

THE SAVING WORD

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST / C

22 JUNE 2025

FIRST READING

Gen 14:18-20

A reading from the book of Genesis

Melchizedek brought bread and wine.

Melchizedek king of Salem brought bread and wine; he was a priest of God Most High. He pronounced this blessing: 'Blessed be Abraham by God Most High, creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High for handing over your enemies to you.'

And Abraham gave him a tithe of everything.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 109:1-4. R. v. 4

R. You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

1. The Lord's revelation to my Master: / 'Sit on my right: / I will put your foes beneath your feet.' **R.**

2. The Lord will send from Zion / your sceptre of power: / rule in the midst of all your foes. **R.**

3. A prince from the day of your birth / on the holy mountains; / from the womb before the daybreak I begot you. **R.**

4. The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change. / 'You are a priest for ever, / a priest like Melchizedek of old.' **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 11:23-26

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

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord.

This is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you: that on the same night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it, and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this as a memorial of me.' In the same way he took the cup after supper, and said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a memorial of me.' Until the



Lord comes, therefore, every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death.

■ The word of the Lord.

SEQUENCE

Behold the bread of angels, sent
For pilgrims in their banishment,
The bread for God's true children meant,
That may not unto dogs be given:

Oft in the olden types foreshadowed;
In Isaac on the altar bowed,
And in the ancient paschal food,

And in the manna sent from heaven.
Come then, good shepherd, bread divine,
Still show to us thy mercy sign;
Oh, feed us still, still keep us thine;
So may we see thy glories shine

In fields of immortality;
O thou, the wisest, mightiest, best,
Our present food, our future rest,
Come, make us each thy chosen guest,
Co-heirs of thine, and comrades blest
With saints whose dwelling is with thee.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

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

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 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

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: M Ellis

Lector - Sunday: P Donohoe

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: S Samy

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

Tue 24 Jun: The Nativity of St John the Baptist

Fri 27 Jun: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sun 29 Jun: Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Facebook



Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 80:17)

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 6:57)

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

Thank You!

Special thanks to **Fr Terry Kean** for celebrating this weekend's Masses with us.

Parish Celebration - RSVP by this weekend!

We will celebrate the amalgamation of our 2 parishes on Sunday, 29 June 2025.

1. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am at Holy Cross and at 10:30am at St Joseph's.
2. The celebration continues with a light lunch served from 12-noon at St Joseph's School Atrium. For catering purposes, please RSVP using the clipboards at the church foyer by this Sunday 22nd June.

Welcome to Bishop Emeritus Leslie Tomlinson

Our Parishes of St Joseph's & Holy Cross and St Anthony's & St Aloysius gladly welcome Bishop Emeritus Leslie Tomlinson who offered to celebrate weekend masses at our three churches on a regular basis when possible.

Archdiocesan Corpus Christi Procession

Begins after 11:00am Mass this Sunday 22nd June, at St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne and concluding at Federation Square.

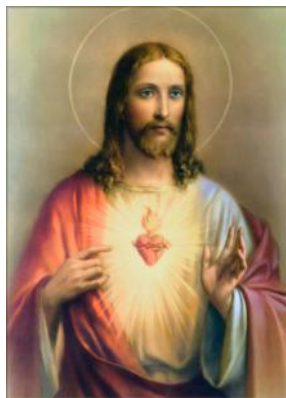
Praise & Worship

A new initiative by the Young Adults. All welcome to the Praise & Worship session on Friday, 18 July from 7-8pm at Holy Cross Parish Hall, followed by a cuppa. Please bring a plate to share.

Christmas-in-July Dance at St Anthony's

Saturday, 26 July 2025, 6pm. Fundraising for Church Maintenance. Food on sale and BYO drinks. Music by Floyd Solo Band. Dress code is semi-formal. Tickets on sale from next weekend. Adults \$30pp, below 14-yrs \$15pp, below 6-yrs free (no seat).

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



All are invited to be part of a special celebration in honour of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus from 7pm on Friday 27 June at St Joseph's Church. A beautiful evening is anticipated, with adoration, prayer and Holy Mass. Our Lord Himself promises great graces to all who honour His Most Sacred Heart. Do come along and be blessed!



We hope to start the RCIA Program early July 2025, so the Catechumens are prepared leading up to Easter 2026.

Please share this with all those who would like to be part of a spiritual journey towards becoming a Catholic.

We also welcome new Facilitators to assist us with the program. Please email to register interest a.s.a.p.



Registration Open!

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

- Sunday, 30 November - Tuesday, 2 December
- Year 9 - 25 years plus Leaders 25+
- Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
- \$390-410 per person for the entire Festival. Travel and food at additional cost.



The Parish Leadership Teams realise that the cost to attend is quite significant and will be discussing how we can support the youth and leaders who are interested in attending. **However, we need names a.s.a.p. in order make further plans; be it sponsorship or fundraising.**

You are encouraged to register with your Parish using the form available at the church foyers. Parents need to complete the forms for those under 18.

