

THE SAVING WORD

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE / C

23 NOVEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

2 Sam 5:1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel

They anointed David king of Israel.

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 121:1-5. R. cf. v. 2

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: / 'Let us go to God's house.' / And now our feet are standing / within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**
2. Jerusalem is built as a city / strongly compact. / It is there that the tribes go up, / the tribes of the Lord. **R.**
3. For Israel's law it is, / there to praise the Lord's name. / There were set the thrones of judgement / of the house of David. **R.**

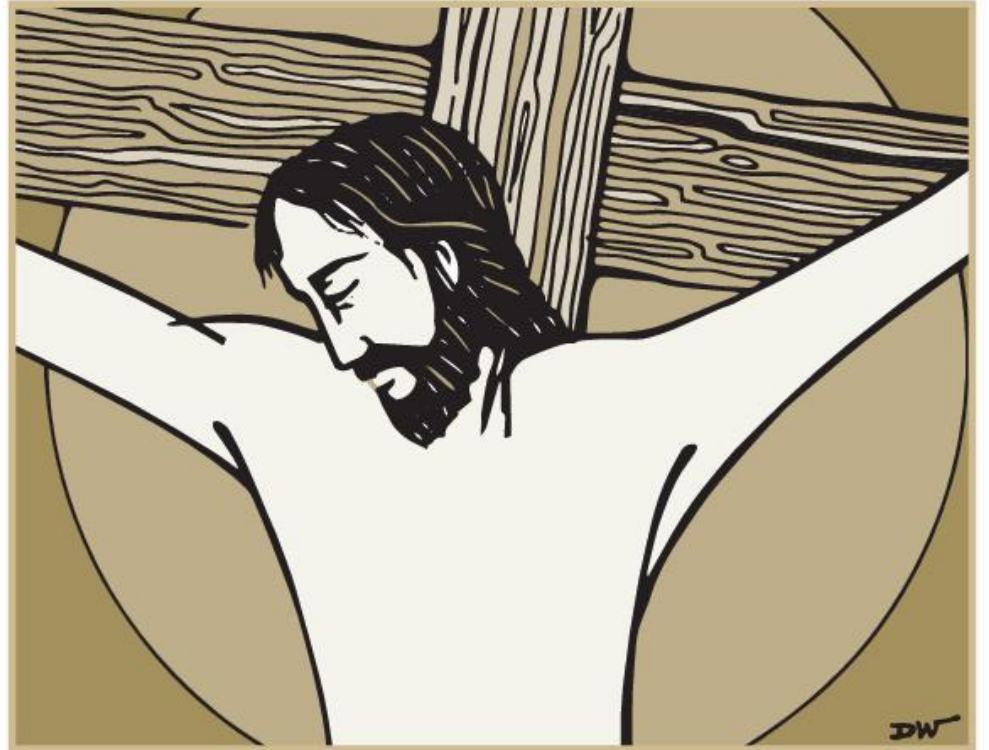
SECOND READING

Col 1:12-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

He has taken us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.



Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers — all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

■ The word of the Lord.



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

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: \$933.85 Presbytery: \$983.85

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm S Bettoni

Sunday 9:00am M Nelson 10:30am D Joseph

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 24 Nov: Sts Andrew Dung-Lac and companions

Sun 30 Nov: 1st Sunday of Advent



Thanksgiving

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Apoc 5:12; 1:6)

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 28:10-11)

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Tony Messina, Paulette Dobbin, Carol Burgess, Pam O'Reilly, Bernie Smith, Marie Gaudry

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

Recently Deceased: Gael Stevenson

Death Anniversary: -

Pallottine Remember in November

This Saturday 22 November at the 6:30pm Vigil Mass at St Joseph's, Elsternwick.

After Mass, all are invited to a light dinner at the Presbytery.



ACYF 2025 - 1 week to go!

Our ACYF Pilgrims and Leaders are making final preparations to attend the festival starting next Sunday.

A Formation Session is taking place Sunday, 23 November at 12pm at St Joseph's Presbytery and a Commissioning Mass at 10:30am Mass next Sunday, November 30.

