



# THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY / A

29 MARCH 2026

## FIRST READING

Isa 50:4-7

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied, he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24. R. v. 2

**R.** My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me. / They curl their lips, they toss their heads. / 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him: / let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**

2. Many dogs have surrounded me, / a band of the wicked beset me. / They tear holes in my hands and my feet, / I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

3. They divide my clothing among them. / They cast lots for my robe. / O Lord, do not leave me alone, / my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

4. I will tell of your name to my brethren / and praise you where they are assembled. / 'You who

fear the Lord give him praise; / all sons of Jacob, give him glory. / Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R.**

## SECOND READING

Phil 2:6-11

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians**

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! / Christ became obedient for us even to death, / dying on the cross. / Therefore God raised him on high / and gave him a name above all other names. / Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL

Mt 27:11-54

**N.** The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (**N.** Narrator **J.** Jesus **O.** Other single speaker **C.** Crowd, or more than one other speaker)

**N.** Jesus, then, was brought before the governor, and

the governor put to him this question:

**O.** Are you the king of the Jews?

**N.** Jesus replied:

**J.** It is you who say it.

**N.** But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him:

**O.** Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?

**N.** But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them,

**O.** Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?

**N.** For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message,

**O.** Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.

**N.** The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them:

**O.** Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

**N.** They said:



**The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South**  
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📮 P.O.Box 664, Elsternwick 3185 🌐 [www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross](http://www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross)

### PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Eugene San SAC  
Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam  
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

### 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

### HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

#### Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

#### Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

### 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-mins before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

### Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

### Next Week's Roster

#### Lectors:

Holy Week Per Special Roster

Easter Sunday 9:00am D Sarah 10:30am E Zheng

**Counters:** No Counting

### Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

\*\*\* Please see timetable below \*\*\*

Thanksgiving



## 2026 Holy Week

### HOLY THURSDAY 2 April

Holy Cross - 7:00pm

### GOOD FRIDAY 3 April

St Joseph's - Stations of the Cross - 10:00am

St Joseph's - The Passion of Our Lord - 3:00pm

### HOLY SATURDAY 4 April

Holy Cross - Easter Vigil Mass - 7:00pm

### EASTER SUNDAY 5 April

Holy Cross - 9:00am & 7:00pm (Divine Mercy)

St Joseph's - 10:30am



Image by freepik

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Mt 21:9)

Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Mt 26:42)

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill\*: -

*\*Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

**Recently Deceased:** Josephine Fogarty

**Death Anniversary:** Richard Grant, Natalia Widjaja

### Change of Mass Time

Mass will be at 7:30am at St Anthony's Church on Tuesday, 31st March, as the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral is at 10am. All welcome to the Chrism Mass at Cathedral!

### First Rite of Reconciliation

**6:30pm this Sunday, 29th March at Holy Cross Church.**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession or Penance) before Easter is a central part of preparing for the Resurrection. It is often described as an "Easter gift" from Christ, intended to cleanse the soul and restore one's relationship with God after the Lenten period of reflection.

### Participation During Holy Week

1. We are looking for 12 volunteers, men and women for the 'Washing of the Feet' on Holy Thursday, 2nd April at 7:00pm Mass at Holy Cross Church.
2. We need 14 volunteers to lead the 'Stations of the Cross' on Good Friday, 3rd April at the 10:00am Service at St Joseph's Church. Adults preferred.

Please contact the Parish Office or leave your name with our Clergy. Thank you.

### Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 28th March

Thank you to the Young Adults and Youth from our 3 churches for hosting the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of each month at St Joseph's Church.



This weekend, the Vigil Mass was preceded by Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions. The Adoration is an initiative by the ACYF participants, and the Confessions is in preparation to the Holy Week.

Keep up the good work!

### Holy Land Collection on Good Friday

This collection provides vital humanitarian and social aid to local Christian communities, often called the "living stones" of the Holy Land. In addition, it maintains over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

You can also donate directly to the Holy Land Commissariat <https://franciscans.org.au/holy-land-commissariat/>

### Project Compassion

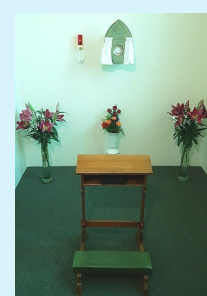
Project Compassion Boxes are still available in the church foyers. Please take one and also give some to anyone who is unable to come to church. You can return the Project Compassion Boxes during collections.



## Lenten Eucharistic Adoration Challenge

Start on any day according to your convenience and carry on for 31 consecutive days of Eucharistic Adoration by visiting the Blessed Sacrament e.g. at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick.

For more info, email [angelica.barrios.au@gmail.com](mailto:angelica.barrios.au@gmail.com) or the Parish Office. Pamphlets available in the Church foyer.



### 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 with a security tag. Contact the Parish Office to apply. A refundable deposit will be required. Concessions available on application.

## PPC and PFC Meeting held on 24 March 2026

Summary of our recent meeting:

### 1. Thank you to Paul Hicks

We express our gratitude to Paul Hicks for his dedicated service to our Parish Community. His leadership, passion, and commitment over the last 5 years as our Parish Council member and recently, co-Chair of the PPC has been invaluable.

### 2. Financial Report

Our Accountant joined us at this meeting and reported positive results over the last financial year. We are in a good position to consider some new capital works and to implement maintenance plans for our parish properties.

