



THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / A

1 MARCH 2026

FIRST READING

Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth

shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful / and
all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves
justice and right / and fills the earth with his
love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, /
on those who hope in his love, / to rescue
their souls from death, / to keep them alive in
famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord
is our help and our shield. / May your love be
upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in
you. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Tim 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of
the Good News, relying on the power of God
who has saved us and called us to be holy – not



because of anything we ourselves have done
but for his own purpose and by his own grace.
This grace had already been granted to us, in
Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but
it has only been revealed by the Appearing of
our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death,
and he has proclaimed life and immortality
through the Good News.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice
is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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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: \$770.90 Presbytery: \$820.85

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm J Lam

Sunday 9:00am S McMillan 10:30am La Bonne family

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 8 Mar: 3rd Sunday of Lent

Thanksgiving



Stations of the Cross in Lent after Mass

Holy Cross on Thursdays after 10:00am Mass.

St Joseph's on Fridays after 10:00am Mass.

St Anthony's on Fridays after 9:15am & 7:00pm



Lenten Scripture Reflection

Starting on Monday 23 February, and every Monday thereafter, during Lent from 7-8pm at St Anthony's Church. All welcome!

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 28 February

Thank you to the Young Adults and Youth from our 3 churches for hosting this weekend's Vigil Mass. 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.



There will be a light supper for the Youth and Young Adults after Mass at St Joseph's Presbytery. This will be followed by fellowship and a talk by Jeff Vlahovich, our Pastoral Council Chair, on the topic "Science vs God".

Please continue to encourage the youth and young people of St Joseph's & Holy Cross and St Anthony's to attend.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 26:8-9)

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Mt 17:5)

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: -

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

Recently Deceased: Chris Antony

Death Anniversary: Maureen Schaefer

Lenten Eucharistic Adoration Challenge

Start on any day according to your convenience and carry on for 31 consecutive days of Eucharistic Adoration by visiting the Blessed Sacrament e.g. at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick.

For more info, email angelica.barrios.au@gmail.com or the Parish Office. Pamphlets available in the Church foyer.



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 with a security tag. Contact the Parish Office to apply. A refundable deposit of \$100 will be required upon application.



RCIA Candidates and Catechumens

Their Scrutiny takes place at:

- St Anthony's on Sunday 8th March at 11:00am Mass
- Holy Cross on Sunday 15th March at 9:00am Mass
- St Joseph's on Sunday 22nd March at 10:30am Mass

Sacraments will be at Easter Vigil Mass at Holy Cross Church. God bless them!

Walk With Mary 2026

Sunday, 15th March at St Patrick's Cathedral ~ 2pm Prayers, Holy Mass and city street procession.

Most Rev. Bishop Rene Ramirez will be the Main Celebrant.

A grace-filled afternoon of prayer awaits. Let us walk with Mary who always leads us to Her Son.

The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary has begun!

There are at last signs of great hope. At Fatima, Our Lady said, "In the End My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph!" The signs of rebirth are present throughout the world, from the Middle East to Africa, from Asia to America and throughout Europe, so many countries are reporting incredible rates of conversion.

So often Our Lady has asked for processions. She does not do this because She is in need of special honour! She asks for this so that we may open our hearts to Her and receive all the graces God wants to give. Come and be blessed on this unique day!



PPC Meeting held on 24 February 2026

Summary of our Pastoral Council meeting:

1. ACYF Reunion

Our pilgrims from all 3 churches gathered for a reunion on Sunday 22nd February at The Glen at St Anthony's Church. They shared their personal highlights of the event and what programmes and activities they hope to participate in moving forward.

2. Small Group Discipleship

Deacon John will provide further updates after speaking with Everett Fritz and the Andrews Ministry. Meanwhile, potential leaders can be recruited for training.

3. Maintenance and Renovations

Holy Cross

- Items completed: Concrete repair, wheelchair ramp behind the church, lighting, carpets and projector screen.
- Pending items: Stained glass window and safety switch upgrade.
- Future consideration: Hall extension and additional accommodation.

St Joseph's

- Items completed: Concrete repair
- Pending items: Presbytery windows restoration, ornate ceiling repair.
- Future consideration: Community space and Presbytery renovation. PPC to put together a vision statement for the architect to prepare a design proposal. All current agreements for use of parish land will also be reviewed in the process.

4. RCIA

Our 2 catechumens and 1 candidate attended the Rite of Election at St Patrick's Cathedral on 22nd February. The next step in their journey will be their Scrutinies at each of our 3 Churches in the coming weeks.