Join us at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 30 November as we welcome over 6,000 young pilgrims to Melbourne. Let us come together to share in their joy and offer a warm Melbourne welcome. Program as follows:

- 1:30 pm - Melbourne Catholic Festa
- 2:30 pm - Reception of the WYD Cross & Icon
- 3:00 pm - Pilgrimage Walk (to MCEC for ACYF Pilgrims)

Please keep our Pilgrims in your prayers that they may enjoy a safe and fruitful festival.



Christ is Our King

St Patrick's Cathedral Mass at on Sunday 23 November 2025 with **Cardinal Mykola Bychok** and **Archbishop Peter Comensoli**, starting 2:00pm followed by a special Eucharistic Procession, Benediction, and Consecration to Our King.

Our Lord promised:

He who declares Himself for me, I will declare myself for Him!

Please be an apostle of Our King, and invite your family members, the youth, parishioners, and every community to be part of this wonderful celebration.

A unique event organized by The Combined Societies of Mary



Advent Scripture Reflection Sessions

"Advent Scripture Reflection" sessions will be held on 4 consecutive Fridays, commencing on 28th November 2025 from 7pm to 8pm at St. Anthony's Church.

All welcome!

Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

1. Do you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion at home or at a care facility?
2. Would you like to volunteer as a Special Minister for this important Ministry to help offer Communion Service and Pastoral visits to those in need?

Please contact the Parish Office for more information. Training will be provided and visits are usually made with our Clergy or another Special Minister.



Columban Calendars and Vinnies Christmas Cards will be on sale starting November after weekend Masses.

Calendars \$10.00 each

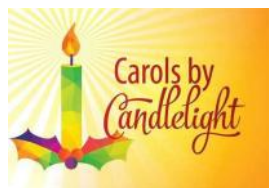
Christmas Cards \$5.00 per pack of 5 cards

First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the children who made their First Reconciliation on Saturday 22 November. A big thank you to our Clergy, the Sacramental team, parents and carers for their commitment in preparing the children for this important Sacrament.



Carols by Candlelight at St Anthony's



Sunday, 14th December at St Anthony's Parish Hall, immediately after the 5pm Mass. This is a joint event by the Sister Parishes of St Joseph's & Holy Cross and St Anthony's & St Aloysius'.

We are looking for solo/group performances with Christmas themed songs and approximately 5 mins per performance.

If you would like to be part of the Organising Team, please contact our Parish Offices by this Sunday.

The Christmas Travelling Crib

There are 7 travelling Cribs seeking a stop over for 2 days at family homes in the Parishes and Schools of St Joseph's & Holy Cross and St Anthony's, commencing December 1st until Christmas Eve.



For the Schools, this will start a week earlier. Those who want to represent each Parish and School in this program need to meet a.s.a.p.

Please contact Fr. Pat or the Parish Office.

ACU Youth Advisory Group

Have your say on gender, masculinity, and faith.

The Australian Catholic University (ACU) is looking for young people aged 18–25 to help guide a research project exploring how young people understand gender and masculinity in religious settings and content.

What's involved: Join a small group of peers in workshops. Help design research questions and activities. Share your ideas about gender, identity, and faith. Decide how findings are shared and used.

Why get involved: Make your voice heard and influence research and practice. Develop skills in research, teamwork, and leadership. Connect with other young people with similar interests. Be supported in a safe, respectful environment.

Time commitment: Approximately 6 hours across multiple sessions, scheduled to suit participants. As a thank you for your time and participation, you will be reimbursed

How to apply: Email gabrielle.hunt@acu.edu.au to receive a full info sheet and can ask any questions before joining.

Your participation is voluntary, confidential, and fully supported. You can withdraw at anytime.