### 3. Youth and Young Adults Group

- Our Youth and Young Adults requested for Eucharistic Adoration before the Vigil Mass commencing Saturday, 28th March 2026.
- They will be encouraged to form a sub-committee and to put forth other ideas to continue enhancing the group.

### 4. Small Group Discipleship

Deacon John will work with some prospective leaders to prepare an Info Session in April to recruit and start online training with Everett Fritz.

### 5. Maintenance and Renovations

#### Holy Cross

- Consideration: Hall extension and dual occupancy of Presbytery land.

#### St Joseph's

- Consideration: Community space and Presbytery renovation. A recommended architect will be engaged to prepare a design proposal. PPC to finalise a vision statement. All current agreements for use of parish land will also be reviewed in the process.

### 6. Offertory Program

- A new offertory giving program will be launched in May.
- QR Code and terminals for thanksgiving will be out soon.

### 7. Other Matters:

- St Joseph Presbytery is now occupied by Fr Eugene. A meeting was held with the Melbourne Archdiocese and The Regnum Marianum Hungarian Catholic Association regarding temporary residence for their Chaplain. Now pending a decision from the Hungarian Community.
- First Eucharist classes will commence during the school holidays for children of Parish families preparing to receive the Sacrament on Pentecost Sunday.
- Parish Calendar of Events will be drafted and tabled for discussion at the next meeting.
- Parish Prayer cards will be printed and made available at church pews so we can recite the prayer together.
- RCIA - At the Easter Vigil Mass, 2 Catechumens will be Baptised and 1 Candidate will receive Confirmation.

## The Holy Week

### From the Teachings of the Church and the words of the Popes



Holy Week is the most sacred week of the entire year. It's the week where everything changes, where heaven and earth meet; where death is defeated and humanity is saved. The 7 most important things we need to know about Holy Week are:

1. Holy Week is not a memorial; it's not just remembering what Jesus Christ did 2000 years ago. Pope Pius XII said "the Liturgy of the Holy Week is not a mere commemoration, but making present the mysteries of our Redemption."

When we participate in the Liturgies of the Holy Week; it's not like watching a play that re-enacts something of the past. It's where the past become present, and the Sacrifice of Calvary becomes accessible to us here and now.

2. Palm Sunday: Pope Francis said, "The King enters his city, and the people do treat him like a king. They shout out Hosanna, waving palms. The palms are symbols of victory, but the victory does not come without the Cross. Palm Sunday teaches us, "Enthusiasm is easy. Following Jesus to Calvary is hard."

3. Holy Thursday: Three events in one night. The Eucharist and the Priesthood are instituted. The church is born. This is the day of the Washing of the Feet. Pope Leo XIV said, "On Holy Thursday we see the face of the God who serves, the same hands that will be nailed to the Cross, were the hands that washed the feet of his friends" The Agony in the Garden follows. Jesus sweats blood and experiences the full wait of what awaits him.

4. Good Friday: The only day with no Mass, because on this day the Sacrifice itself is happening, no need to represent it. Pope Benedict XVI said "On Good Friday the tree of death becomes the Tree of Life". CCC teaches, "By his obedience to the Father, Jesus transforms the curse of death into a blessing."

5. Holy Saturday: This is the day of silence and descent. Jesus is in the tomb, yet, something profound is happening. Jesus descends to the dead, into hell, the realm of the dead, the place where the righteous who died before Christ were waiting. Jesus leads them out. We all have days when God seems silent. Holy Saturday teaches us "Even in the silence Jesus is working, even in darkness, redemption is happening."

6. Easter Vigil: Pope Pius XII called it "The mother of all vigils." The greatest liturgy of the year. Pope Francis said "Easter Vigil is the journey through history with Christ." Pope Leo XIV said, "Easter Vigil is the night when death dies and life explodes into the world".

7. Easter Sunday: It is not the finale or the conclusion. This is the beginning of 50 days of Easter Season. Pope John Paul II wrote, "Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, it is the first day of the new creation, every Sunday is a little Easter."

*So, let's not just watch the Holy Week this year, but enter into it. Have a Blessed Holy Week!*

*Fr Leenus.*

The Ancestry: One donkey says to another, "I come from a very prestigious family. One of my ancestors carried the Holy Family into Bethlehem, and another carried Jesus on Palm Sunday!"

## Tony's Café

Tony's Café will close at 5pm on Holy Thursday, to enable everyone to attend the evening Mass, and will be open from Tuesday the following week as usual.

**C.** Barabbas.  
**N.** Pilate said to them:  
**O.** What am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?  
**N.** They all said:  
**C.** Let him be crucified!  
**N.** Pilate asked:  
**O.** Why? What harm has he done?  
**N.** But they shouted all the louder,  
**C.** Let him be crucified!  
**N.** Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said:  
**O.** I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.  
**N.** And the people, to a man, shouted back:  
**C.** His blood be on us and on our children!  
**N.** Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.  
 The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying:  
**C.** Hail, king of the Jews!  
**N.** And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.  
 On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had

reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'. At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said:

**C.** So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!

**N.** The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying:

**C.** He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God'.

**N.** Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice:

**J.** Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?

**N.** That is: 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said:

**C.** The man is calling on Elijah,

**N.** and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said:

**C.** Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.

**N.** But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

*All kneel and pause a moment.*

**N.** At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people.

Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said:

**C.** In truth this was a son of God.

*Longer form, Mt 26:14–27:66*

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