



THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

21 JUNE 2026

FIRST READING

Jer 20: 10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,

‘“Terror from every side!”

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!

All those who used to be my friends

watched for my downfall,

‘Perhaps he will be seduced into error.

Then we will master him

and take our revenge!’

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;

my opponents will stumble, mastered,

confounded by their failure;

everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,

who scrutinise the loins and heart,

let me see the vengeance you will take on them,

for I have committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord,

praise the Lord,

for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

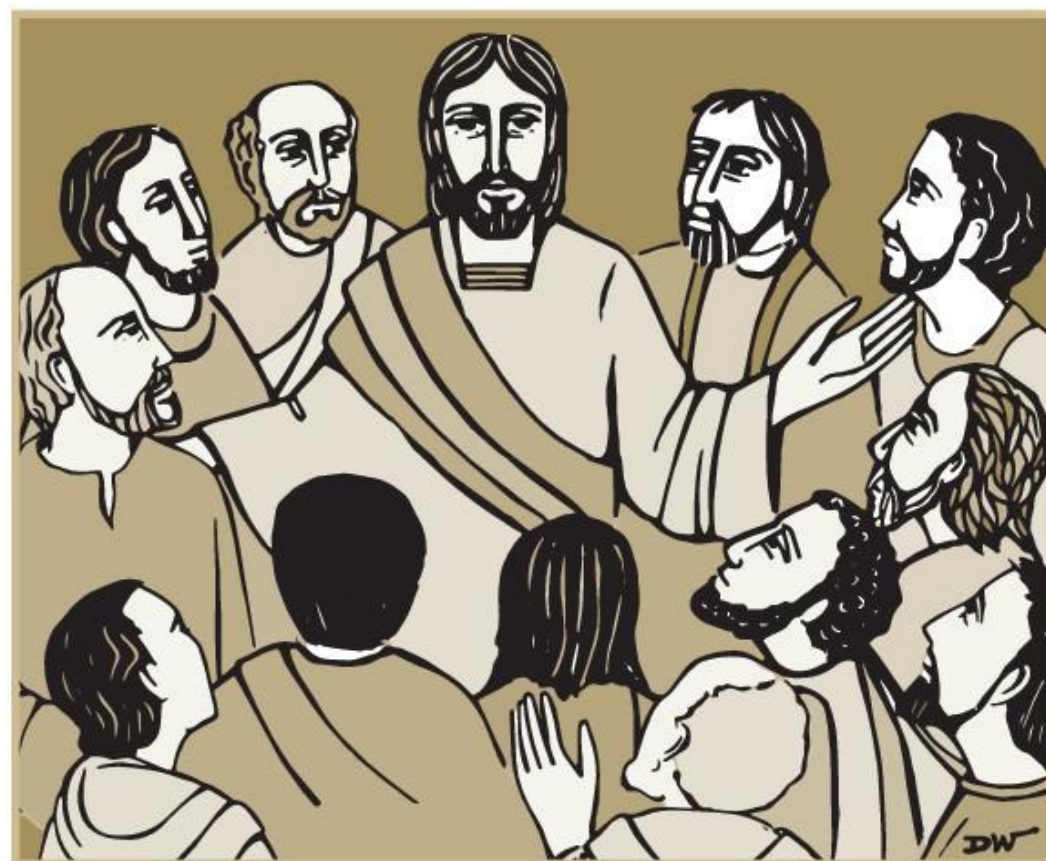
■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 68: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R. v. 14

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, / that shame covers my face, / that I have become a stranger to my brothers, / an alien to my own mother’s sons. / I burn with zeal for your house / and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**

2. This is my prayer to you, / my prayer for your favour. / In your great love, answer me, O God, / with your help that never fails: / Lord, answer, for your love is kind; / in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**



3. The poor when they see it will be glad / and God-seeking hearts will revive; / for the Lord listens to the needy; / and does not spurn his servants in their chains. / Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, / the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5: 12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

God’s gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of ‘law-breaking’, yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man’s fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

■ 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: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA
Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

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

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 22 Jun: Sts John Fisher and Thomas More
Wed 24 Jun: The Nativity of St John the Baptist
Sun 28 Jun: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thanksgiving



Parish Offertory Giving Program: Week 2

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to everyone who promptly collected their offertory giving envelopes last weekend. If you have not yet retrieved yours, we kindly remind you to do so this weekend.

For those who have not completed our Parish Census, you are welcomed to fill in a Census card so we can organize an envelope for you.

