



THE SAVING WORD

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

3 AUGUST 2025

FIRST READING

Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes

What do people gain by all their work?

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 1

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust / and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' / To your eyes a thousand years / are like yesterday, come and gone, / no more than a watch in the night. **R.**

2. You sweep men away like a dream, / like grass which springs up in the morning. / In the morning it springs up and flowers: / by evening it withers and fades. **R.**

3. Make us know the shortness of our life / that we may gain wisdom of heart. / Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? / Show pity to your servants. **R.**

4. In the morning, fill us with your love; / we shall exult and rejoice all our days. / Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: / give success to the work of our hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

Col 3:1-5,9-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that



are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

■ The word of the Lord.

THE PARISH 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: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

Email: elsternwick@cam.org.au

www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: S Bettoni

Lector - Sunday: La Bonne family

Counters: No Counting

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Next Week's Roster

Lector: S McMillan

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

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 4 Aug: St John Vianney

Wed 6 Aug: The Transfiguration of the Lord

Fri 8 Aug: St Mary of the Cross

Sun 10 Aug: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time



News Bulletin
Subscription



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 69:2, 6)

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord do not delay.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Wis 16:20)

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

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: **Ricky Thurgood, Doris Thurgood, Giovanni Martello**

God The Father, Father of All Mankind



The Combined Societies of Mary warmly invite all to an afternoon of prayer in honour of God our Father.

Sunday 3 August * St Joseph's Church

1:30pm Adoration & Prayers,

3:00pm Time of Mercy & Holy Mass

Novena to St Joseph

Novena to St Joseph every 1st Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick. All welcome.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Adoration, Novena and Divine Mercy Chaplet.



Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF-2025)



Thank you to those who have submitted your Expression of Interest Form. We will be in contact with you soon regarding your registration, payment arrangements, fundraising events and how we get there!

Encounter: ACYF Edition! Fr Rob Galea and Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will headline an incredible night as we prepare to journey together to the ACYF. This free event is open to all between Year 9 and 25 years old. It will be an amazing night of fun, testimony, live music and prayer. This is your chance to experience some of what the Festival will offer. Saturday 9 August 2025, 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start at Cathedral Hall, Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy. <https://trybooking.com/DCEIC>.



Our RCIA Program has commenced at St Joseph's Presbytery and will run every Thursday at 6:30pm.

The program includes film and personal sharing.

If you know of anyone who would like to know more about the Catholic faith

or would like to become a Catholic, please ask them to contact the Parish Office.

There is no obligation or pressure - it's a journey of enquiry, and we look forward to walking with them to help find what they are looking for.

The Assumption & The Queenship Of Our Lady



Come and be part of this unique tribute to honour Our Lady, who is the Queen of heaven and earth and the Queen of our hearts.

1:30pm on Sunday 10 August

Holy Cross Church

Adoration, Prayers, Inspirational Talk, Divine Mercy and Holy Mass. The Miraculous First Class Relics of St Padre Pio and St Rita of Cascia!

Enquiries: 95092207 / www.combinedsocietiesofmary.org



Summary of Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The PPC monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, 22 July.

1. Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF): Proposal to subsidise the young people wanting to attend. They will be contacted to finalise registration soon.
2. Small Group Discipleship: Program designed for youth aged 13-18 with mentor leaders. To advertise for EOI.
3. PPC Membership: New PPC Chair Paul Hicks will step down at the end of 2025. New members welcome.
4. Parish Community: More efforts needed to revitalise our parish community. Proposed new cuppa location.
5. New Parish Logo and Prayer: Thank you to those who submitted logo designs and prayer suggestions. We have compiled your ideas which are now being finalized for 'unveiling' soon.

Many hands make light work!

We would greatly appreciate if more volunteers could come forward to assist in the following roles:

- Setting-up before Mass and closing-up after Mass
- Readers for weekday and weekend Masses
- Organising a cuppa for after Mass
- Safeguarding Committee members
- Children's Liturgy catechists and assistants
- Parish Pastoral Council members
- Parish Finance Committee members

Our current volunteers are a blessing to our parish but they are also really stretched and need your help. The more volunteers we have, the less each one has to do.

