

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

24 August 2025

readings

Next Week

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29

Ps 67:4-7, 10-11

Heb 12:18-19, 22-24

Lk 14:1, 7-14

in a nutshell

Entering God's Kingdom. It is frustrating to arrive at a shop a few minutes after it has closed, or at an event only to discover that all the tickets have been sold. There is nothing you can do about it. We have no automatic right of entry. The same applies to God's kingdom. To join the many people from east and west at the heavenly banquet we must strive to follow Jesus along the narrow and sometimes difficult path of love.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially Fr Pat Purcell, Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occur at this time:

of special note

Special collection for the Archbishop's Campaign
August 17—31st

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Psalm Response

(R.) Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News.

O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples!

Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life, says the Lord,
and I will raise him up on the last day.

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

St Thomas a Becket, Yarra Junction

Sunday Mass

Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am

First Friday—11:30am

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:10pm- 6:40pm

Mount Evelyn: Saturday

11:30am-12:30pm

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

St Josephs

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarraalley

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday
mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Parish Meetings:

6:00 p.m. Wednesday 10 September

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Your financial support can be made via:

- Cash using the stewardship envelopes—call the office for information on how to become a contributor
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Sacred Heart Church**: 670642723, Presbytery: 649237379
- Use the QR Code on this page
- The website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarravalley> and choose where you are donating: church, presbytery, maintenance.



Parish Notices

The Archbishop's Campaign August 17—31st

The 2025 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. These ministries are outlined in the campaign brochure which you will find in your pew and in the foyer today. Tax-deductible donations go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the Priests Retirement Foundation, John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, the University of Divinity Building Fund as well as Catholic community agencies and service organisations through annual grants. Non-tax-deductible donations go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects

Fund and support seminarian formation and evangelisation ministries. Please review the campaign material and prayerfully consider pledging a recurring monthly gift. Tear-off pledge cards are attached to the campaign envelopes in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign or via the QR codes on the campaign materials.

Donations, including envelopes, can be put in the Leaving Collection for the next two weekends. (Baskets in the narthex)

Donations for Flowers.

There is now a collection box in the narthex for donations towards purchasing flowers for the church each week.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration: In the small estate called Gethsemane, our Lord said to the Apostles "My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and keep awake with me." (Matt 26:38-39) The night that he went into agony, not for activity did He plead but for an hour of companionship. (Venerable Fulton J. Sheen)

The Sacrament of Mercy: The main reason why many Catholics receive this sacrament regularly is to experience the love and forgiveness of God. We talk directly to God and cleanse our soul, as Christ is sacramentally present in the confessional via the priest's person. Going to confession is also directly related to how often you want to receive Holy Communion. (Catholic World Mission)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction: Thursday 6:00pm. Mount Evelyn: Tuesday 5:10pm, Friday 8:10am. Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." Luke 13:30

Our cultural standards are different from God's standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, "What have you done with the gifts I have given you?" How will you respond?

July Thanksgiving/Stewardship Report

Total income: \$1611 Total Expenditure: \$1717.05

St Mary's Parish Prayer Group

Monday at 9:15 am and Fridays at 9:45 a.m. For more information please call Maria at 0409 793 001 or just come and discover peace in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist!

Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis

The Lilydale and Healesville Parishes will be hosting in September the First Class Relic of 'soon to be canonised' Blessed Carlo Acutis and the Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles that he documented. Information on noticeboard in Narthex.

World Day Against Abortion Saturday, September 6th

Corpus Christi, Tynong. The day will start with a Traditional Latin Mass of Reparation for abortion at 11, followed by several talks by priests. Lunch will be supplied, and bookings are requested for catering purposes at <https://www.trybooking.com/DDPOZ>. A donation of \$10 is suggested.

Jubilee Year—Pilgrims of Hope

On Christmas Eve 2024, Pope Francis symbolically opened the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica, marking the start of the 2025 Jubilee Year. Jubilee years happen every 25 years and are times of reconciliation and renewal. The theme of this Jubilee is Pilgrims of Hope. If you are unable to travel to Rome during the Jubilee Year, you are invited on a local journey of reconciliation and renewal by participating in the 2025 Jubilee at one or more of the many Pilgrim Places across the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, where plenary indulgences may be obtained as part of this very special time. Pilgrim Places across the Archdiocese of Melbourne will offer extended hours, additional Masses, Reconciliation, and Adoration. Pilgrims will receive a commemorative postcard, monthly reflections, and a Pilgrim Passport (available for a small donation) to be stamped at each location. Local Pilgrim Places will welcome visitors from February 2025 to 6 January 2026. Besides the Cathedral as a Pilgrim Place, Sacred Heart Church, Croydon is the closest to us. A not too distant pilgrimage location, which offers various experiences for pilgrims this Jubilee Year, including Masses, Reconciliation and adoration.

Visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pilgrim-place-sacred-heart-croydon> for more information about Sacred Heart Croydon.

This Week's Joke

A woman awoke excitedly on her birthday and announced enthusiastically to her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for my birthday! What do you think it means?" With certainty in his voice, the man said, "You'll know tonight." That evening the man came home with a small package and handed it to his wife. With anxious anticipation, the woman quickly opened the package to find a book entitled, "The Meaning of Dreams."

sourced from www.majellan.media

Readings Reflection

[Gateway to Life](#)

Jesus doesn't answer the question put to Him in this Sunday's Gospel. It profits us nothing to speculate on how many will be saved. What we need to know is what He tells us today—how to enter into salvation and how urgent it is to strive now, before the Master closes the door.

Jesus is "the narrow gate," the only way of salvation, the path by which all must travel to enter the kingdom of the Father (see John 14:6).

In Jesus, God has come—as He promises in this week's First Reading—to gather nations of every language, to reveal to them His glory.

Eating and drinking with them, teaching in their streets, Jesus in the Gospel is slowly making His way to Jerusalem. There, Isaiah's vision will be fulfilled: On the holy mountain He will be lifted up (see John 3:14), and He will draw to Himself brethren from among all the nations to worship in the heavenly Jerusalem, to glorify Him for His kindness, as we sing in today's Psalm.

In God's plan, the kingdom was proclaimed first to the Israelites and last to the Gentiles (see Romans 1:16; Acts 3:25–26), who in the Church have come from the earth's four corners to make up the new people of God (see Isaiah 43:5–6; Psalm 107:2–3).

Many, however, will lose their place at the heavenly table, Jesus warns. Refusing to accept His narrow way they will weaken, rendering themselves unknown to the Father (see Isaiah 63:15–16).

We don't want to be numbered among those of drooping hands and weak knees (see Isaiah 35:3). So, we must strive for that narrow gate, a way of hardship and suffering—the way of the beloved Son.

As this week's Epistle reminds us, by our trials we know we are truly God's sons and daughters. We are being disciplined by our afflictions, strengthened to walk that straight and narrow path—that we may enter the gate and take our place at the banquet of the righteous.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

Save us from final damnation, and count us among those you have chosen.

How can a good and loving God send souls to Hell?

The Lord is not...wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Pet 3:9)

God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he created all things that they might exist. (Wis 1:13-14)

“If that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eats and drinks with the drunken, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the hypocrites; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.” (Mt 24:48-51)

Hell is the state of eternal separation from communion with God and the blessed in Heaven. God sends no one to Hell without that person having chosen complete separation from him. In allowing us the freedom to choose good or evil, God necessarily allows each person to accept him or to reject him.

Those who die having wilfully and definitively rejected God and his salvific grace—often by violating his Commandments in a grievous manner and then refusing repentance—place themselves in Hell, the state of eternal self-exclusion from his presence. Thus, the souls in Hell are those who die stubbornly unrepentant of mortal sin by refusing the love and mercy of God to the end. Jesus spoke often of Hell as “fire” and “darkness” where the damned will “weep and gnash their teeth” (Lk 13:28). The souls in Hell continually suffer separation from God even as they wallow in hatred of him.

We cannot be united to God unless we freely choose to love him. We cannot love God if we sin grievously against him, our neighbour, or our own selves. “He who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him” (1 Jn 3:14-15). To die in mortal sin—without repentance and without seeking refuge in the compassionate love of God—implies a wilful choice to be separated from him. God respects our freedom and will not force us to choose him or abide by his will.

God wills that all people will be saved and become one with him. The liturgy of the Church prays that all may seek and find God and that his mercy may draw everyone into eternal life.

From the Didache Bible

1035 The teaching of the Church affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, “eternal fire.” The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs.

1036 The affirmations of Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church on the subject of hell are a call to the responsibility incumbent upon man to make use of his freedom in view of his eternal destiny. They are at the same time an urgent call to conversion: “Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” (Mt 7:13–14)

Since we know neither the day nor the hour, we should follow the advice of the Lord and watch constantly so that, when the single course of our earthly life is completed, we may merit to enter with him into the marriage feast and be numbered among the blessed, and not, like the wicked and slothful servants, be ordered to depart into the eternal fire, into the outer darkness where “men will weep and gnash their teeth.” (Vatican II, Lumen Gentium 48 § 3)

1037 God predestines no one to go to hell; for this, a wilful turning away from God (a mortal sin) is necessary, and persistence in it until the end. In the Eucharistic liturgy and in the daily prayers of her faithful, the Church implores the mercy of God, who does not want “any to perish, but all to come to repentance”: (2 Pet 3:9)

*Father, accept this offering
from your whole family.
Grant us your peace in this life,
save us from final damnation,
and count us among those you have chosen. (Roman Canon)*

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church