



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 JULY 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth give growth.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, / you fill it with riches. / Your river in heaven brims over / to provide its grain. **R.**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; / you drench its furrows, / you level it, soften it with showers, / you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. / Abundance flows in your steps, / in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**
4. The hills are girded with joy, / the meadows covered with flocks, / the valleys are decked with wheat. / They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till

now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but for anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:



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

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 M Ellis
Sunday 9:00am D Duffy 10:30am A De Silva

Counters: M Beaumont & B Leong

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 15 Jul: St Bonaventure
Sun 19 Jul: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thanksgiving



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.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 16:15)

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 6:57)

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Joan Donohoe

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

Recently Deceased: Thangamani Joseph

Death Anniversary: -

Winter Appeal 12th & 13th July



St Vincent de Paul Society
CAULFIELD SOUTH & ELSTERNWICK *good works*

For many people, homelessness is just one sudden crisis away. And this winter, more people than ever before are facing homelessness and poverty in Australia.

This weekend, a special collection will be taken up for the Vinnies Winter Appeal.

Your generous gift can help people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness get the support they need to find and keep a safe place to stay.



PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH

The Camden Hotel - 414 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South on Wednesday July 22nd at 12.00pm

All welcome to come together over a meal for conversation, fun, and friendship.

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 25th July

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. Mass will be preceded by **Adoration and Confessions** starting at 5:30pm at St Joseph's, Elsternwick.



Light supper and fellowship after Mass at St Joseph's Presbytery. For July, there will be a talk by our guest speaker, Claire, from Benedetta Women.

'Finding God Online' invites everyday technology users to reflect on how faith can shape the way we engage in the digital world. In this presentation, Claire shares her own personal journey, weaving together her experiences in gaming, social media and digital creativity through the lens of Catholic teaching and scripture with strong reference to Pope Leo's newest encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas.

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition



St Carlo Acutis inspired millions around the world through his deep love for Jesus in the Eucharist and his creative use of technology to share the faith; helping countless people discover and deepen their faith in the Real Presence of Christ.

Visit the exhibition at Magnificat House (456 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne) from

Thursday 16th July until Tuesday 28th July, from 10:00am to 3:00pm. A First Class Relic of St Carlo Acutis will be available for veneration daily.



Those seeking renewal of faith or desiring to become Catholics, please contact our parish office to learn more about the RCIA sessions starting 30th July at 6:30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, Elsternwick.

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (now often referred to as OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). It is the step-by-step process used by the Catholic Church to welcome and prepare adults who wish to enter the Catholic faith.

If you would like to be a member of the team, please also contact the parish office.

Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

The Combined Societies of Mary Welcomes You to a Special Celebration



**3 First Class
Relics of
Carmelite
Doctors for
Veneration**



St Therese
of Lisieux



St John of the Cross



St Therese
of Avila

Sunday 12th July, 2026

Holy Cross Church 707 Glenhuntly Rd Caulfield Sth

**1:30 pm Adoration Prayers, Enlightening Talk,
Benediction Holy Mass Veneration of First Class Relics**

Enrollment in the Scapular Free Scapulars

Inquiries: Joy Hunt, 95092207 www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com

Towards Synod 2026

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli formally convoked a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne on 8th March 2026.



A Synod is a gathering of God's people – bishops, priests and lay representatives – who come and discern together about matters regarding faith, governance and pastoral care. This process involves prayer, dialogue and consultation, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of the Church's mission in the contemporary world. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has invited the community to focus on three key themes:

- **Young Discipleship**
- **Missionary Leadership**
- **Formation and Participation.**

These have emerged consistently and clearly through all the listening, discernment, and consultation undertaken in recent years across the Archdiocese.

Theme Paper Release

The Synod theme papers have been prepared to assist with reflection on the themes. These are displayed on the church notice boards.

Consultation Process

During the months of July and mid-August 2026 faith communities are invited to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Later we will be invited to take part in the consultations which will be held on Saturday, 8th August for the Southern Region (details to be advised)

At the conclusion of the above consultations, feedback will be compiled to contribute to the Working Document for the Synod. There will be also opportunity to provide feedback to the Working Document throughout the month of October.

The Synod itself is to take place from 4 - 6 December 2026.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For this Sunday's Gospel, we have seemingly a sad story. It's the parable of the Sower and Seeds. Anyway, towards the end of the parable we read about some seeds that produced 30, 60 or even 100 fold crop. "Some seeds", is that good enough? Is it not very tragic that many seeds did not produce anything at all?