Please speak with Joanna after Mass or email the Parish Office if you can lend a hand. Thank you!

Legion of Mary at St Joseph's & Holy Cross

A new Praesidium has been formed at The Parish of St Joseph's & Holy Cross.

Weekly meetings are held at 7pm on Fridays at Holy Cross Parish Hall. New members are welcome.



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?

We, as a Parish community, might need new perspectives in helping to make that positive shift. Do we truly understand the needs of our young people today?

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 in this idea as a:

1. Parent of a young person
2. Prospective mentor

We are all called to be disciples of Jesus!

How do we grow communities of disciples who form more disciples? Contact the Parish Office for more info.



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

They say "where there's a will there's a relative." Fighting over inheritance can divide families. The warning against greed is a theme prominent in Luke's Gospel. Jesus had not gone far on his journey when a man runs up and asks Jesus to arbitrate. His brother was refusing to divide the proceeds from a family property held in common. If money is our only lens, then religion becomes diluted to a win/lose and power battle. Jesus refuses the role of judge; his most urgent concern is the kingdom. Instead of dividing the inheritance between the two brothers, Jesus focuses on why the inheritance has divided them.

Jesus' parable seems bland, but actually it is quite subversive. In today's climate we could object against Jesus' attitude and say that the man was showing good management, planning for a secure future when he had a bumper crop. His only problem was with building warehouses big enough to store the excess. That word is a key, "excess." The Gospel is not an indictment against having possessions but defining ourselves, our status and worth, solely by things, with no reference to God or others.

The man thinks of no one else, "I", "my", occurs eleven times in a few sentences. He does not share any of his goods or any part of himself with others, not even his conversation. His egotistical concerns eliminate God and neighbour from sight.

The man placed his security in an over abundance of possessions. He thinks he owns his own soul and his own future, but in fact they will go to anyone but him. "Fool", "idiots" in Greek, means "the one who is left along." When the things that we define ourselves by are gone, we are gone.

It is who we are in God that is important. The man could have done so much. He did not give any real sense to his life. If like Jesus, in contrast with the rich fool, we spend ourselves and create life for others, we make ourselves rich in the sight of God. If I had to summarise the teaching of Jesus in one phrase, it's the doctrine of non-idolatry. Do not idolise anything. Nothing will ever be worth your whole soul. Serve God's world but worship nothing. This is about as radical as you can get.

Fr Pat Jackson SAC

Update: Fr Leenus returns on 5 August after a time of recuperation, rest and spending time with his family. We look forward to welcoming our dear Parish Priest.

Teacher: If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?

Student: A drinking problem.

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.

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 ACCLAMATION

Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 12:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

To whom will all this wealth of yours go?

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025. No 2101. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

WHAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT

Unfortunately, arguments do sometimes happen within families on the death of a family member. These often revolve around property, ownership and how the Will is divided. Family disputes are not unknown. The same occurred in Luke's day.

Today's Gospel begins with the dispute between two brothers over an inheritance claim. One of them wants Jesus to arbitrate. But Jesus moves the issue to the deeper level of encounter. He names it as greed. The wisdom that emerges is that human security is never guaranteed by property ownership or possessions. This is a familiar theme in Luke's Gospel. It is an issue among those whom Luke addresses. Reading behind the lines of today's Gospel, the evangelist responds to concerns about wealth, greed, inheritance disputes and inner tensions.

The second part of the Gospel explores these issues further: A farmer decides to build bigger barns to store his harvest. But what he has forgotten is that he is not the one responsible for the bumper harvest. It is the earth. In his avariciousness he has lost his ecological connectedness. Greed blurs his spiritual vision and sensitivity to God's earth. The farmer seeks rather a life of ease and comfort. The evangelist reminds the Gospel's audience to keep things in perspective. The disciple's real focus is on one's soul and relationship with God. Today's Gospel is a sobering reminder of what is truly important.

Fr Michael Trainor