

GOSPEL Mt 22:34-40

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Look, we pray, O Lord, on the offerings we make to your majesty, that whatever is done by us in your service may be directed above all to your glory. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Ps 19:6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray, perfect in us what lies within them, that what we now celebrate in signs we may one day possess in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, **✠** and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

P. Go in peace.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

As with last Sunday’s Gospel, we find ourselves again on the Temple Mount—the sacred place where the Torah was taught and people were encouraged to live its demands and invitations. As Matthew’s Gospel approaches its concluding chapters, however, the Temple also becomes the arena for another trial, continuing from last Sunday. Jesus’ religious opponents set theological traps, seeking to expose him as an imposter and false teacher. This time the question concerns the greatest of the 613 commandments discerned in the Torah. It is a formidable test. Throughout his Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus to a Jewish community of followers living decades after the Galilean ministry of Jesus. The teaching Matthew records in the mid-80s CE reaches back to the original teaching of Jesus in the 30s.

Both then and now, Jesus draws upon the Torah to identify the two commandments that stand at the heart of faithful living. The first comes from Deuteronomy: to love God with one’s whole being—heart, soul and mind. This command was so central to Jewish faith that it was symbolically carried on the body, clothing and doorposts of the home, and recited frequently each day in prayer. From this all-encompassing love of God flows the second commandment: to love one’s neighbour as oneself. The two cannot be separated. Love of God finds its expression in how we love and treat others.

These commandments remain at the heart of our Christian heritage. They continue to shape our relationship with God and with one another, calling us beyond religious observance alone into a life grounded in love.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 OCTOBER 2026

OBSERVE THE SORT OF LIFE WE LIVE. In every society people observe the actions of others. When many people ignore a particular law others conclude that it is alright for them to do the same. Children often imitate the behaviours of their parents. When we practise the law of love in our lives we benefit not only those who need our help but also those who observe our actions.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 104:3-4

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory; / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.



2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / He has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:5-10

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

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

COLLECT

P. Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”’

The word of the Lord.

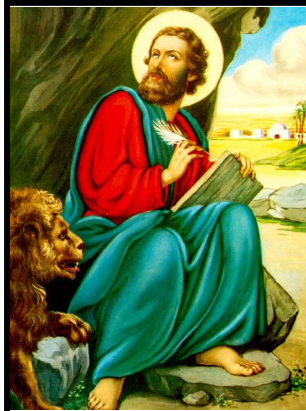
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**



St. Mark's Parish, Fawkner

St. Mark's Parish is committed to the safety, well being and dignity of all children, people and vulnerable adults.

Parish Priest: Fr. Colin J. Xavier
Assistant Priest: Fr. Benneth Osuagwu
9 Lee Street, Fawkner, 3060
Phone: 9359 3111
Email: fawkner@cam.org.au
Website: <https://www.melbcatholic.org/fawkner>

Principal: Peter Wilson
St. Mark's Parish School
118 Argyle St, Fawkner, 3060.
Phone: 8335 4100
Email: principal@smfawkner.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.smfawkner.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am to 4:30pm

"I will not forget you... I have carved you on the palm of my Hand" (Is 49:15-16)

Weekday Mass Times:

Monday to Saturday: 9:00am.

Weekend Mass Times:

6:00pm: Saturday Vigil Mass.
10:00am: Sunday Morning Mass.
6:00pm: Sunday Evening Mass.

First Sunday of the Month:

Renewal of Marriage Vows.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 9:30am and 5:15pm.
Or feel free to phone Fr. Colin.

Every Thursday of the Month:

5:30 - 7:00pm: Hope Café (Free Dinner).

First Wednesday of the Month:

7:00pm: Baptism Preparation Meeting.

First Saturday of the Month:

10:00 - 11:30am: Working Bee.

Parish Advisory and Safeguarding

Committee: Fr. C. Xavier, Fr. B. Osuagwu, P. Wilson, A. George, L. Rahme, L. Grech, D. Abela, E. Bathan.

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH, MASS TIMES

Tuesday - Friday: 9:30am. Saturday: 5:30pm.
Sunday: 9:00am and 10:30am (Italian).



Are you planning a Marriage in the near future?

If so, in order to avoid disappointment, it is most important to first make an appointment with the Parish Priest prior to making any other bookings.



Do not leave your mobiles, purses, wallets, handbags unattended - others may think it is an answer to their prayers...

BEQUEATHING

Would you like to remember the Parish in your Will? Property, Money, Artwork, Plants...

There are many ways you can be remembered.

Do contact the Parish Office (03) 9359 3111 for further information. May God bless you!

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC PARISH

A warm welcome to new parishioners.

Please let us know that you have joined our community and if there is anything we can do for you.



New to our Parish? ☐

Changing address? ☐

Need Thanksgiving Envelopes? ☐

Please Complete the details below and place in the collection plate at Mass or send to the Parish office.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

PARISH PRAYER

God our Father, bless this parish so that we may love you more.

Help parents to be good examples to their children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care.

To the sick and the weak grant health, to the aged bring serenity, and to those in sorrow, joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living.

Amen.

QR CODE AND ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR THE THANKSGIVING PLEDGE



To make a thanksgiving payment, parishioners simply scan your MelbCatholic QR code with your mobile phone camera and follow a few easy steps. This QR code is unique to St. Mark's Church. Alternatively please make a direct transfer to our Parish Account.

