew of you. / On the
day I called, you answered; / you increased the
strength of my soul. **R.**



3. All earth's kings shall thank you / when
they hear the words of your mouth. / They
shall sing of the Lord's ways: / 'How great is
the glory of the Lord!' **R.**

4. You stretch out your hand and save me, /
your hand will do all things for me. / Your
love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard not the work
of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 15:3-8, 11

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

*I preach what they preach, and this is what you
believe.*

In the first place, I taught you what I had been
taught myself, namely that Christ died for our
sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he
was buried; and that he was raised to life on
the third day, in accordance with the scriptures;
that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly
to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than
five hundred of the brothers at the same time,
most of whom are still alive, though some have
died; then he appeared to James, and then to
all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to
me too; it was as though I was born when no
one expected it.

But what matters is that I preach what they
preach, and this is what you all believed.

■ The word of the Lord.

Longer form, 1 Cor 15:1-11.

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES 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, VIC 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 - 2 weeks

Church: \$607.00 Presbytery: \$642.00

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: J Lam

Lector - Sunday: M Nelson

Counters: M Beaumont & B Leong

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 - 2 weeks

Church: \$336.40 Presbytery: \$346.90

Special Collection: -

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

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 10 Feb: St Scholastica

Fri 14 Feb: Sts Cyril and Methodius

Sun 16 Feb: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Perpetual Adoration Chapel



The Perpetual Adoration Chapel was a beautiful idea of our late Fr Varghese - 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.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 94:6-7)

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 106:8-9)

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Jenny, Ian and Sue Besomo, Stella Bai, Josie Lane, Anthony Michael

Recently Deceased: Giovanna Morgan

Death Anniversary: Konstantine and Marta Gryciuk

Thank You

We thank Fr Kevin McIntosh for celebrating Mass with us at St Joseph's, Elsternwick and Holy Cross, Caulfield South for the two weekends of 1-2 and 8-9 February.

Preparing the Parish Calendar

All our Ministry Groups are requested to come up with their tentative dates for any program or activity related to the ministry they are involved in through the year 2025.

If possible, please submit your tentative program dates to the Parish Office by Monday, 17 February.

Once the information is made available to the Parish Pastoral Council they will be able to allocate dates for them all. Thank you and God bless!

Anointing at Mass

On the occasion of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Tuesday, 11th February, during the 9.15am Mass at St Anthony's, there will be the opportunity for Anointing with the Holy Oil of Infirm. All welcome!



Trivia Lunch @ Holy Cross Parish Hall

Join us on Wednesday, 19th February at 12-noon. Bring your own lunch and enjoy the trivia session and a catchup. All are welcome.

Young Adults Hosting Mass

The young people from our 3 parishes will come together on the 4th Saturday of each month to host the 6:30pm Mass at St Joseph's, Elsternwick. This will be followed by fellowship at the Presbytery.

Please encourage the young adults of all our parishes to participate in this initiative. It is an opportunity for them to meet and socialise among their peers in the safe space of our parish. For info, email elsternwick@cam.org.au

Facebook

Thank you @TuNinh, for taking the initiative to start a Facebook page for St Joseph's Parish. To follow us, scan the QR code or

<https://www.facebook.com/stjosephcatholicchurchelsternwick/>



Consecration of Melbourne's Newest Bishops



Auxiliary Bishops Thinh Nguyen and Rene Ramirez were consecrated into the service of the Church particularly into the life of our local Church here in Melbourne on 1 February 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral. These new bishops will join our current auxiliary bishops, Bishop Martin Ashe and Bishop Tony Ireland, in service as shepherds of our Church.

Let us offer our prayers and support as they begin this new chapter in their ministry.

May they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, who empowers them to fulfill their sacred duties with grace and compassion.

As they join in the apostolic mission, may they always be inspired by the example of the apostles, living lives of service and sacrifice for the glory of God, and may their episcopal ministry bring abundant blessings to our Church.

The 2024 Christmas Dinner Report

Thank you to all the 204 people who contributed in some way to make St Anthony's 33rd Christmas Dinner such a tremendous occasion.

This was the first year since Covid that we were able to resume sitting down. Over 100 people enjoyed their meal together and voted it "the best Dinner we have ever had!" Over 265 people came and collected their Dinner and took it home to share with their families. They too were delighted to celebrate in their traditional way with our fabulous food.