The Parish of St Joseph's & Holy Cross and The Parish of St Anthony's & St Aloysius will register a 'combined contingent' for those who would like to attend or lead.

We will be holding the following Info Sessions:

1. St Joseph's Presbytery - Saturday 28 June, 7:30pm
2. St Anthony's Church - Sunday 5 July, after 11am Mass

Young Adults Hosting Mass: Saturday 28 June

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.

Special Collection: Catholic Mission

This weekend, a special collection will be taken up for the Propagation of Faith.

Please give generously to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope or scan the QR-code. Your gift will help many Church-run mission programs around the world.



The Superpower of Small Groups

- Where are the young people of our Parish?
- Why aren't there more teenagers attending Mass?
- How come so few youth participate in Parish events?

Do the above questions sound familiar, or have you perhaps asked the same questions yourself?

Our Parish, together with St Anthony's Parish, have been selected by our Archdiocese to take part in the Pilot Program for coaching with Everett Fritz to establish Youth Small Group Discipleship.

Discover the power of small groups with Everett Fritz, founder of Andrew Ministries and a leading expert in discipleship. Everett believes that discipleship does not happen through parish programs or events alone - it happens through relationship and accompaniment.

You may be interested as parents of teens or prospective mentors. Please contact the Parish Office to register.

The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Once, a missionary was distributing the copies of the Gospel among non-Christians. One day he came across a non-Christian in a train and offered him a copy of John's Gospel. The man took it, tore it into pieces and threw them on to the platform. That seemed the end of it, but it so happened that another man picked up one of those pieces and looked at it; and the words on it were, 'The Bread of Life'. The phrase attracted him; He had known many types of bread but never heard of the bread of life. He was overwhelmed by this strange phrase. He desired to read the book that contained this beautiful phrase and desired to know what it meant. After a long search he was told that it was from the Bible; and he was shown 'where in Bible the phrase appeared,' John 6:51, where it is written, 'I AM the Bread of Life'. This all the more surprised him that the Bread of life is not something but someone; now his question was no more 'what is the bread of life', rather 'who is the bread of life'. And he studied the Gospel and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.

Today as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, we thank Jesus for having become for us the Bread of Life. Probably this phrase, 'bread of life' does not anymore overwhelm us nor fascinate us as it should. We may have gotten too used to it from our childhood that we take it for granted. Yet we know that the truth of the Eucharist is too wonderful to hold. The best gift God could have given us; the Gift of Himself.

As we all know there have been very many instances when the Consecrated Host and the Wine have turned out to be flesh and blood in a visible and tangible way. And very many extensive scientific researches and tests have been done on such Consecrated Hosts and Wine. The results were always encouraging and reiterating our faith. Thus even scientifically it is proven that the Physical Presence of Our Lord in Blessed Sacrament is unmistakably and amazingly true.

Therefore, in response to the words of Jesus, "I am the Bread of Life", we pray, "Lord, give us this Bread always." And whenever Jesus gives Himself as the Bread of Life, let us receive Him with so much reverence as if we were receiving Him for the first time, for the last time and the only time. *God be praised in the Holy Eucharist!*
Fr Leenus

Q: A 10-inch-long candle or a 12-inch-long candle burns longer?

A: In fact, they both burn shorter.

The Vibrant Parish Formation Series

Local and international guest speakers will share how we can strengthen the characteristics of a vibrant parish with Worship, Evangelisation, Formation, Fellowship, and Service using the TWG Renewal Framework.

Tuesdays: 6:30-9:00pm at Mulgrave Country Club, Corner of Wellington and Jells Roads, Wheelers Hill.

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

Contact the Parish Office if you wish to attend a session.

GOSPEL

Lk 9:11-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

They all ate and were filled.

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing. It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.' He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.' They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over them; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

'GIVE THEM YOURSELVES TO EAT!'

For today's Feast we return to the Gospel of Luke. It is about food. The evangelist frequently presents Jesus eating and feasting. In fact, one scholar (Robert Karris) has said that Jesus got himself killed by the way he ate! This is not about the quantity of food or the menu, but the kind of people with whom Jesus ate. The scurrilous and social pariahs were his meal guests, frowned upon by the religious officials.

Today's Gospel is about food, so appropriate for our Feast. While space prevents a full exposé of the story, the disciples see a pastoral problem: they have a hungry crowd before them and want Jesus to deal with it. Jesus responds, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' This could also be translated 'You give them *yourselves* to eat!'

The disciples lament that they are incapable and have only five loaves and two fish—the average daily size of a meal for a family—for such a large crowd. And how many? 5000 males. Each male representing the head of a household in the Greco-Roman world which would (according to some scholars) have around 50 members. Luke is imagining 250,000 people present, the size of an ancient city!

Jesus gets the disciples to form the crowd into household groups and then, after a eucharistic act of blessing, has the food distributed. It satisfies. This symbolically loaded story affirms the power of the Eucharist for a household-gathering of those seeking nourishment, including ourselves.

Fr Michael Trainor