Feast of Christ the King

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus



2025 years ago a boy was born in a cave-manger, and they called him a King; "Where is the new born King?" they asked. 33 years later he was brought face to face with another King, Pontius Pilate, who asked Jesus, "Are you a King?" Jesus answered, "You say so". Jesus probably meant to say, "You say that I am a King, but I say I am the King, The King of Kings." So, we gladly acclaim Jesus to be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The irony was that Pilate the King was in his royal robes, but the King of Kings, the King of the Universe was facing him wearing just a tunic, that too, torn by the flogging. Pilate was seated on a majestic throne, King of Kings was made to stand there, his two hands tied. Pilate was wearing a crown of Gold and Jewels, while the King of Kings was made to wear a crown of thorns. Pilate the king was holding a sceptre, showing his authority and power, while the King of Kings, Jesus was given a reed to hold in mockery. Pilate the king was in his full earthly glory, while the King of Kings was standing like a sheep ready for slaughter.

That was some 2000 years ago. Today, as we celebrate not the Good Friday, but the Solemnity of Christ the King, we see that the roles are reversed. Today, the King of Kings has the clouds for his throne. He is even riding on the clouds as his chariot. No soldiers around him pulling and pushing, but millions of angels to carry out his orders. The King of Kings is shown today in his full power and glory. Brought before his Judgement Seat is not Pontius Pilate, or Herod or Caesar only, but the whole humanity, including you and me.

Let us be thankful to Christ the King for having called us to partake of His eternal Kingdom. Let us always remain loyal to Christ not only on this feast of Christ the King, but on every day of our life, be submitted to Him. He loves to be the King of our hearts, the King of our lives. Let us invite Him to rule over our lives according to His Holy Will.

Thy Kingdom Come!

Fr Leenus.

God tells his angels, "Did you know that I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth? Isn't that good?"

The angels say, "Yes, but what will you do now?"

God says, "I think I'll call it a day."

RED NOVEMBER

During the month of November, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) invites everyone around Australia and New Zealand to remember and pray in a particular way for Christians who suffer persecution for their faith.



St Patrick's Cathedral will be lit up in red from 18 to 24 November, while parishes across Melbourne and Victoria are hosting events to commemorate the occasion. From Boronia to Camberwell to North Melbourne, there will be 'Red Masses' and 'Red Rosaries' for people to join. For further details, visit <https://rednovember.org/home>

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).
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>

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF VICTORIA AND WAGGA WAGGA



Coffee & Croissants
WITH
Katie

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST
THURSDAY
4 DECEMBER 2025
7.30am – 8.45am

Join us for a special conversation as Fr Nathan Rawlins sits down with international speaker Katie Prejean McGrady exploring faith and life.



VICTORIA HOTEL
215 LITTLE COLLINS ST
MELBOURNE

\$45 (incl. Continental Breakfast)
\$35 for League Members
\$30 for Students

TryBooking www.trybooking.com/DGQUH
info@cwlvicw.org.au / cwlvicw.org.au
Bookings close 27 Nov (unless sold out).



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of
David our father;

blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 23:35-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

*Lord, remember me when you come into your
kingdom.*

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others', they said 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One'. The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'. Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said, 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

JESUS, REMEMBER ME

Today is the final Sunday of the present Liturgical Year, Year C, the year of Luke's Gospel. We anticipate the new liturgical year commencing next Sunday and look back over the year that has been. What emerges is the recognition that, throughout each Sunday of the past year, God has been present, revealed to us through Luke's portrait of Jesus and teaching us the essence of discipleship.

Today's final liturgical selection from Luke's Gospel sums up what those essentials are. In a scene from the passion narrative, Jesus is ironically declared 'king' by those who jeer at him. But his kingship is not about self-salvation, as the evangelist frequently indicates, but about the salvation of humanity and creation. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus seeks to bring wholeness to divided humanity and struggling creation. This is exemplified in the final scene of today's Gospel. Two criminals with Jesus are in their final moments of life before death finally occurs through Rome's torturous and totally debasing act of crucifixion. One of the criminals publicly declares Jesus' innocence and then asks, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

This desire to be 'remembered' by Jesus is the desire of all of us, to be re-membered, to be re-connected to God's life through one's communion with Jesus, especially in the moment of death. This final Gospel scene from Luke for this liturgical year invites each of us to hear Jesus' promise to the repentant one, that we shall be with Jesus in eternal paradise. It is the comforting word we and our world need to hear.

Fr Michael Trainor