

THE SAVING WORD

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS / C

14 SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Num 21: 4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers.

When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here: we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 77: 1-2, 34-38. R. v. 7

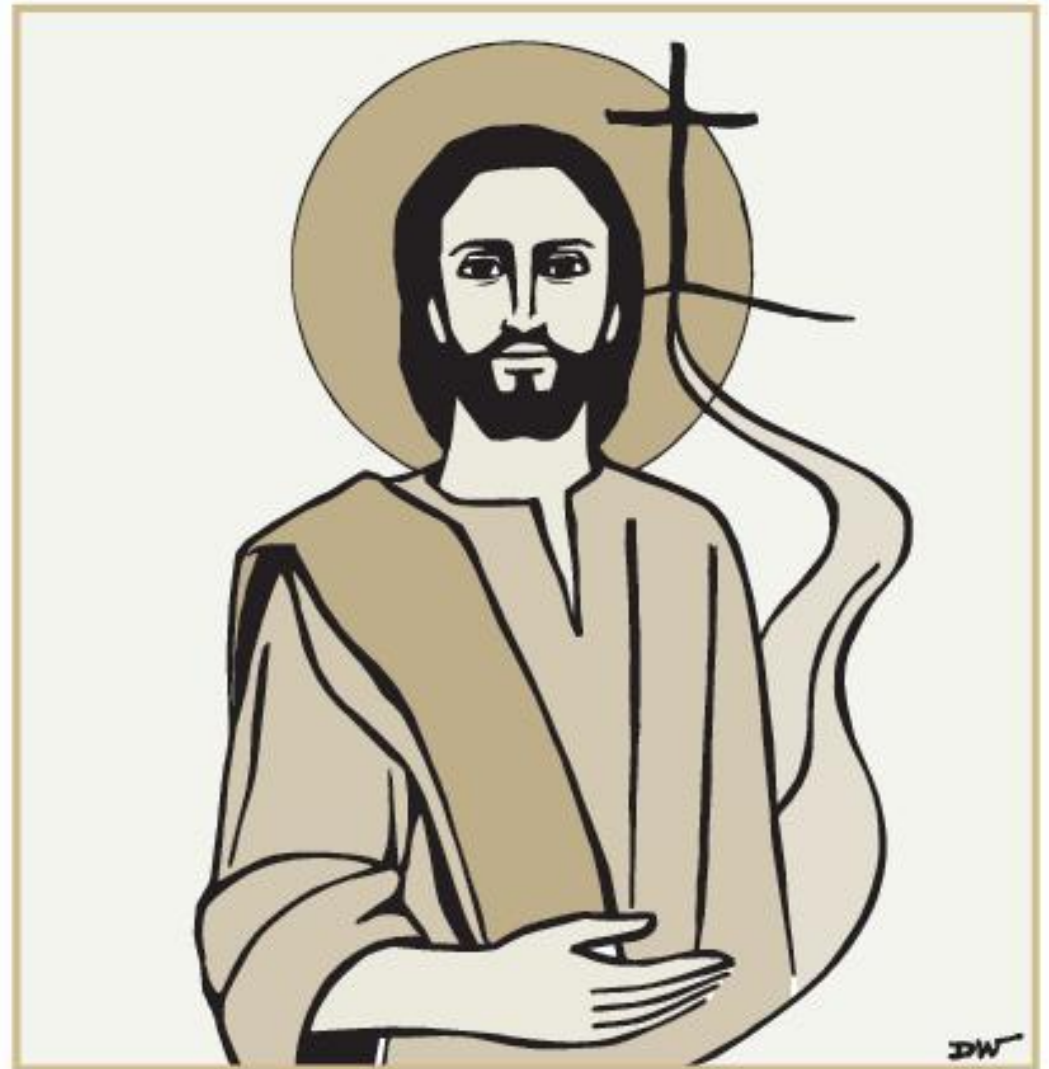
R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; /
turn your ear to the words of my mouth /
I will open my mouth in a parable / and reveal
hidden lessons of the past. **R.**

2. When he slew them then they would seek
him, / return and seek him in earnest. / They
would remember that God was their rock, /
God the Most High their redeemer. **R.**

3. But the words they spoke were mere
flattery; / they lied to him with their lips. / For
their hearts were not truly with him; / they
were not faithful to his covenant. **R.**

4. Yet he who is full of compassion / forgave
their sin and spared them. / So often he held
back his anger / when he might have stirred up
his rage. **R.**



SECOND READING

Phil 2: 6-11

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

He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him.

