

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

21 SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Amos 8:4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos

The Lord spoke against those who buy the poor for money.

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country,

you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?

Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel,

by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweeping of the wheat.'

The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 112:1-2, 4-8. R. cf. vv. 1, 7

R. Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor. (or Alleluia!)

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord, / praise the name of the Lord! / May the name of the Lord be blessed / both now and for evermore! **R.**

2. High above all nations is the Lord, / above the heavens his glory. / Who is like the Lord, our God, / who has risen on high to his throne / yet stoops from the heights to look down, / to look down upon heaven and earth? **R.**

3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly, / from the dungheap he raises the poor / to set him in the company of princes, / yes, with the princes of his people. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Tim 2:1-8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Let prayers be offered to God for everyone; he wants all people to be saved.

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

■ The word of the Lord.



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
Parish Office: 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162 ☎ 95238407 ✉ elsternwick@cam.org.au
📮 P.O.Box 664, Elsternwick 3185 🌐 www.melbocatholic.org/stjosephholycross

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 Youth & Young Adults

Sunday 9:00am TBA 10:30am E Galero

Counters: M Beaumont & B Leong

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Tue 23 Sep: St Pius of Pietrelcina

Sat 27 Sep: St Vincent de Paul

Sun 28 Sep: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Thanksgiving



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.

Our pilgrims will be invited to gatherings to catch-up, discuss fundraising ideas and start preparation for the event. Next gathering is at the Young Adults & Youth Mass.

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

Young Adults & Youth 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.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 118:4-5)

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

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

Recently Deceased: **Antonio Grasso**

Death Anniversary: **Cristina Cameron**

Cenacle Prayer

This month's Cenacle Prayer session will be held at St Christopher's, Syndal on Monday, 22nd September at 7:30pm.



Jubilee Year Pilgrimage 2025



Saturday 11th October, travel by car and bus from ...visiting Churches to the west and north of Melbourne.

Returning to St Patrick's Cathedral in time to allow those wanting to participate in the 'March for the Babies' (see details below). If interested, please leave your details in the Expression of Interest form at the church foyer.

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!

Plant Sale - 9th November at St Anthony's

Potential gardeners, please start planting seedlings in preparation for the St Anthony's plant sale! Donations of potting mix very welcome. Proceeds go to Tony's Café.

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>

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:

Stand
Against
Euthanasia

- 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.

Many thanks to all who have sent the campaign letters to the politicians to oppose the Victorian government's plan to make Voluntary Assisted Dying more readily available by amending the ACT by the end of 2025.

New young saints encourage faithful to live life to the full ~ Excerpt from article written by Carol Glatz (CNS) ~

The greatest risk in life is to waste it by not seeking to follow God's plan, Pope Leo XIV said, proclaiming two new saints — two young laymen of the 20th and 21st centuries.



'Sts Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upward and make them masterpieces,' the Pope said on Sunday 7 September.

'The simple but winning formula of their holiness,' he said, is accessible to everyone at any time. 'They encourage us with their words: "Not I, but God," as Carlo used to say. And Pier Giorgio: "If you have God at the centre of all your actions, then you will reach the end".'

'Brothers and sisters, today is a wonderful celebration ... for the whole church, for the whole world,' he said before the Mass. Pope Leo asked that everyone 'feel in our hearts the same thing that Pier Giorgio and Carlo experienced: this love for Jesus Christ, especially in the Eucharist, but also in the poor, in our brothers and sisters.'

'All of you, all of us, are also called to be saints,' he said, before leaving to prepare for Mass and paying homage to a statue of Mary with baby Jesus and the reliquaries containing the relics of the two young men.

In his homily, the Pope underlined Jesus' call in the day's Gospel reading 'to abandon ourselves without hesitation to the adventure that he offers us, with the intelligence and strength that comes from his Spirit, that we can receive to the extent that we empty ourselves of the things and ideas to which we are attached, in order to listen to his word.'

That is what the two new saints did and what every disciple of Christ is called to do, he said. Many people, especially when they are young, he said, face a kind of 'crossroads' when they reflect on what to do with their life.

