



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

27 JULY 2025

FIRST READING

Gen 18:20-32

A reading from the book of Genesis

Lord, do not be angry if I speak.

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 137:1-3, 6-8. R. v. 3

R. Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

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. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly / and the haughty he knows from afar. / Though I walk in the midst of affliction / you give me life and frustrate my foes. **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

Col 2:12-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

He has made you alive with Christ for he has forgiven all our sins.

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Rom 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children,
and in that Spirit we call God our Father.
Alleluia!

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

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

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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: J Lam

Lector - Sunday: D Joseph

Counters: M Beaumont & E Ambrose

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: D Sarah

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$839.90 Presbytery: \$848.90

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

Tue 29 Jul: St Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Thu 31 Jul: St Ignatius of Loyola

Fri 1 Aug: St Alphonsus Liguori

Sun 3 Aug: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



The program starts on Thursday, 31st July at 6:30pm and will run weekly at St Joseph's Presbytery. It is not too late for those interested to register and attend.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag.

Contact the Parish Office to apply for one.



News Bulletin
Subscription

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 67:6-7, 36)

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Mt 5:7-8)

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

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: **Fr Benno Rausch SAC**

Death Anniversary: -

Funeral for Fr Benno Rausch, SAC

The Requiem Mass for Fr Benno Rausch, SAC the last of our German Pallottine missionaries to Australia will be at St Christopher's Catholic Church, 5 Doon Avenue, Syndal on Thursday 31 July. Rosary at 10.30am followed by Mass at 11am. There will be refreshments thereafter followed by burial at Upper Yarra Valley, Wesburn. It was his will that he be buried at Wesburn Cemetery with the people he knew and worked with.

May Fr Benno's soul rest in peace. Amen.

Jubilee of Youth - 28 July to 3 August

To join this sacred time of grace, hope, prayer & pilgrimage, our Youth and Young Adults (aged 18-35) from our 3 churches will come together to host the 6:30pm

Saturday Vigil Mass at St Joseph's this Saturday 26 July.

At St Anthony's, they are also celebrating the Jubilee of Youth on Sunday 27 July at 11am Mass, followed by fellowship.

This will be a great opportunity for those who have registered interest to attend Australia Catholic Youth Festival 2025 (ACYF) to come along to meet the rest of the young people who will also be attending the ACYF.



Registration Closing Soon!



If you haven't already registered your interest, please do so by this weekend for the Parishes of St Joseph's & Holy Cross, and St Anthony's & St Aloysius to register a 'combined contingent'.

- 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.



1. Leaders, over the age of 25, will be needed, according to the number of young people attending. Leaders must have a valid Working With Children Card.
2. Please do not let the cost be a factor. This is a great opportunity for all young people and indeed the Melbourne Archdiocese. Remember, with God, all things are possible. *"Don't worry about anything. Instead, pray about everything." (cf Philippians 4:6-7)*



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

Enquiries: 95092207 / www.combinedsocietiesofmary.org

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 really stretched and need your help. If we have more volunteers, you will likely only be 'rostered' once every month.

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

Christmas-in-July Dance at St Anthony's

Saturday, 26 July 2025, 6pm.

This is a fundraising event for church maintenance. Food will be on sale at the venue and BYO drinks. Music by Floyd Solo Band.

Tickets will be on sale at the door.

Adults \$30, 6-14-yrs \$15, below 6-yrs free (no seat).

Dress code is semi-formal.



Prayer for Peace in the Middle East



God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis.

Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all. We pray that this crisis will end, without further loss of life. We pray for the injured, the suffering and for those who mourn their loved ones. We pray for all people who have been displaced, those who have lost their homes and have nowhere safe to go. We pray for all those in danger at this moment. Guide us into your kingdom, where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children, for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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!

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

The disciples were Jews. They knew how to pray. But there was something about Jesus' prayer that had a unique quality to it. It was not the words, but the intimacy of Jesus' relationship to God that they observed, when Jesus often prayed in their midst. He exhibited absolute trust and intimacy as a Beloved Son. So, the disciples ask Him to teach them how to pray in this way.

Jesus does not give them magic words to pray. Instead, he teaches them about the nature of the one to whom they pray. That nature is summed up in one word: "Father". If God's name is honoured, if God is revered and acknowledge to have a claim over His people, then God's reign will be established in them.

So prayer grows out of real needs. The Lord's Prayer mentions three petitions for our needs, bread, forgiveness and deliverance. Prayer isn't automatic: "give me more bread, more money!" The deepest reality in prayer is trust in a loving God who cares for us in our need.

Jesus' story opens with a friend asking for bread – three loaves of bread – in the middle of the night! Travellers couldn't predict when they'd arrive – there were no buses or timetables. Is God like the friend who knocks, or the one who is awakened at great inconvenience to himself and all the family? Yet hospitality in Semitic culture was at such a high premium that not to provide for guests was a matter of honour, not, only for the host, but for the village. If friendship couldn't get the friend to provide bread, then shame/honour would.

Luke tells us – at critical moments in His ministry – after ministering, preaching and healing all day, Jesus would go off into the hills to pray, seeking the Father's direction and purpose in his Ministry. Our first petition is for bread. The second petition is for forgiveness. Forgiveness goes beyond human fairness. It's pardoning those things that can't be pardoned. Forgiving is quite different from excusing – people think you are letting the other off the hook! No! It's trying to live and love as God does – whose rain and sun fall on just and unjust alike. Finally, we ask not to be led into temptation, to be tested beyond our endurance and so we knock and seek in prayer. We come from asking for bread, to being nourished by the Bread of Life, Jesus himself.

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.

Mother: Are you talking back to me?!

Son: Well yeah, that's kinda how communication works.

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

Lk 11:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Ask, and it will be given to you.

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy,
your kingdom come;
give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in
debt to us.
And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

DO NOT PUT US TO THE TEST

With the ending from last Sunday's Gospel still reverberating in our ears ('Mary has chosen the good part which should not be taken away from her'), Luke moves next to see how Mary's focus on Jesus and his word finds its expression. In today's Gospel which follows immediately on from last week's, disciples come to Jesus requesting that he teach them to pray. This is an important moment, instructive for Luke's audience and us.

What follows is the Lord's Prayer. We note it is slightly shorter (and perhaps more original) than the 'Our Father' we pray each Sunday. This comes from Matthew and the Sermon on the Mount. Luke's version offers the essence of Jesus' prayer: It is an affirmation of God's holiness, a request that God's Kingdom come, for daily bread and forgiveness, especially of others who transgress, and not to be put to the test. This 'testing' about discipleship and fidelity to God is what Luke's listeners (and us) experience. Later, in Gethsemane, Jesus reminds his disciples to pray not to be 'tested' (Luke 22:40, 46).

A parable about persistence follows next. It unpacks further the meaning of Jesus' prayer: God, like parents who respond to requests made of them by their children, will always offer that which is good to those who ask, especially the gift of the Holy Spirit—a divine agent present in Jesus from the beginning of the Gospel story. God's gift to Jesus is now God's gift to us, confirmed through prayer.



Fr Michael Trainor