



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

26 JANUARY 2025

FIRST READING

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of the Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, ‘Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.’ For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18:8-10, 15. R. Jn 6:63

R. Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**



2. The precepts of the Lord are right, / they gladden the heart. / The command of the Lord is clear, / it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. **R.**

4. May the spoken words of my mouth, / the thoughts of my heart, / win favour in your sight, O Lord, / my rescuer, my rock! **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27

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

Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

■ The word of the Lord.

Longer form, 1 Cor 12:12-30.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

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

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Mass

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

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: R Rodrigues

Lector - Sunday: D Joseph

Counters: M Beaumont & E Ambrose

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: D Sarah

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

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Tue 21 Jan: St Thomas Aquinas

Fri 24 Jan: St John Bosco

Sun 2 Feb: The Presentation of the Lord

Perpetual Adoration Chapel



The Perpetual Adoration Chapel was a beautiful idea of our late Fr Varghese - built in 2018 to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to apply for a tag.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 95:1, 6)

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 8:12)

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Jenny, Ian and Sue Besomo, Stella Bai, Josie Lane, Anthony Michael

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

Happy Australia Day

The Story of Australia - the story of an extraordinary nation. The Story begins 65,000 years ago. New chapters are written every day.



On Australia Day, we reflect on our history, its highs and its lows. We respect the stories of others.

And we celebrate our nation, its achievements and most of all, its people. We are all part of the story.



Happy Birthday, Fr Pat Jackson

Fr Pat will be turning 89 years old on 30th January, 2025.

We wish Fr Pat a very Happy Birthday and lots of blessings from the Good Lord. Fr Pat is still away on holidays!



Devotions to St Joseph are held every 1st Wednesday at St Joseph's Church in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Enter via the Chapel's own door on the right hand side of the church building.

2pm commencement with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Adoration and Novena to St Joseph, concluding with a song. This is followed by quiet personal prayers. At 3pm, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed together.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA sessions held at St Joseph's Presbytery every Thursday at 6:30pm have resumed. Please share with anyone interested in becoming a Catholic.



The Episcopal Consecration of Most Rev Rene Ramirez and Most Rev Thanh Nguyen as Auxiliary Bishops in the Archdiocese of Melbourne will take place on **Saturday, 1st February at 10:00am** at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Those unable to be at the Cathedral in person can watch online at the Archdiocesan YouTube channel and or on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV).

Let us continue to pray for our two bishops-elect as they prepare to take up their new ministry in our Church!

Tony's Café Volunteers

All Volunteers are invited to a meeting at 10am on Saturday 1st February in the Waratah Room, where we serve the meals. Please let others know. We look forward to seeing you all again.

Tony's Café is a soup kitchen which operates twice a week in the parish hall, 164 Neerim Rd. New volunteers are always welcome.

The Café is currently in recess but will reopen for lunch on Tuesday 4th February.

Liturgy Training Repeat

A training session for any Readers, Commentators, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Musicians, Collectors and anyone who helps in the church in any way will be held in the church on Saturday 8th February from 10:30 am – 12:00 noon.

This is a repeat of the meeting held last year so if you did not attend last December, do make an effort to come along.

Please RSVP to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please let the Parish Office know if you or anyone you know would like to receive Holy Communion at their homes or aged care facilities.

Jubilee Year Pilgrimages

The Melbourne Archdiocese is offering two pilgrimages to Rome this year to experience walking through Holy Doors.

There are also local Pilgrim Places we can visit during the Jubilee Year.



Please scan the QR-code for more info regarding the Pilgrimages, including how to register. There is also more information on our notice boards.



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

This Sunday, we see Jesus explaining His mission.

He came to bring good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. Jesus' mission is to help and save everyone, showing God's love for all people. This reminds us that Jesus cares deeply for those in need and wants to bring hope and healing.

THREEFOLD MISSION of JESUS CHRIST



This Sunday's readings encourage us to follow Jesus' example. We are called to bring good news and help those in need. The Holy Spirit is with us, giving us the strength and courage to do this. By living out our mission, we show God's love to others and make a positive impact on the world. Living our mission means being kind, helping those who are struggling, and sharing God's message of hope.

This Sunday, we are reminded that we are not alone in our task. The Holy Spirit is with us as a great help; thus we can make a difference in the lives of others and fulfill the mission Jesus began.

We are also reminded about the importance of listening to God's word, valuing each member of the Church, and sharing the good news of Jesus.

These reflections help us see how we can grow in faith, support our community, and live out our mission. Let's take these lessons to heart and apply them in our daily lives.

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to listen to Your word and understand its message. Fill us with the Holy Spirit to live out our mission and bring Your love to others. Guide us to use our gifts for the good of the Church and the world. Amen.

Q: Why did the poor dog chase his own tail?

A: He was trying to make ends meet!



Safeguarding Children and Young People

The welfare of the children and young people in our care will always be our first priority and we have a ZERO tolerance for any form of abuse. Please contact the Parish Office to join our Safeguarding Team. For more info on Safeguarding, visit melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding

GOSPEL

Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eye-witnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to
the poor,

to proclaim liberty to captives

and to the blind new sight,

to set the downtrodden free,

to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

GOD'S SPIRIT-FILLED AGENT

This Sunday we read the opening four verses of Luke's Gospel (1:1-4), skip over Jesus' birth narrative (chapters 1 and 2), Luke's introduction of John the Baptist (3:1-20), Jesus' baptism (3:21-22), a genealogy (3:23-38) and Jesus' temptation (4:1-13)—stories which will emerge at various times during this year—and move to a defining moment set in Jesus' hometown synagogue in Nazareth (4:14-21).

This event lays out the full meaning of Jesus' future ministry in the Gospel. Luke presents Jesus, the faithful Jew, at his local synagogue for the Sabbath Scripture, choosing to read from the prophet Isaiah. Luke brings together two parts of Isaiah, edits them and rearranges them to have Jesus pronounce the two key messages the evangelist wants the Gospel audience to hear: that Jesus is God's Spirit-filled agent (confirming his status from earlier scenes) whose sole intent is to lead God's people, especially the poor, oppressed and spiritually blind, to freedom; and that the God of Jesus is not a God just for the Jews, but for all people irrespective of social or ethnic status.

It is this last point that attracts ire from his co-religionists and introduces a theme of opposition that will emerge as the Gospel unfolds. Evident in the Nazareth-event is Luke's freedom, clear from the opening verses of today's passage, to reshape the biblical tradition (Isaiah) and the story of Jesus to speak freshly to the Gospel's Greco-Roman audience. Luke thus provides a pattern for contemporary theological reflection and church teaching.

Fr Michael Trainor