



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 11-12 July, 2026

Reflection

(written by Fr Tom McDonough CP)

Before We Speak

'HOLDING lament and gratitude, in the same breath'

There are moments in history when humanity seems to lose its bearings. Perhaps this is one of them. Every evening the news carries us from one wound to another: war, displacement, trafficking, hunger, housing insecurity, loneliness, anxiety and exhaustion. Even where there is no conflict, many people carry private griefs that remain unseen.

And yet, in that very same hour, on that very same street, someone is laughing over a shared meal. A child is taking her first steps. Someone is simply sitting still, quietly amazed that the sun rose again this morning. **The worlds does not only groan; it also gives thanks.** Lament and gratitude are not opposites pulling us in different directions. They rise from the same depth in us, and more often than we admit, they arrive in the very same breath.

Ronald Rolheiser names the restlessness at the centre of every human life as a kind of holy fire — a longing that can either scatter us in bitterness or become, rightly held, the very energy of the spiritual life. We ache because we love. And we give thanks because, somehow, even in the ache, love keeps finding us.

Our age is rich in information yet starving for wisdom, rich in noise yet hungry for the quiet act of thanksgiving. Beneath every headline lies the same simple hope: that our suffering is seen, that our small joys are **not too small to matter**, and that both — the ache and the thanks — can be brought honestly before God.

Faith Begins in Attentiveness

Scripture so often begins with attentiveness before it ever begins with action. Abraham trusts only after he has stopped to hear. Moses leads only after he turns aside to notice a bush that burns and is not consumed. Samuel answers only once he has learned whose voice is calling him. Mary says yes only after she has let the angel's words settle all the way in. Faith is born in hearts unafraid to stay quiet a moment longer than is comfortable.

"Let anyone with ears to hear listen."
— Mark 4:9

Richard Rohr calls this kind of attention contemplative: a way of seeing that moves beyond judgment, beyond the need to immediately fix, name or categorise what we encounter. Jesus noticed people before he instructed them. Bartimaeus, the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus and Mary Magdalene each met someone who recognised their humanity first — before a single word of correction or teaching was offered.

None of these figures earned an answer by demanding one. Each simply stayed present long enough for the truth to arrive in its own time. This is not a technique to master, but a posture to inhabit — an openness that does not know in advance what it will hear, and is willing to be surprised, even unsettled, by what comes

Vulnerability and Openness

Balancing listening with the risk of being known
"The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love to God begins with listening to his Word, so the beginning of love for others is learning to listen to them."
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

But attentiveness is only half the exchange. To truly hear someone is to risk being changed by what they say — and that asks for a kind of **vulnerability** on both sides. Bonhoeffer's words challenge a culture that prizes quick solutions. Many people who come to us are not first asking for answers — they are asking whether anyone will stay long enough to hear the story beneath the story, grief and grace told in the same breath.

"To love someone is not first of all to do things for them, but to reveal to them their beauty, their value and their importance."
— Jean Vanier

Perhaps this is what we are truly longing for: not simply that our grief is acknowledged, but that our whole life — sorrow and joy together — is received as worth carrying. We do not have to sort ourselves into what is presentable and what is shameful before we can be loved. Rohr calls this a non-dual way of loving — one that lowers its own defences before it asks anyone else to lower theirs.

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
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
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 2026

First Reader: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god besides you, Lord, whose care is for all people. To whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly. For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.

For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance to sins

This is the Word of God

Psalm

You, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.

All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love
and faithfulness.

Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant.

Second Reader: Romans 8: 26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters,
The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God
This is the Word of God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
You have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'"

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth to speak in parables;
I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world."

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen! The Good news of the Lord

Reflection

"In what areas of my life am I allowing God's word to take deep, fruitful root, and where might I need to clear away the distractions that choke my faith?"