Account Name: St. Mark's Church
BSB: 083-347
Account No: 825284554

Account Name: St. Mark's Presbytery
BSB: 083-347
Account No: 673272043

We thank you for your continuous support and help!



Next Weekends Rosters:

31st Oct (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: D. Abela.

Extraordinary Minister:

1st Nov (Sun):

10.00am: Reader: J. Mansour & T. Betham.

Extraordinary Minister: R. Mirabile & N. D'Souza.

6.00pm: Reader: D. Borg.

Church Cleaning:

29th Oct (Thu) Team 2
A. Campana & S. Markus.

Counters:

31st Oct: E. & A. Bathan.
3rd Nov: L. Grech.

Thanksgiving: \$413(Env) \$813(Loose). Presbytery: \$162(Env) \$555(Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.



all that's missing is U!

Pilgrim Virgin: 15th October - Tulino Family. 29th October - Markus Family.

Death Anniversaries: Rosa Ruberto and Maria D'Agostino.

28th Oct (Wed): Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles.

1st Nov (Sun): Solemnity of All Saints.

2nd Nov (Mon): All Souls Day - The Mass will be held at St. Mark's Church at 7:00pm.



LOVE AND KINDNESS CHANGE THE WORLD BY CREATING ENDLESS, POSITIVE RIPPLES IN THE LIVES OF EVERYONE THEY TOUCH.

POPE URGES CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE FIND NEW WAY TO LIVE IN WORLD



Pope Leo urges Catholic educational institutions to make young people feel encouraged and loved, in order to help younger generations, build a better world. "Beneath the armor that so many teenagers build around themselves to avoid suffering, lies the desire to love and be loved."

Help the young people meet to become protagonists of a new way of inhabiting the world, builders of fraternity and of a more just society. Courage is born from a pact of trust: from the experience of someone who believes in you before you believe in yourself, he added, recalling that Jesus chose the 12 Apostles not "because they were brave," but because "He called them and, through His trust in them, made them capable."

Pope said Catholic schools and universities should be "first and foremost, a 'home' a familiar place where people know they are expected and welcomed," where "someone who looks you in the eye, remembers your name, notices your absence, and rejoices when you return." He urged those who work in Catholic institutions to stimulate young people's intellect, to help them encounter Christ and discover "the fruitfulness of the synergy between faith and reason."

RECOGNIZING THE VOICE OF GOD

When the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, he speaks to us. But does that mean that every thought that runs through our heads is from God? How do you know when a prompting is from God and when it's Satan whispering lies?

It is very important to recognize that Satan does come whispering. We all have an inner world and Scripture makes it clear that Satan has at least some capacity to influence our inner conversation. (Matt 4:1-10, Acts 5:3, 1 Thess 2:18 all point to this.) We also know from Matt 16:23 that Satan can tempt us to act on his behalf. It is not how the voice sounds, but rather what the voice says that lets you know who is speaking.

Recognizing the voice of God takes practice, but the litmus test is very simple. The next time you hear a whisper ask yourself, "Is this keeping me trapped and away from God or is it moving me toward God and obedience?"

Answer that question, and you'll be well on the way to know who is speaking!



PARISH POSITIONS

Pastoral Worker - St Josephs Parish, South Yarra.

Pastoral Assistant - Holy Trinity Parish, Bentleigh East.

Parish Secretary - Western Port Parish (Sommerville, Hastings, Shoreham)

Pastoral Worker & Youth Co-ordinator - Western Port Parish (Sommerville, Hastings, Shoreham)

Catholic Development Fund (CDF) Community Engagement Officer - East Melbourne. Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic

LOVE WITH YOUR WHOLE HEART

Note what Paul, the converted Pharisee, says: "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal (1 Cor. 13:1)." Paul knew this from experience—he spent years as a gong. On the positive side, St. Augustine says: "love and do what you will." Yet Jesus did not say just to love. He said we must love the Lord with our WHOLE heart and soul and with ALL our mind and strength. Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio made a discernment retreat at the Trappist Abbey of Gethsemani when, at age 21, he felt torn between a desire for religious life and marriage. As he walked into the retreat house, he shuddered to see this phrase inscribed in the stone over the entryway: "God Alone."

ST. MARK'S PARISH

9 Lee Street, Fawkner

October 30-31, 2026

FRIDAY, Oct 30

6:30 PM - Rosary
7:00 - Holy Mass
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Rosary
- Silent Adoration
8:45 - Nine Offices of the Sacred Heart
10:50 - Rosary
- Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary
11:20 - Family Consecration
11:30 - Rosary
11:50 - Benediction

SATURDAY, Oct 31

12:00 AM - Holy Mass

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

81. What is the meaning of the name "Jesus"?

Given by the angel at the time of the Annunciation, the name "Jesus" means "God saves". The name expresses his identity and his mission because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21). Peter proclaimed that "there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we can be saved" (Acts 4:12).



30. Synodality and hope

A synodal Church believes that renewal is possible, even in difficult times. Hope is not naïve optimism—it is trust in God's faithfulness.



We invite our parishioners to come on board and volunteer to help clean the church, join the working bee team or be readers at weekend mass. Please contact the parish office.