There are many true stories about farmers who fail in their attempt to cultivate and produce good harvest. Many farmers solely depend on agriculture for their livelihood. They borrow money to meet the expenses involved in farming; they work hard, put in all their effort, but the soil is not good enough, and often the weather is not helpful either. The pests destroy the crops too. Poor crops often results in some farmers even committing suicide.

Reading the parable, one might find fault with the farmer for having sown the seeds on bad ground, on rocky places, on foot paths and among thorns. The farmer should have been careful to sow the seeds only on fertile soil, they say. But, we should remember that Jesus is not talking about good or bad farming.

Jesus is talking about the Word of God being made available to all sorts of people; to people with indifferent hearts, stony hearts, thorny hearts, as well as welcoming and warm hearts. To everyone and in every situation and circumstance the Word of God is available to assist us, for we are all his own people. It's just like God sending the sun and the rain down on good and bad people alike.

In real farming, we cannot expect the seeds to sprout on hard or rocky ground. The seed is not capable of making any change to soil or weather conditions. But, as for the seed that is the Word of God, it is more than capable of making big changes in any heart. The Word of God is also like a two edged sword. It can pierce through any heart, bringing forth conversion of lives, turning sinners into saints.

Today's Gospel passage is a call to conversion and repentance. No one is a hopeless case. We all have hope in God, who made heaven and earth. He places his hope in us too. If we care to read the Word of God and follow it through in our lives, we can all produce '100 fold harvest'; meaning 'lead fruitful lives' as God intended. God bless!

Fr Leenus

A friend was visiting the cemetery of a relative whose funeral he could not attend. He used his GPS navigation to find the cemetery. As he arrived the GPS announced, "You have arrived at your final destination"!

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.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants: 25th July

Holy Mass in Reparation for and Healing from Abortion at 9am **every 4th Saturday** at St Patrick's Cathedral. Confessions from 8:30am. Rosary Procession after Mass. Join us in prayer to the edge of the 150m Abortion Prayer Exclusion Zone, Wellington Pde, East Melbourne (Opposite Jolimont Station Ramp Exit). For info, contact 0407-090367.

Breaking Open the Word

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

‘But happy are your eyes because they see,
your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly,
many prophets and holy men longed to see
what you see, and never saw it; to hear what
you hear, and never heard it.

‘You, therefore, are to hear the parable of
the sower. When anyone hears the word of the
kingdom without understanding, the evil one
comes and carries off what was sown in his
heart: this is the man who received the seed
on the edge of the path. The one who received
it on patches of rock is the man who hears the
word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he
has no root in him, he does not last; let some
trial come, or some persecution on account of
the word, and he falls away at once. The one
who received the seed in thorns is the man who
hears the word, but the worries of this world
and the lure of riches choke the word and so he
produces nothing. And the one who received the
seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word
and understands it; he is the one who yields a
harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now
sixty, now thirty.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

For the next several Sundays we will be in the
very heart, the centre, of Matthew's Jewish-
oriented Gospel. Jesus absorbed Jewish wisdom
and sayings and taught them to his followers.
He wanted to teach them about God's 'kin-
dom'. Today's Gospel has Jesus surrounded
by a large crowd. He gets into a boat, sits
down in the posture of a rabbinic teacher and
instructs the crowd on the lakeside.

The parable that he offers is the most
important in the whole Gospel. The principal
agent is a sower scattering seed in typical
fashion of the time. The farmer is oblivious to
where the seed falls but intent that a harvest
comes. The seed falls in places characteristic
of the Galilean countryside: on the edge of
paths and eaten by birds, on rocks, amongst
thorns and in places with little depth of soil.
But the seed also falls in rich soil and produces
an extraordinarily abundant harvest. To a
Galilean farmer, a twelve-fold harvest would
be a wonderful gift. It would offer food for the
coming year and pay off the taxes imposed by
Rome and the Jewish religious authorities for
the support of the Temple. The production
is not twelve-fold, but a *hundred-fold*, *sixty* or
thirty! This would be like a farmer winning the
mega-lottery!

And this, says Jesus, is what the Kin-
dom is about. Despite apparent signs of
frustration and even death, God's reign will
be spectacularly rich
and abundant. Jesus'
parable teaching is
an invitation to the
Gospel audience and
to us to believe in the
ongoing abundant
blessings of God's
presence despite
what appears to the
contrary.



Fr Michael Trainor