The state of Jesus Christ was divine,
yet he 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.



PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany 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:

Saturday 6:30pm M Ellis

Sunday 9:00am A Powell 10:30am M Nelson

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 15 Sep: Our Lady of Sorrows

Tue 16 Sep: St Cornelius

Sat 20 Sep: Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang
& companions

Sun 21 Sep: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Thanksgiving

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we ask God to grant us the grace of His redemption through Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, as we meditate on the Cross's mystery on earth. Our prayers are a powerful invocation for grace and courage to embrace our own "crosses" daily, and a gratitude for Christ's sacrifice

and the courage He displayed in facing death for us.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, for by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world!

Wishing all our parishioners a

Very Happy Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross!

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows

Sunday, 14 September, 1:30pm

Holy Cross Church, Caulfield South

Adoration, Prayers, Time of Mercy, Holy Mass and Personal Veneration of a Holy Relic of the True Cross.

Info: www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 65:4)

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (John 12:32)

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Tony Messina, May Li**

** Names will be published for a month, unless otherwise requested.*

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING (VAD)

Please join the campaign to defeat the Victorian Government's plan to make doctor assisted suicide and euthanasia more widely available. Proposed changes to the Victorian government's Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 (VAD 2017) (planned before end of 2025) will dramatically expand access to doctor assisted suicide and euthanasia by removing vital safeguards. These changes include:

- Removing the ban on health care professionals raising VAD with patients;
- Forcing health care professionals to give information about VAD against their conscience;
- Extending the prognosis of expected death from 6 to 12 months - casting a much wider net;
- Shortening the period between a first and final request for VAD (from 9 days) to only five days.

It is critical we contact MPs to ask them to vote against the proposed amendments.

By Post: A campaign pack is available in the Church foyer. This includes 6 letters and self adhesive labels. Add your name, address and signature to the letter. You only need to supply envelopes and stamps.

By Email: If you prefer to send emails, contact the Parish Office or maritadunphy@yahoo.com (with VAD in the subject line). An email version will be sent to you, together with a list of MPs you may choose to write to.

Your support is appreciated.

Trivia Lunch @ Holy Cross Parish Hall

Join us on Wednesday, 17th September at 12-noon.

Bring your own lunch and enjoy the trivia session and a catchup. All are welcome.

Young Adults Hosting Mass - 27th September

We look forward to celebrating Mass with the Young Adults and Youth from our 3 churches.

This is an initiative from the Young Adults' Group to host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.

Our Young Adults are aged 18-35 and our Youth are those aged 7-17.

For the slightly older but still young-at-heart, you are most welcome to join the group as Youth Coordinators; to support the Young Adults and also to guide our Youth at Mass and during fellowship.

Living Holy Wild: The Joyful Holiness of Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati



By the intercession of Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, may we embrace the wild, beautiful call to holiness. May we give everything to the Lord and may we use everything he's given us to glorify him and to make him known and loved. In

doing so, may we find, like these two young men did, not only our deepest joy, but our truest purpose.

(Excerpt from article in Melbourne Catholic)

March For The Babies www.marchforthebabies.com

Come and show your support and march for the babies at 1.00pm Saturday, 11th October at the Treasury Gardens, Cnr Spring St and Wellington Pde, Melbourne.

This is the 17th annual March for the Babies, and every year since 2009, thousands of Victorians have gathered peacefully with grief and hope to remember the ever-increasing number of babies killed by abortion in this state since the Government legalized abortion-till-birth.

Wear pink and blue for the babies!

40 Days For Life

The international pro-life campaign, 40 Days for Life, runs in Melbourne from 24th September to 2nd November.

For donations to support this cause:

40 Days for Life Melbourne BSB: 063167 ACC: 11053337

For more information: 40daysforlife.com/en/melbourne

Safeguarding Sunday 14 September

Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts.

