



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>



Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 5-6 September, 2026

LETTER OF INVITATION FROM ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI FOR PRAYER SERVICE of LAMENT 15 September 2026

Dear Fathers, Deacons, and Parish Communities, The Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows invites us to stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross. There we see a mother who remains close to her Son in His suffering, steadfast in faith and open to the hope that God alone can bring. In Mary, the Church learns not to turn away from suffering, but to remain present with compassion, humility and prayer. In 2026, on this memorial we will gather as the Church in Melbourne for our annual Service of Lament for survivors of abuse.

I invite you, your parish leaders, and representatives of your parish community to join me on **TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2026 at 4.00pm in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral** as we come before the Lord in prayer and lament.

This Service is an occasion to humbly stand alongside those who have suffered abuse, and all who continue to carry its lasting effects. It is for us, as the Body of Christ, to acknowledge and lament sincerely and with humility the failures that have caused such profound harm, and to place before the Lord our prayer for healing, justice and the ongoing conversion of His Church. Survivors and their loved ones remain at the heart of this gathering.

Through the proclamation of God's Word, silence, music and symbolic ritual, we will commend to the Lord all who have been harmed by abuse, asking that His healing mercy bring light where there has been darkness, hope where there has been despair, and renewed trust where trust has been broken.

In the days leading to the Service, I invite our Parish communities to unite in prayer across the Archdiocese. Resources will be made available to assist parishes in remembering survivors and

all those affected by abuse within parish liturgies and personal prayer. I encourage you to share this invitation with your community so that those who wish to participate, either in person or online, may do so.

Mindful that this gathering is first and foremost a place of prayer for survivors and their families, and wishing to preserve a quiet and respectful atmosphere, I ask each Parish to nominate a few representatives to attend on behalf of the parish community. The Service will also be livestreamed, enabling many others to join us in prayer from across the Archdiocese.

As we stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross, may we allow the Lord to deepen within us hearts that listen with compassion, seek the truth with humility, and remain steadfast in the ongoing work of healing and reconciliation.

May this shared act of lament become another step in our ongoing journey of conversion, as together we entrust ourselves and our Church to the mercy of Christ.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,
Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,
Most Rev Peter A Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

NO MASS on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY (9 & 10 SEPTEMBER)
as all priests will be away for council meeting

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP
Fr Cao Van Tri CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding Officer)

St Paul Apostle North Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

St Paul Apostle South Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for **NEXT WEEK**
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 2026

FIRST READING *Sirach 27:30 – 28:7*

A reading from the book of Sirach
Anger and wrath, these are abominations, yet a sinner holds on to them.
The vengeful person will face the Lord's vengeance, for he keeps a strict account of their sins.
Forgive your neighbor the wrong that is done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray. Does anyone harbor anger against another, and expect healing from the Lord?
If one has no mercy toward another like oneself, can one then seek pardon for one's own sins? If one who is but flesh harbours wrath, who will make an atoning sacrifice for that person's sins?
Remember the end of your life, and set enmity aside; remember corruption and death, and be true to the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not be angry with your neighbor; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook faults.
This is the Word of God

Psalm

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits

It is the Lord who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy

He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us

SECOND READING *Romans 14:7-9*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Brothers and sisters:
We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we

die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

This is the Word of God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia alleluia
I give you a new commandment
Love one another just as I have loved you. Alleluia

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often should I forgive my brother or sister if they sin against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' The lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."
The Good news of the Lord

Reflection

How many times do I have to forgive?

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.
St Paul Apostle safeguarding policies can be found on our website at
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> or in hardcopy in the Sacristy



THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Many of you have reminded us that your thanksgiving envelopes are about to run out. The **NEW SETS** for all envelope givers are now ready to be picked up from the gathering space at the back of the Church. They are arranged alphabetically by **STREET NAME** (not your name). If you encounter any difficulties in finding them, please do not hesitate to approach a member of the parish team. If you are not part of the thanksgiving program yet, but wish to take part, please contact the parish office and we can give you all the necessary information (see back page the thanksgiving form, if you wish to sign up)

Another way you can contribute is to use the **QR code** at the bottom of this article. Simply scan it with your phone or tablet and follow the prompts to make a one off or ongoing contribution via Googlepay, Applepay or Credit/Debit card. You will also find these QR codes in the front and back foyers for your convenience



