



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us / and let your face shed its light upon us. / So will your ways be known upon earth / and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult / for you rule the world with justice. / With fairness you rule the peoples, / you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; / let all the peoples praise you. / May God still give us his blessing / till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

■ The word of the Lord.



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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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

Wednesday and Friday 10:00am
Saturday 6:30pm, Sun 10:30am

Reconciliation

After weekday Mass and Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am
Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

After weekday 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 and Saturday 9:45am - 10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$950.90 Presbytery: \$1105.90
Special Collection: -

Thanksgiving



Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm Young Adults
Sunday 9:00am A Powell 10:30am E Galero

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Thu 20 Aug: St Bernard
Fri 21 Aug: St Pius X
Sat 22 Aug: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sun 23 Aug: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 83:10-11)

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 129:7)

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Virginia Poloie Tu'i

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

Recently Deceased:

Virgil Harding Gill

Funeral Mass 10:30am, Tuesday 18 August at St Joseph's

Lolita Maria Tomaselli

Rosary 10:00am, Funeral Mass 10:30am, Friday 21 August at St Joseph's

Death Anniversary: -

Change of Mass Time at St Joseph's

On **Friday, 21st August**, instead of our regular 10:00am Mass, there will be Rosary at 10:00am, followed by a funeral Mass at 10:30am.

Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.



Those seeking renewal of faith or know someone desiring to become Catholic, please contact our parish office to learn more about the RCIA sessions which will take place on Thursdays, 6:30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, Elsternwick.

Young People Hosted Mass @ Glen Huntly Parish

This Sunday 16th August the Young People of St Anthony's will host their 11am Mass in Glen Huntly. All welcome.

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass: 22 August

The Youth & Young Adults' Group of our Parish will host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church. Mass will be preceded by **Adoration and Confessions** starting at 5:30pm at St Joseph's, Elsternwick.



The group will then gather for a light supper and fellowship after Mass at St Joseph's Presbytery.

For August, the programme will be as follows:

Young Adults - An evening with the group's Spiritual Director, Fr Eugene San, and fellow Clergy.

Youth - Music and games!

Pallottine Cenacle Session

Feast of Mary, Queen of the World (Regina Mundi)

All are invited to participate in the 5:00 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 22 August at St Kevin's Church, 73 Glen Orme Ave, Ormond.

After Mass, all welcome to join us for a celebratory meal, even if you were unable to join us at Mass (venue to be confirmed).

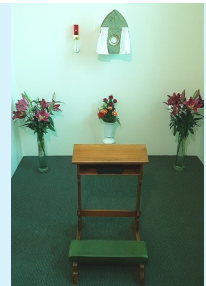
RSVP by 19 August so that bookings can be made:

Call 0429-869457. Email: prayerpromoter@uacpallottines.au



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Our Chapel offers a quiet, sacred space to pray and to spend time with Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 with a security tag. To apply, contact the Parish Office. A fully refundable security deposit will be required.



Special Collection this Sunday and next Sunday (Archbishop's Campaign)

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese.



📄 Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code.



You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the special collection plate during the campaign weekends.

World Youth Day 2027

'A celebration of hope' says Archbishop of Seoul. Preparations are in full swing for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where Pope Leo XIV is expected to join young Catholics from around the world for the second World Youth Day ever held in Asia. The gathering, which will take place on 3–8 August 2027, comes more than three decades after the first World Youth Day in Asia, which drew between four and five million people to Manila with Pope John Paul II in 1995, setting a Guinness World Record for largest attendance at a papal event at the time. Representatives from the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life visited South Korea in July to review preparations and meet with bishops from dioceses that will host pilgrims in the diocesan days before the main event. Archbishop of Seoul Peter Soon-taick Chung said the archdiocese has spent the past three years laying the groundwork for the gathering. 'The year ahead will be the time to complete our preparations and welcome young people from every part of the world,' Archbishop Chung said in a statement. 'We will do everything possible to make WYD Seoul 2027 a celebration of hope and a witness to the hospitality and solidarity of Korea and Seoul.' Across the world, parishes and dioceses have already started preparing young people to participate in the pilgrimage to South Korea, which despite being the first non-Christian majority country to host World Youth Day, has a unique Catholic history, including the witness of thousands of Christian martyrs who were killed for their faith.