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.
St Paul Apostle safeguarding policies can be found on our website at
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> or in hardcopy in the Sacristy



WELCOME FR.DENIS TRAVERS CP

This weekend our Passionist provincial, Fr Denis Travers CP, is visiting our parish. He will be joining us for some of Sunday Masses. Please feel free to say hi to him and make him feel welcome. Fr Denis will be staying in Endeavour Hills from 10 to 13 July.

NAIDOC WEEK 5 July—11 July

On the first Sunday of July each year, the Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. On this day, we gather as one to honour and celebrate the rich cultural heritage and spirituality of our First Nations peoples, and the contributions they make the life of the Church.

The theme for this year's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is 'Walking together in Christ: 40 years on!', and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has produced resources to assist parishes in their celebration of this important day.

Celebrate this the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese is having Mass at St Patrick Cathedral is on **SUNDAY, 5 July, 2026** at 11am-12pm

PLAYGROUP

Many of us may not be aware that we have a small playgroup which runs on Thursdays between 10am to 11.30am in the Annexe for children aged between 0 to 5 yrs old. The group is run by mothers & grandmothers who generally also bring their child/grandchild with them. The children who attend this group will be accompanied by a parent/ guardian. We are looking for volunteers to assist co-ordinate and run the sessions on a roster. You will not be required to run the session every week. However, you will be required to comply to the Archdiocese's safeguarding policy, we will help you to obtain all the neces-



sary documents.

If you think this is something that you are interested in taking part, please contact the parish office on 9700 3781 (Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm) and we will provide you with more information regarding this group.

2026 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

First Family night: Tuesday 15th September at 7pm (Followed by 4 classes at parish Schools or ASRE)
Last Family Night: Tuesday 17th November at 7pm
Session with the Bishop: "To be advised"
Masses: Saturday 21st November at 12pm (maybe another also at 2pm)

Contribution towards the running of the program is \$25 per child

ASRE is a program designed to help all Catholic children attending NON PARISH schools who wish to take part in our Sacramental program. It runs on Tuesdays.

We will provide the dates of the ASRE classes at the First family night.

PARISH BINGO

Please remember that our next **Parish BINGO is on FRIDAY, 17th JULY** from 7.30pm in the annexe. You can come on your own or in a group. For more information please contact Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441



ADORATION GROUP is inviting everyone to join on **TUESDAY 28 July** between 6-7pm to attend our Church Chapel for prayers of the sick and lonely for healing both physical and spiritual. Come along, bring your family and friends for an hour, even if you can make it for 30 minutes, let's pray together for the healing of our loved ones. Further details please contact John Hendriks 0418308051 or Johnhendriks@gmail.com

Readings:

15 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Isaiah 55: 10-11

Romans 8: 18-23

Matthew 13: 1-23

www.universalis.com

16 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

Romans 8: 26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Cecil Harper, Peter Shaw-Dennis, Peter Van Helmond, Pandry Jackson, Irma Dias, Fr Chris Mithen CP, Kerryn Carney, Mary Antoun, Anne McCallister, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Cecile Potier, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, 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

Eduardo Dias, Sally D'Cruz, Yvonne Sherwin, Sandra Quodros, Kelvin Wilson, Monica Tissera, Clare Foster, June Kitto, Cyril Sextus De Silva, Conrado Casiano Omega, Carmelo Cicero, Philippe Larosse, Giuseppina Materia, Cheryl Anthony, Lancy D'Silva, Rudy Aurelio Sr., Genevieve Grubert, Deon Lawrence, France Desribes, Simone Desribes **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2026

	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 Harendra Alwis	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Anne Astin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Glenys Tran 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 Folole Faleafa Rinku Arora	Dominique Maclou 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 Dalreen Fernandes Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe Kyle Hoad Emma Hoad	Naomi Falo Dominique Maclou Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Mignonne Meerwald Swineetha Disanayake Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Nila Fernando Rinku Arora Kyle or Emma Hoad	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Vianney Clark Patricia D'Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Marg Keating Peng Chee Jenny Catania

Please note that the above rosters are subject to the completion
of the required SAFEGUARDING documents and training