We also had a third group to whom volunteers delivered their meal. Some volunteers stayed and had a chat with the guests to make sure they did not feel forgotten and that the Parish cared about them.

We would like to congratulate the Committee for coordinating the three streams of the Dinner which worked very well. Also to be congratulated are the volunteers who worked so hard before and/or during Christmas Day. We are sure you all went home exhausted but very happy.

We ended up with the biggest surplus we have ever had of \$212.92 which we hope to put towards some equipment we really need when cooking for so many. Although we catered for 450 meals we were able to supply 508 with a three-course meal. God's generosity is always astounding.

Thank you all again, for allowing God to move in you to help those whom you do not know have a very happy Christmas Day. One lady said she felt really loved because of the people who helped. May God continue to bless you with his great love and may you continue to let his love be seen in you and through you. You are a mighty vision of his love.

With grateful thanks and love to you all from Gwen and the ever-growing Team from St Anthony's Christmas Dinner.

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Dear friends,

Everyone wants to be successful. And nothing is wrong with that, in fact, something would be wrong if one did not want to be successful. God too does not want us to be failures. But the fact is that we keep failing. It is possible to do one's best, yet at the end of the day to have nothing to show, nothing but weariness and disappointments. That was the condition in which one day Jesus found Peter and his companions by the Lake of Gennesaret.



Most of us, if not all of us, experience failures. When we fail after having done our best, the last thing we want to hear is blame. It is terrible if one's best is not good enough. Failure is painful enough. What we need then is not blame but someone to encourage us. Jesus did not blame Peter and companions, rather He encouraged them to try again. It was also an advice, a suggestion, a command and a challenge from Jesus.

Peter and his companions were expert fisherman. But despite their professional expertise, they had failed. That was when a Carpenter's Son came up to advise them. Peter and his companions could have considered Jesus' suggestion as coming from a wrong person, at a wrong time and even the spot he suggested was wrong too. Surprisingly, they did not object to the seemingly unprofessional suggestion. Peter sensed that it was the Lord who was asking to try at this time and at this spot. And he said "Master, if you say we should try it."

Even professionals need the Lord's help! It doesn't matter how smart or expert we are, nobody can do it without the Lord. In today's second reading St Paul says, "I worked hard, yet it is not me but the grace of God in me." It is the Lord who give success.

Whether we meet with failure after failure or success after success it doesn't really matter. Besides, failure is not the end; and success is not everything. What should console us is that, God is with us each day as we work hard and even in our helplessness, in our good times as well as in our bad times. We shall make sure that we remain faithful to him; that is more desirable than being successful.

Fr Leenus



If I got 50 cents for every failed math exam, by now I'd have had exactly \$ 6.30



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

A ceasefire means more aid can assist people affected in Gaza. Your support is urgently needed.

DONATE NOW

www.caritas.org.au/gaza
1800 024 413



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 5:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

They left everything and followed him.

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied, 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boats to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

INTO THE DEEP

Today's Gospel powerfully illustrates the nature of discipleship and the role which Peter will play in Luke's writings, first in the Gospel and then in the early chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. Luke reworks the account in Mark's Gospel of the call of the first four disciples (Simon, Andrew, James and John (Mark 4:18-22) to focus on one—Peter. It is set within the context of Jesus' preaching from a boat to an enthusiastic crowd of listeners on the Galilean shore.

He invites Peter to move out into deep water to let out his nets for a catch. We learn that Peter and his companions have already tried to fish earlier, but without success. It is because of Jesus' word (literally, though the translation has "but if you say so") that Peter responds. Then, overwhelmed by the great catch of fish which almost sinks his boat, Peter recognises his utter unworthiness and sinfulness, in the presence of one so holy. Finally Peter, along with his colleagues, leaves everything to become Jesus' disciple.

There are several features of this unique story worthy of deeper reflection about discipleship and church life today: Peter's call comes from within his regular life; it is in response to Jesus' word and initiative; it is about the "catch", a metaphor for the missionary focus on the lives of human beings; it requires humility; it entails letting go of those things which separate the disciple from Jesus, including past failures; the call is not private or solitary but occurs with others.

Fr Michael Trainor