A few ways to return your filled-out pledge cards:

- During Collection.
- Drop them in the labelled box in the Church foyer.

Your ongoing generosity and dedication to our parish are truly appreciated. Thank you for your support in strengthening our community and mission.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 27:8-9)

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 10:11, 15)

I am the Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Lolita Maria Tomaselli

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

Recently Deceased: Trisha Lynch, Kingston Elmo Leonard

Death Anniversary: Ethel Donohoe, Joan Donohoe, Lesley -Ann Wheeler, Vincent Neetany, Sebastian Neetany

Safeguarding Training: New Platform

As of 12 June, our Safeguarding Essentials Training will move to a new platform called "Tribal Habits". Nothing changes... If you have done your training before 12 June there's nothing you need to do.

However, after 12 June, anyone completing the online training will need to do so via the new platform. Once registered on Tribal Habits, the Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Essential Training will appear as separate modules to complete. You will receive a certificate on completion of each of these.

Please email the Parish Office with your certificates so that we can document and keep our records up to date. Once you have completed training on the new platform, automatic email reminders will be sent for future renewals.

Link to Tribal Habits platform can be found at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules/>

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 27th June

The Youth & Young Adults' Group will host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church, followed by a light supper & fellowship for the young people at St Joseph's Presbytery.

Stoke the fire within.

An evening for hearts on the move.

A night of worship, real talk, and real stories —
animated by the Missionaries of God's Love
brothers. Come as you are, leave set alight.

5:30 - 6:15pm: **Eucharistic Adoration and Confession.**

6:30pm : **Mass.**

7:30pm : **Light Supper.**

8:00 - 9:30pm: **Vibrant Praise, Practical Teaching,
Shared Living Experience & Fellowship.**

All youth and young adults welcome.

RCIA

Sessions will start on Thursday 30th July 2026 at 6:30pm. Parishioners interested in being members of the team are invited to a meeting on Thursday, 2nd July at 6:30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, Elsternwick.

Those seeking renewal of faith or desiring to become Catholics, please contact our parish office to register.

Thank You for Celebrating with Us



The Feast of St. Anthony of Padua, together with the Feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, was celebrated with great success last Sunday at St Anthony's Church.



Thank you to all who joined in the celebration and to the volunteers who helped make the event a memorable one.

Upcoming Special Collection: Peter's Pence

Next week, 27-28 June, we will take up the Peter's Pence collection which supports the Pope's philanthropic activities and operations of the Holy See.

Funds are primarily distributed for emergency humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and maintenance of ecclesial communities in developing nations.



PROCLAIM26

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation ~ Mark 16:15

In a world where many are seeking meaning, truth and belonging, are we ready to proclaim the Gospel in this moment in time?

Join world-renowned Catholic author, and expert on discipleship and mission, Sherry Weddell for Proclaim26, a two-day gathering to form, equip and send Catholics to share Jesus Christ in their communities.

Proclaim26 will host formative keynote talks, inspiring real-life stories of parish renewal and practical workshops on formation, RCIA, youth & young adult discipleship, music and more. For the full program and to register:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/proclaim26>

Helpers of God's Precious Infants

Saturday 27th June - Holy Mass in Reparation for and Healing from Abortion. 9am every 4th Saturday at St Patrick's Cathedral. Confessions from 8:30am.

Celebrant: Fr Isaac Zakynthos.

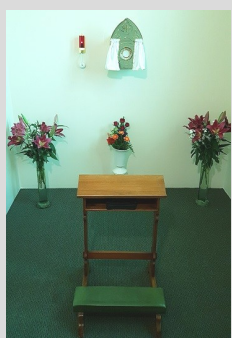
Rosary Procession after Mass. Join us in prayer to the edge of the 150m Abortion Prayer Exclusion Zone, Wellington Parade, East Melbourne (Opposite Jolimont Station Ramp Exit).

Parking available off Lansdowne Street. Please vacate carpark by 11:30am. For more info contact 0407 090 367.

Young Men of God Movement Conference 2026

17-19 July at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre.

A men's weekend away to deepen your faith, strengthen brotherhood and grow in leadership. Inspiring speakers, fellowship and food. Give God permission to lead you on the path of authentic, Christ-centered living. Open to all men 18yrs and above. Registration: Fr Terrence 0426-897764.



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 refundable deposit will be required. Concessions available.