It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people and invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.



Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All children and young people who come to our parish have a right to feel and be safe.

All volunteers are reminded to ensure they:

1. Have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) card. When completing or updating your details online, please use the following details:

Organisation: St Joseph's & Holy Cross Parish

Address: 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185 or 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South, VIC 3162

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185

2. All parish volunteers over the age of 18 are required by the Archdiocese to undertake the Safeguarding online training every 3 years. Complete the training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>



Australia Catholic Youth Festival 2025

We are happy to announce that we have a total of 10 participants who have confirmed their attendance to the ACYF from 30 Nov - 2 Dec.

We will be inviting our pilgrims to a few meetings to get to know each other, discuss fundraising ideas and start preparation for the event.

Please keep our young people in your prayers for them to grow in their faith and flourish in our parish community.

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

"The cross is the school of love."

St. Maximilian Kolbe

"If you seek patience, you will find no better example than the Cross.

Great patience occurs in two ways: either when one patiently suffers much, or when one suffers things which one is able to avoid and yet does not avoid.

Christ endured much on the cross, and did so patiently, because when he suffered he did not threaten; he was led like a sheep to the slaughter and he did not open his mouth."

St. Thomas Aquinas

"It is not the finest wood that feeds the fire of Divine love, but the wood of the Cross"

St. Ignatius of Loyola

"He himself bore our sins in His body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

By His wounds you have been healed."

1 Peter 2:24

"It is to the Cross that the Christian is challenged to follow his Master: no path of redemption can make a detour around it."

Hans Urs von Balthasar

"The road is narrow. He who wishes to travel it more easily must cast off all things and use the cross as his cane. In other words, he must be truly resolved to suffer willingly for the love of God in all things."

St John of the Cross

"Nowhere other than looking at himself in the mirror of the Cross can man better understand how much he is worth"

St Anthony of Padua

"Remember that when your heart feels restless, when your heart feels hurt, when your heart feels like breaking... 'I am precious to Him. He has called me by name. I am His. He loves me.'

And to prove that love He died on the cross."

St Teresa of Calcutta

"No one should be ashamed of the cross of Christ, through which the world has been redeemed."

St. Leo the Great, pope (400-461 A.D.)

"Let us love the Cross very much, for it is there that we discover our life"

St. Maria Goretti

An atheist scientist came to God and said, "We've figured out how to make a man without you." God said, "OK, let me see you do it." So the atheist bent down to the ground and scooped up a handful. But God stopped him and said, "Oh, no you don't. Get your own dirt!"

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your cross you have redeemed
the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 3: 13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who came down from heaven,
the Son of Man who is in heaven;
and the Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have
eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may
not be lost
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be
saved.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

LIFTED UP

Today's Feast moves us away from our usual journey through Luke's Gospel. Instead, our focus is with John's Gospel. We are in a different world. John 3 concerns the engagement which Jesus has with Nicodemus, a Jewish leader and, as we learn at the Gospel's end, a potential disciple. In this chapter, the evangelist seeks to reflect upon Jesus' origins. John affirms that Jesus, God's Word and source of Wisdom, is from God. He 'came down from Heaven'. Jesus is God's exalted heavenly and human presence. He will be 'lifted up', that is, in John's story of Jesus' passion and death, he will be 'lifted up' on the cross and will be 'lifted up' in exaltation by the Father in resurrection. Jesus' death is also his exaltation.

In today's Gospel, the evangelist draws on the imagery of the fashioned bronze serpent that Moses 'lifts up', that we hear today in the first reading from the *Book of Numbers*. The serpent figure rescues the suffering Israelites. For John, this, too, is Jesus' quest: to rescue and bring eternal life to suffering humanity. John's passage exudes hope and divine communion with humanity and creation. God loves the 'cosmos' so much that God's very being and expression in the Word, Jesus, suffers for it. This word, 'cosmos', comprises the whole of creation, including humanity.

Palpable optimism permeates this Gospel passage. For John, God wants nothing or anyone to be 'lost'. All are found in the Word enfleshed in Jesus. God's community with creation and humanity is sealed and eternal. This is such a rich Gospel for today's Feast. Every line deserves meditation.

Fr Michael Trainor