'The new saints cultivated their love for God and for their brothers and sisters through simple acts, available to everyone.'

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Dishonest Servant



Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Today's Gospel is a bit of a puzzling one.

It sounds as if Jesus is in praise of the dishonesty of the servant. It only sounds so; in fact Jesus was praising not the dishonesty but the thoughtfulness of the servant in planning his future. Today's first reading says, "a dishonest business system is not tolerated by God."

The Gospel passage has at least 3 topics. The 1st topic is preparedness. The steward of the parable was concerned for his future and he did something about it. We should also be thoughtful of and prepared for our eternal life and do something about it now.

Secondly, the Gospel speaks about trustworthiness; We need to be trustworthy in all things, in little things as well as in great things; in matters concerning one self and in matters concerning others; especially in handling money and goods.

Thirdly, money/wealth must not be given too much importance. God should be given the highest importance. Money will give you some success, but one day it will fail you.

Money in itself is often seen as something neutral. It depends on our attitude towards it and also on how we use it or misuse it. If we use it thoughtfully and responsibly, that is ok. If we use money selfishly and irresponsibly, it can ruin our lives forever.

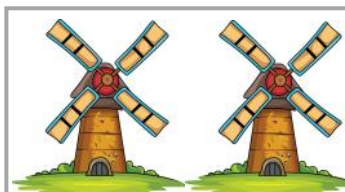
According to Jesus, money is not even something neutral. He calls it "mammon". That word is not a neutral word. Mammon means: anything we put our heart and soul into so that we forget everything else. Money is like that: it makes us forget the more important things in our lives. It takes us away from our healthy relationships. It can blind fold us.

Jesus adds a practical thought: all this works out very well in little things. Most of our life is made up of little things. We don't have to have a big budget to take care of our little needs. Each day, think of life after death. Be open to share some of your money/goods with others.

In any way, we should not be like the foolish rich man who was once carrying a bag full of money on his shoulders, when a robber stopped him at gun point and demanded, 'Give me your money or I take your life'. The rich man, mad after his money, replied, 'You take my life, I keep my money'.

We cannot forfeit our eternal life for the sake of the little wealth here on earth.

Fr Leenus



Two windmills are standing on a wind farm. One asks, "What's your favourite kind of music?" The other replies, "I'm a big metal fan."

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



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 using a security tag.

Contact the Parish Office to apply for one.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor,
to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 16:10-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

You cannot be slaves both of God and of money.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things can be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own? 'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form Lk 16:1-13



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited.
Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS
PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135.
Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture
readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder &
Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms,
A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New
translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation.
All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout,
commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025.
No 2108. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

RELEASE OF DEBT

Today's Gospel returns us to a favourite repetitive Lukan theme. It is about the disciples' attitudes to wealth and possessions. The teaching takes the form of a story from Jesus. The main character is a rich landowner – a character with which some in Luke's Gospel community could well identify with given that they, too, were property owners.

There's a problem which the owner identifies. He presumes that his manager has been 'wasteful with his [the owner's] property'. We are not sure what 'wasteful' means in this case and we can superimpose our expectations from our Western ideas on to what might be going on. But there could be another agenda at play from Luke's world. Wealth came about through other people becoming poorer. The evangelist wants the wealthy to reconsider their responsibility to poorer Gospel members. The manager could be acting to redistribute wealth in a way that the property owner considers 'wasteful.' The manager's 'redistribution program' might also be operating later when he considers what he will do after he has been fired from his position because of the greed of his landowner.

The release of debt that the manager brings about from those in debt (a key petition in the 'Lord's Prayer') is a release from greater poverty. The wisdom that emerges from the story and is explicated in the final lines of the Gospel is about the use of wealth. It is, for the faith community, the building up of friendship and, for the disciple, to be free. This is being released from being possessed by possessions. Today's Gospel is a timely reminder for us in a world of wealth, bitcoins and foreign exchange.

Fr Michael Trainor