



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

31 AUGUST 2025

FIRST READING

Sir 3:17-20, 28-29

A reading from the book of Sirach

Humble yourself and you will find favour with the Lord.

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.

The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly,
and then you will find favour with the Lord;
for great though the power of the Lord is,
he accepts the homage of the humble.

There is no cure for the proud man's malady,
since an evil growth has taken root in him.
The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables,
an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 67:4-7, 10-11. R. cf. v. 11

R. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, / they shall exult and dance for joy. / O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; / rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **R.**

2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, / such is God in his holy place. / God gives the lonely a home to live in; / he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **R.**

3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain: / when your people were starved you gave them new life. / It was there that your people found a home, / prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. **R.**



SECOND READING

Heb 12:18-19, 22-24

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 11:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you;
learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Alleluia!



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

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: \$1008.35 Presbytery: \$1033.35

Special Collection: -



Thanksgiving

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm J Lam

Sunday 9:00am S McMillan 10:30am

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 3 Sep: St Gregory the Great

Sun 7 Sep: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Novena to St Joseph

Novena to St Joseph every 1st Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Adoration, Novena and Divine Mercy Chaplet. All welcome.

Father's Day - 7 September

Our Father's Day Prayers Book has been placed on the altar rail of our church.

Please write the names of any fathers you would like prayers offered for in the book.



Friday, 12 September 2025

6:30pm – 9:30pm

St John Vianney's Parish

23 Police Road, Mulgrave

This unforgettable evening is tailor-made for high school students, offering a unique opportunity to encounter Jesus with prayer, fellowship, food, and, of course, a whole lot of fun. Parents need to 'sign in' and 'sign out' their children.

Register at www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1346850

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 85:3, 5)

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 30:20)

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Tony Messina, May Li**

* Names will be published for a month, unless otherwise requested.

Recently Deceased: **Giovanni Marguglio**

Death Anniversary: -

Our Lady of Vailankanni 2025

The Novena and Feast of Our Lady of Vailankanni has become one of the most grace filled annual events organised by the Combined Societies of Mary at **Holy Cross Church**. Every year, so many who attend report of the most wonderful favours having been granted to them through the praying of this Novena to Our Lady of Health Vailankanni.



She is so powerful and always grants so many healings and graces through this Novena and Feast. In making this unique Novena we are inviting the saints of the Church to pray for us each night.

The Relics of the following Saints will be available for veneration:

- ♦ 30th August St Bernadette
- ♦ 31st August St Rita of Cascia
- ♦ 1st September St Francis Xavier
- ♦ 2nd September St Anthony of Padua
- ♦ 3rd September St Alphonsa
- ♦ 4th September St Maria Goretti
- ♦ 5th September St Teresa of Calcutta
- ♦ 6th September St Peregrine
- ♦ 7th September St Philomena
- ♦ 8th September Our Lady's Veil

Powerful Novena:

Saturday, 30th August to Sunday, 7th September at 7pm

- Adoration, Novena Prayers & Holy Mass

The Wonderful Feast:

Monday, 8th September on Our Lady's Birthday at 7pm

- Adoration, Prayers Benediction, Procession & Mass

Combined Societies of Mary.

www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com

Enquiries: Joy Hunt 9509 2207



40 Days For Life

The international pro-life campaign, 40 Days for Life, runs in Melbourne from 24th September to 2nd November.

To sign up, or for more details, please contact Marita Dunphy via the Parish office.

For donations to support this cause:

40 Days for Life Melbourne

BSB: 063-176 ACC: 11053337

For more information: 40daysforlife.com/en/melbourne



New Parish Logo and Prayer

Heavenly Father

We ask you to bless our Parish of
St Joseph's, Elsternwick and
Holy Cross, Caulfield South.

Make us faithful in our duties to you and each other
and open-hearted to all who need our help.

We ask you also to bless our Clergy
who lead us to our heavenly goal,

And all those who will come after us,
who strive to keep the faith alive.

Remain forever in our hearts and minds,
always drawing us closer to you.

May St Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family
and the Holy Cross of Christ,
be our guiding lights in our Parish's future.

May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
remain with us forever.

Amen.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting Summary

The PPC monthly meeting was held on Tuesday, 26 August.

1. New PPC Members: We invited a few parishioners to the meeting to help them discern their commitment. Best wishes to Jess Glynn, who formally stepped down from the PPC. We thank her for her contributions to the PPC, especially the initiative to start the Young Adults' Group.
2. Sunday Cuppa and Community at St Joseph's: It was proposed that we consider having the morning tea after Sunday Mass at the Church foyer or outdoors to engage and strengthen our community.
3. Parish Pillars: We will revisit this towards year's end.
4. Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF): The Parish will contribute to the registration fees for our pilgrims. We look forward to their sharing upon after the event.
5. Small Group Discipleship: We will further discuss with Everett Fritz regarding our participation in the Pilot Training Program. Meanwhile, we hope more potential leaders accept the invitation to support and participate.
6. New Parish Logo and Prayer: Both are now finalised and published at this weekend's Masses.
7. Safeguarding: All PPC member and volunteers are again reminded to update their WWCC, complete the Safeguarding Online Training and sign the Code of Conduct to ensure our Parish remains compliant.
8. Community Space: The PPC will start working on a proposal to renovate a section of St Joseph's Presbytery to create a separate Community Hub for the use of parishioners and the school.