Parish Social Afternoon Tea - Footy Theme

Wednesday August 26th, 2:00pm at Holy Cross Hall. Please bring along a plate to share. We'd love you to come in your favourite footy colours. All welcome for an afternoon of fun and friendship. For further information or transport contact Denise: 0410311326

Safeguarding

All volunteers are reminded to ensure they have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) card. When completing or updating your details online, please register only ONE organization for our amalgamated Parish, using the following details:
Organisation: The Parish of St Joseph's and Holy Cross
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185
Complete the Safeguarding Essentials training and sign the Code of Conduct here: <https://cam-parish.tribalhabits.com/accounts/register> Please email your certificate to the Parish Office so that we can maintain updated records. Thank you.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
In the Gospel of today, Jesus seems to be shown in poor light. He had said to the Canaanite woman a few things that were not pleasing to hear. Anyone who reads or listens to today's Gospel passage would tend to think not well about Jesus. But, are we not misunderstanding Jesus?



Yes, we would love to believe that Jesus did not say those provoking remarks to the Canaanite woman. Maybe, he did not mean it the way we understand it or may be, he said it in order to get from the Canaanite woman a greater expression of faith. There are a few explanations that clarify the controversial Gospel passage for us. One of the explanations could be that, Jesus was speaking out, not his own mind, nor his own attitude towards the Canaanite people, but what the Jews in general thought about the Canaanites and other non Jewish people. Thus Jesus was trying to expose the unacceptable attitude of his Jewish disciples. The words seemingly of Jesus are in fact not of Jesus but of the Jewish public, including his own disciples. We know that Jesus always spoke well of the Samaritans, the Canaanites and the Gentiles. He did not exclude anyone from His ministry. Jesus wanted to teach, "Never ever think that the non-Jewish people are dogs or good for nothing." Never ever think that God's blessings are limited to a few. Jesus seems to ask his disciples, "How is it that you are asking me to show kindness to her, while you yourself never think good about them?" First you change your attitude towards other people. Remember, Jesus took his disciples on a training mission to the Gentile area.

Once at an earlier time, when Jesus was sending the disciples on a mission, he told them not to enter the Samaritan villages. That was because the disciples were not well trained yet. They were still narrow-minded. Now Jesus is training and teaching them the right attitude towards the non-Jewish people. So when the Canaanite woman came to ask for a favour, Jesus takes the opportunity to teach the disciples a lesson on not to discriminate.

Fr Leenus

Q: A little boy asked his father who was a scientist, what is holy water?
A: A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.



Synod 2026
Archdiocese of Melbourne

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has invited the community to focus on three key themes:

- Young Discipleship
- Missionary Leadership
- Formation and Participation

To facilitate conversation on the above topics, please read the relevant "Theme Papers" which are displayed on the Church noticeboard, ring the parish office for a copy or visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/series/melbourne-synod-2026>

Options to provide your feedback:

1. Scan the QR code
2. Visit: <https://melbcath.org/synod-formation>
3. Drop your reflections in boxes provided in Church
4. Attend our Parish level sessions



Parish level sessions at St Anthony's Parish House on Sunday, 16 August (12:15pm to 1:15pm).

Parish level sessions at St Joseph's & Holy Cross, on Sunday, 23 August during cuppa after each Mass.

Please pray for the success of the Synod.

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the
Good News of the kingdom / and healed
all who were sick. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

BEYOND THE EXPECTED

In today's Gospel Jesus travels beyond his usual and familiar abode. He is in today's southern Lebanon, areas around Tyre and Sidon. This is foreign or pagan territory, unfamiliar to Jews. Here Jesus encounters a woman from the region who pleads for him to exorcise her demonically possessed daughter. Jesus' disciples want him to deal with her quickly so that they won't be bothered by her. Then comes the clear missionary statement of Jesus for Matthew's Jewish audience, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel', and, later, 'It is not fair to take children's food and throw it to house-dogs'. The focus of his ministry and healing is clearly on the Israelite people, the 'children', rather than on gentiles ('house-dogs'!). Jesus' derogatory comment to the woman is met by her witty repartee, 'Yes, sir, but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table'.

Her clever verbal joust meets his respectful acknowledgement. He affirms the woman's great faith in engaging him in a manner that respects the priority of his mission to the Jewish people (and Matthew's Gospel audience) while acknowledging that non-Jews can also be recipients of his ministry. This results in the Canaanite woman's request being granted. Her daughter is healed.

From this episode, it seems as though even Jesus had to learn and to extend his healing reach beyond the expected. That same insight is an invitation to us and our faith communities as we too are invited to offer hospitality and a welcome to the foreign and unexpected that we come across.

Fr Michael Trainor