ENDEAVOUR HILLS PARISH
Parish Support - Endeavour Hills

PARISH BINGO

Please remember that our next Parish BINGO is on **FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER** from 7.30pm in the annexe. You can come on your own or in a group. For more information please contact Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441

PLAYGROUP is calling for help

Many of us may not be aware that we have a small playgroup which runs on Thursdays between 10am to 11.30am in the Annexe for children aged between 0 to 5 yrs old. The group is run by mothers & grandmothers who generally also bring their child/grandchild with them. The children who attend this group will be accompanied by a parent/ guardian. We are looking for volunteers to assist co-ordinate and run the sessions on a roster. You will not be required to run the session every week. However, you will be required to comply to the Archdiocese's safeguarding policy, we will help you to obtain all the necessary documents.

If you think this is something that you are interested in taking part, please contact the parish office on 9700 3781 (Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm) and we will provide you with more information regarding this group.

SAFEGUARDING CORNER

2026 Theme is *'Every Conversation Matters, Shifting Conversation to Action'*

This year National Child Protection Week (6-12 September) is driving a stronger national focus on shifting conversations into meaningful action.

Conversations can spark new ideas and encourage reflection. But real change happens when those conversations translate into practical steps that create safer environments and stronger support for children and families. National Child Protection Week helps turn these conversations into action. Extending beyond the Week itself as a year-round national campaign, it brings people across Australia together to strengthen support systems, prevent harm and help children grow up safe and supported. By shifting conversation to action, we can build communities where every child not only feels heard but also experiences real safety, care and protection. Please visit <https://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw-theme/>

DANDENONG DEANERY DINNER

The Date for the next Deanery Dinner is **Wednesday 16th September 2026** at the Graduate's Restaurant, St John's Regional College (Caroline Street, Dandenong) at 5.30pm. Cost is \$48 per person for 3 course meal wine & Beer.

If you are interested in joining, RSVP is essential by Friday 11th Sept. 2026 Phone or Text Paddy 0422 296 961 or e-mail: dandenongdeanery@live.com.au

COME AWAY

The next Come Away Day for 2026 will be held at Holy Cross (207 Serpells Rd, Templestowe) on **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16th**. Begins at 9.30am in the Holy Cross. Concludes with celebration of the Eucharist. The suggested cost is \$30.00 (BYO Lunch) Just come as you are. For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com

Readings:

23 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Ezekiel 33:7-9
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20

www.universalis.com

24 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Christopher De Zilva, Ranjane Jeganathan, Edgar Tellis, Cecil Harper, Peter Shaw-Dennis, Peter Van Helmond, Pendry Jackson, Irma Dias, Fr Chris Mithen CP, Mary Antoun, Anne McCallister, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Cecile Potier, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell *and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues*

Those who have died

Tonia Messina, Danny Sugunasekera, Kerryn Carney, Denis Carlow, Stephen Chapman, Eduardo Dias, Sally D'Cruz, Yvonne Sherwin, Beatrice Cramer, Jacques Jolicoeur, Renea Jolicoeur, Clency Clark, Djuniati Hermawan *and all who are named in our church memorial book*

May they rest in peace

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD

Present Envelope number (if known) _____

RETURN TO
St Paul Apostle Parish Office
5 William Howell Drive
ENDEAVOUR HILLS
VIC 3802

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile _____ My age group is: ☐under 30 ☐30-39 ☐40-49 ☐50-59 ☐60-69 ☐70+**Envelopes**

My Stewardship Pledge will be: \$ _____

every: ☐week ☐month ☐quarter ☐half year ☐year**Or... Direct Debit from a nominated bank account**

(Forms available from the Parish Office)

My Stewardship Pledge will be: \$ _____

every: ☐fortnight ☐month ☐quarter ☐half year ☐year**Or....Credit Card**

Please debit my Credit Card with the sum of: \$ _____

Every: ☐month ☐quarter ☐half-year ☐year

Name on Card: _____

Please
only
tick one

Expiry Date: ____/____/____



I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AUTHORITY MAY BE CANCELLED IN WRITING AT MY OPTION

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

SPa Mens Club

TRIVIA NIGHT

Test Your Knowledge

Join the fun! B.Y.O nibbles and drinks.
\$20 per person (single tickets or tables available)

OCTOBER 16TH
7:00PM FOR 7:30PM START
St. Paul Apostle Endeavour Hills
South School Hall

RAFFLES | SILENT AUCTIONS

RSVP Peter: 0418345576
Rob: 0411237790