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All children and young people who come to our parish have a right to feel and be safe.

All volunteers are reminded to ensure they:

1. Have a current Working With Children Check card. When completing or updating your details online, please use the following details:

Organisation: St Joseph's & Holy Cross Parish

Address: 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185 or
707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South, VIC 3162

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185

2. Complete the Safeguarding online training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

It is said that the natural tendency of a human child is to be selfless and to share. But, as the child grows up and comes in contact with the corrupt world the tendency to be selfish and to hold back sets in.

When I think of 'selflessness', I am reminded of Johnny, a 7 year old boy. He desired to eat Magnum Gold Ice-cream at least once. His friends were all talking about Magnum Gold ice-cream. They all had eaten it several times, during picnics and parties. But Johnny had neither picnics nor parties nor any ice-cream. One day he managed to organise some pocket money for himself. Then he walked into an ice-cream parlour. At the counter he raised his head and asked 'how much does a Magnum Gold ice-cream cost, please?' Quick came the answer, 'Two dollar fifty'. Our little Johnny put his hands into his pockets pulled out a few coins from his pants pockets and a few from his shirt-pockets and began to count and calculate. The man at the counter was getting irritated because Johnny was taking too long time with his calculations. After a while, Johnny once again raised his head and asked, 'How much does an ordinary ice-cream costs, please?' Already losing his temper, the man at the counter gave him a quick answer, 'Two dollar twenty'. Placing two dollar twenty at the counter, Johnny said, 'Then give me an ordinary ice-cream, please.' And Johnny was served an ordinary plain ice-cream. Having eaten his ice-cream, Johnny went his way. But when the counter man came to collect the plate, tears filled his eyes; at the edge of the plate Johnny had left 30 cents as a tip for the good service he received.

Feel sorry for Johnny? But why? There was no compulsion on him to sacrifice his hearts desire, nor to keep aside his 30 cents. He chose to do so in his total freedom. He chose something that is far greater than any Magnum Gold ice cream. He chose something that Jesus recommends for all of us i.e. selflessness.

This type of selfless-giving seems hard to put into practice. One way to learn to be selfless is to tell oneself "All that I hold is not my own, it is with me in my pocket, but it belongs to someone else". Little Johnny knew it very well. He was conscious of it when calculating the use of his two dollar fifty, and so, he took into consideration the others as well.

Jesus teaches us to give generously expecting neither any reward, recognition, appreciation, gratitude nor any favour in return. The type of giving that we saw in Johnny and to the greatest extent we see in Jesus is "Quality giving".

Let us also look to Jesus and learn to be quality givers in all our dealings.

Fr Leenus.



A chicken and an egg walk into a bar. The bartender asks, "Which of you came first?"

Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

The Victorian Government plans to make doctor assisted suicide and euthanasia more widely available by changing the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 (VAD 2017), planned before the end of 2025 which will dramatically expand access to doctor assisted suicide and euthanasia by removing vital safeguards.

1. Removing the ban on healthcare professionals raising VAD with patients
2. Forcing health care professionals to give information about VAD against their conscience
3. Casting a wider net
4. Shortening the request time for VAD from 9 to 5 days

Please write to one Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) AND five members of the Legislative Council (MLC). For more info, please contact 'Right to Life' or Fr Pat.

GOSPEL

Lk 14:1, 7-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

MEAL-TEACHINGS

Today's opening Gospel verse sets the scene for what will unfold. It is a Sabbath, a day of rest when Israelites emulate the action of God in the creation story in Genesis 1. A meal now provides this for Jesus. What follows is in two parts.

The first is an analysis of social structure and hierarchy in Luke's day. Jesus notices how some presume to sit in the places of honour. They presume entitlement. We are in a world where one of the most important social dynamics concerns the importance of 'honour' and 'shame.' Honour is a publicly recognised value by which people are confirmed or grow in their social standing; shame is its antithesis. Honour is a limited commodity which is either inherited or acquired. Those who 'shame' another grow in honour. Luke's Jesus uses this social dynamic to reflect on self-exaltation and humility: 'Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted'.

The second part of today's Gospel further explores what happens at meals. The common expectation would be to host a meal with one's friends and people of similar social standing. Jesus upends such meal etiquette. Rather than inviting social equals he encourages meal invitees to be the poor and those from the lower echelons. Payment for such graciousness will occur in the time of resurrection. These meal-teachings from Luke's day, of humility and welcoming of the poor, continue to speak to us today.

Fr Michael Trainor