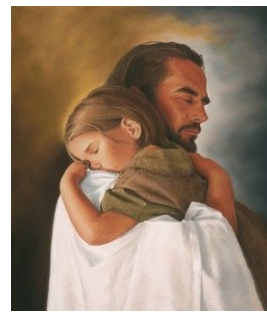
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters

12 Good Reasons Not to Be Afraid

1) Isaiah 41:8 - *"I have chosen and ... I have called you"*

God has chosen you. You are special to God, so fear not!



2) Isaiah: 41:9 - *God has "not rejected you."*

Perhaps you've experienced rejection by other people. But, fear not, because, God loves you and has accepted you.

3) Isaiah: 41:10 - *"do not fear, for I am with you"*

The presence of God Almighty dispels any fears. God says, "Do not fear, I am with you!"

4) Isaiah:41:10 - *"do not fear... I am your God"*

The Almighty God, the creator of the universe, is my God! Therefore, "Fear not!"

5) Isaiah 41:10 - *"I will strengthen you and uphold you"*

Perhaps you're crying out in fear, "Lord, I am sinking". He replies, "But I will uphold you".

6) Isaiah 41:13 - *"I take hold of your right hand."*

God says "Do not fear; I will help you." He is holding on to your right hand and saying, "It's OK! I've got you."

7) Isaiah 41:13 - *"I myself will help you"*

God cares for you personally - He says, "I myself will help you."

8) Isaiah 43:1 - *I am the God who "created you and formed you."*

God's love and care for us had been there from the beginning. Therefore God says, whether you are sick or infirm? "I am the Lord who heals you."

9) Isaiah 43:1 - *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you... you are mine."*

Some 2000 years ago God bought you with the price of Jesus' blood shed for our sins. Thus he has redeemed us. What can mere mortals do to you or me?"

10) Isaiah 43:1 - *"Do not fear... I have called you by name."*

You are not just a statistic to God. You are not a random face! You are very real to God. He knows your name. He knows and cares for you very personally.

11) Isaiah 43:1-2 - *"Do not fear... I will go with you"*

There are times in our lives when we go through troubled times. Jesus told His followers, "In this world you will have troubles, but take heart! I have overcome the world."

12) Isaiah 42:1, 3 - *"Do not fear... for I am your Savior."*

Jesus is Our Saviour. There is nothing that is not subject to Him. It's all under His control! He is "your God who has saved you."

Fr Leenus.

Jesus, I trust in you!

Q: Why didn't Noah go fishing?

A: Because he had only two worms.

Pallottine Cenacle Prayer

Monday, 22nd June at 7.30pm.

Please join via Zoom <https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 857 6241 3896 Passcode: 214957



The Gift: A Life in the Spirit Prayer Sessions

8pm Fridays at The Glen, rear of 74 Grange Rd, Glen Huntly. Organised by the Sacre Coeur Prayer Community.

26 Jun: The Gift of the Spirit

3 Jul: Unwrapping God's Gift

10 Jul: Encountering the Holy Spirit

17 Jul: Living in the Spirit

Contact: Sue or Ban via St Anthony's Parish Office.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 26-27

Alleluia, alleluia! / The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, / and you also will be my witnesses. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 10: 26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

DIVINE PRESENCE

The instruction to the Twelve that concluded last Sunday's Gospel continues today. Again, the Gospel offers us a missionary mandate and insight. The mission is essentially optimistic because 'everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear.' No way of life for the disciples, of their missionary commitment and engagement will be lost. It may appear to be covered and hidden but, ultimately and eventually, God's goodness and the work of the 'kin-dom' will be revealed. No longer will the message of the Gospel be spoken in the dark or whispered. It will be proclaimed from the housetops!

The affirmation of the fruitfulness of the missionary task spills over into the way God will care for those on mission—and this is what is addressed also to us: We are looked after by God, in every detail of our lives. As Matthew puts it in the final verses of today's Gospel, Jesus will affirm us before God.

There is one translation point worth noting in today's Gospel. What is translated about God's care of even the sparrows, which is translated as 'yet not one falls to the ground without your Father *knowing*', is better and more accurately translated, 'and not one of them falls to the earth *without your Father*'. It is not about God's knowledge of the falling sparrow, it is the very *presence* of God accompanying the falling or dying sparrow that is affirmed. That same God accompanies us. There is nothing in our life that happens without God's presence intimately caring for us. God is joined to us in intimate care and accompaniment. This God we celebrate today in our liturgy!

Fr Michael Trainor