



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

5 William Hovell Drv, Endeavour Hills 3802

T. 9700 3781 / F. 9700 6228

didi.karkas@cam.org.au

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



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 4-5 July, 2026

The Gift Of Generosity

"The significant point for Fr Tom was that this plain Filipino girl, who never struggled with the definition of love, exemplified it by giving him one of the few things she had in life."

These words appeared in a newspaper column in the United States. The writer had been deeply moved by a story shared in a homily by Fr Tom Convery and she wanted her readers to experience the same insight.

The story itself was simple. Many years ago, in Masinloc, a small town in the Philippines, Fr Tom was hearing confessions. A young girl approached the confessional and gently parted the curtain. In her hand, she held a kaymito, a star apple. She asked him if he would like it. "Yes," he replied, "if you want to give it, I would enjoy it very much." She placed the fruit in his hand, turned and quietly walked away. No more was said.

That child has probably long forgotten the moment. Fr Tom continued his missionary work in many places.

Yet, years later, he would reflect on that simple act as something extraordinary. The girl came from a place of real poverty. Her family had very little and there were few prospects for change. But that was not the point. The point was that she understood love, not as something to be explained, but as something to be given. In that moment, she became a giver. Her gesture reminds me of another experience from my own time in mission.

On one occasion, two men walked in from a remote barrio to accompany me back to their village for their annual fiesta. One carried my suitcase, containing the chalice and vestments for Mass. The other carried a second bag. We walked for eight hours through rough terrain. By the time we arrived, the bags were heavy and we were exhausted.

When we finally opened the second bag, I discovered what they had carried all that way. Inside were a few cans of soft drink, a couple of bottles of beer, some sardines and a jar of marmalade. It was all for me. One of those men had walked into town the day before, stayed overnight and then walked back again carrying those items, simply so that the priest might have what they thought he would enjoy. I doubt they have thought about it since. I have never forgotten it. Anyone who has spent time among people who have little will recognise this pattern.

They share what they have. Often, they give from what they need themselves. The challenge for the one receiving is not simply to accept the gift, but to receive it with humility and grace. Yet a deeper question lingers. Can we respond with the same generosity?

Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when he said that the Good News is preached to the poor. It is not only so that they may receive it, but so that, in their own way, they may preach it back to us. Their lives become a living Gospel, one that challenges our assumptions and stretches our capacity to give.

In moments like these, something of God becomes visible.

When generosity is shared, both the giver and the receiver are touched by grace. There is a quiet recognition that love is not measured by how much we have, but by how freely we give.

It also helps us understand a familiar phrase often heard from those returning from mission: "I received far more than I ever gave. The Gospel has a way of turning things upside—down. In a world that often measures worth by possessions and success, the poor remind us of a different truth. They reveal that even the smallest gift, given with love, carries a richness beyond measure. And perhaps that is the lesson we are all invited to learn.

(by Fr. Brendan O'Sullivan in Far East Magazine, ed. June)

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

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

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

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
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 2026

First Reader: Isaiah 55: 10-11

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord
"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower
and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out
from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
This is the Word of God

Psalm

You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,

For so you have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges, softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty;
your pathways overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy.

The meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy

Second Reader: Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:
I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth
comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the
creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the chil-
dren of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its
own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope
that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay
and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor
pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we
wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
This is the Word of God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great
crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat
there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told
them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went
out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and
the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky
ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up
quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose,
they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered
away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up
and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought
forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let
anyone with ears listen!"

Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to
them in parables?" He answered, "To you it has been given to
know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has
not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and
they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing,
even what they have will be taken away.

The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do
not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they under-
stand.' With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that
says: 'You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you
will indeed look, but never perceive. For this people's heart has
grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have
shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and
listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and
turn—and I would heal them.'

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they
hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people
longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what
you hear, but did not hear it.

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the
word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one
comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what
was sown on the path.

As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who
hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a
person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when
trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that per-
son immediately falls away. As for what was sown among
thorns, this is the one who hears the word,
but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the
word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good
soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who
indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in an-
other sixty, and in another thirty."

The Good news of the Lord

Reflection

"The core spiritual challenge is moving from passive observance to active compassion.
Instead of asking, "Who is my neighbour?", we may want to reflect on this question:
"To whom can I be a neighbour today, especially to those outside my usual circle?"

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



NAIDOC WEEK 5 July—11 July

On the first Sunday of July each year, the Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. On this day, we gather as one to honour and celebrate the rich cultural heritage and spirituality of our First Nations peoples, and the contributions they make the life of the Church.



The theme for this year's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is 'Walking together in Christ: 40 years on!', and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has produced resources to assist parishes in their celebration of this important day.

Celebrate this the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese is having Mass at St Patrick Cathedral is on **SUNDAY, 5 July, 2026** at 11am-12pm

PLAYGROUP

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.



2026 SACRAMENT PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

As our grade 4 and above children complete their Sacrament of First Communion, we keep them in our prayers, that they will keep growing in faith.



We kindly remind parents of all children in grade 6 (who have received their Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion) that our **Sacrament of Confirmation** program will soon commence. Please ensure if you wish your child to be a part of this program to complete the registration prior to the closing date of June 30th, 2026. Below are the important dates which you & your child must attend

First Family night: Tuesday 15th September at 7pm
(Followed by 4 classes at parish Schools or **ASRE**)
Last Family Night: Tuesday 17th November at 7pm
Session with the Bishop: "To be advised"

Masses: Saturday 21st November at 12pm (maybe another also at 2pm)

Contribution towards the running of the program is \$25 per child

ASRE is a program designed to help all Catholic children attending NON PARISH schools who wish to take part in our Sacramental program. It runs on Tuesdays.

We will provide the dates of the ASRE classes at the First family night.

PARISH BINGO

Please remember that our next **Parish BINGO is on FRIDAY, 17th JULY** 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



Readings:

14 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Zechariah 9: 9-10
Romans 8: 9. 11-13
Matthew 11: 25-30

www.universalis.com

15 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Isaiah 55: 10-11
Romans 8: 18-23
Matthew 13: 1-23

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Cecil Harper, Peter Shaw-Dennis, Peter Van Helmond, Pandry Jackson, Irma Dias, Eduardo Dias, Fr Chris Mithen CP, Kerry Carney, 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, Danny Sugunasekera, 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

Sally D'Cruz, Yvonne Sherwin, Sandra Quodros, Kelvin Wilson, Monica Tissera, Clare Foster, June Kitto, Cyril Sextus De Silva, Conrado Casiano Omega, Carmelo Cicero, Philippe Larosse, Giuseppina Materia, Barbara Anne Tobin, Avita Fernandes, Sinta Nugraha, Milica Kosi, Kuntjoro Setyo, Cheryl Anthony, Lancy D'Silva, Angelo Marateo, Lewis Guillot, Genoeffa Palamara, Isabel Florindo **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Janina Gorski	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio William Roncon
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Alvita Dias Harendra Alwis	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Anne Astin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Glenys Tran Rohan Wickramasinghe Jennifer Cunningham	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Stephen Herbert Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Aloma Pereira Folole Faleafa Rinku Arora	Dominique Maclou Sai Dlinger Naomi Falo Stephen Nasalio Santhanamary	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Dalreen Fernandes Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe Kyle Hoad Emma Hoad	Naomi Falo Dominique Maclou Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Mignonne Meerwald Swineetha Disanayake Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Nila Fernando Rinku Arora Kyle or Emma Hoad	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Vianney Clark Patricia D'Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Marg Keating Peng Chee Jenny Catania

Please note that the above rosters are subject to the completion
of the required SAFEGUARDING documents and training