5. Other Matters:

- St Joseph Presbytery will continue to be used mainly as the Parish's meeting and activity space. There is ongoing discussions with the Melbourne Archdiocese (CAM) and The Regnum Marianum Hungarian Catholic Association regarding temporary residence for their Chaplain.
- First Eucharist classes will commence soon for children of Parish families preparing to receive the Sacrament on Pentecost Sunday.
- St Joseph's Feast will be on Thursday, 19th March. Thursday 10am Mass will be at St Joseph's instead of Holy Cross and the Friday 10am Mass will be at Holy Cross.
- Parish Calendar of Events will be drafted and tabled for discussion at the next meeting.
- A 1st Class Relic of Mother Teresa will be housed in Holy Cross Church. A wall mounted case for the reliquary will be designed and installed soon.
- Parish Prayer will be included in slides for Sunday Masses and print copies made available at church pews so we can recite the prayer together.
- The Lenten Eucharistic Adoration Challenge has been well received and in consideration of The International Eucharistic Congress 2028 to be held in Sydney, we should continue to encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at our churches.
- Revisit of the Pillars of our Parish at the March meeting.

Lenten Walk

The annual parish Lenten Walk is coming up, weekend of 14th/15th March, date to be confirmed. We will visit the Migrant Jubilee Cross, which is now in Victoria. Details next week.



2nd Sunday of Lent - Transfiguration of Jesus

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,



People in general, tend to give up on God, especially faced with hardships. One might even question the very existence of God. Interestingly, there are also many people who even in worse circumstances hold on to God and not let their faith be shaken.

Sometimes, hardships are the very reason why even atheists may turn toward God and cling to him. We all may have come across people who once were so vehemently speaking against the existence of God, but now are full pledged preachers of the love and mercy of God.

Jesus too, had his joyful and sorrowful times; glorious and luminous times. In all sorts of situations and circumstances, he remained united with his Father. Last week, we heard about his hard times of temptations when he refused to give up on God. This Sunday, we hear about his joyful, luminous and glorious time of transfiguration; when too he remains so united with God the Father.

Later, he would be denied, betrayed and deserted by his own disciples, yet he would remain one with his Father and stand for us. In turn, God the Father would reiterate his intimacy with his beloved Son, Jesus and us.

The transfiguration of Jesus is a reminder of the faithfulness of God. It's also an invitation for us to remain faithful to him. The appearance of Elijah and Moses by the side of Jesus shows that Jesus does not stand in isolation from the people of olden times.

The fact that Jesus took his disciples with him shows that he does not stand in isolation from the people of his time either; and there should be no reason whatsoever, to think that Jesus would stand in isolation from the people of our own times or of any time.

So, no matter what our experiences maybe, let's cling to the God who clings to us. Peter, John and James were fearful disciples. During the transfiguration of Jesus their eyes were opened to see the intimacy of God. The memory of it kept them strong in faith all through their lives even in times of persecutions and even to the point of being put to death.

This Season of Lent is yet another opportunity for all of us to turn towards God, with a thirst to see the glorious face of God and be satisfied. We are called to be brightly shining like the sun, as Jesus showed us in his transfiguration. God be with you, now and always!

Fr Leenus.

The Package

A lady was mailing the Bible to her brother in another country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

St Anthony's Church open on Fridays during Lent

This initiative has a two-fold purpose:

To make the church available to more parishioners during Lent and to take a small step on the path of keeping the Church open for daily prayer.



Do you recall the days when our church was open every day? There is a need and a hunger in the community.

St Anthony's is taking this step to meet it, starting Friday 27th February.

If you are able to commit to a time of personal prayer and be present to keep an eye in the church on Friday afternoon, please contact the Parish Office.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

GOD'S BELOVED

On the Second Sunday of Lent the focus is on Jesus' transfiguration. This speaks into the experience in Matthew's audience of suffering and even death. With Jerusalem and Jesus' imminent suffering looming, he takes Peter, James and John on to a 'high' mountain, the place of divine encounter. The reference to 'high' celebrates the mountains' divine closeness. Here, alone, they are in the presence of God who comforts Jesus before what will shortly unfold in the Sacred City.

Two Old Testament figures appear, Moses (the traditional author of the Torah—the first five books of the Bible) and Elijah (the first recognised prophet of the Old Testament). Their appearance confirms that what is about to take place for Jesus will reveal God's protective presence. That presence is confirmed by the 'cloud [that] covered them with shadow' and the heavenly voice that attests that Jesus will always be God's Beloved and delightful One. The disciples' response to this experience is palpable. They are overcome with 'fear' – a deep sense of reverential awe in what they have just witnessed and experienced with Jesus, even though Peter earlier wanted to capture it by building three tents.

The scene is not a literal 'twitter-feed' of what actually or historically happened to Jesus. It is a story of theology and religious meaning for disciples aligned with Jesus who know the experience of suffering and death in their own day. At those times, we, too, must go up on to our 'high' mountain, accompanied by faithful friends, and allow God's presence and word to accompany us. We, too, need to hear that we are God's Beloved and delightful Ones.

Fr Michael Trainor