



THE SAVING WORD

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

29 JUNE 2025

FIRST READING

Acts 12: 1-11

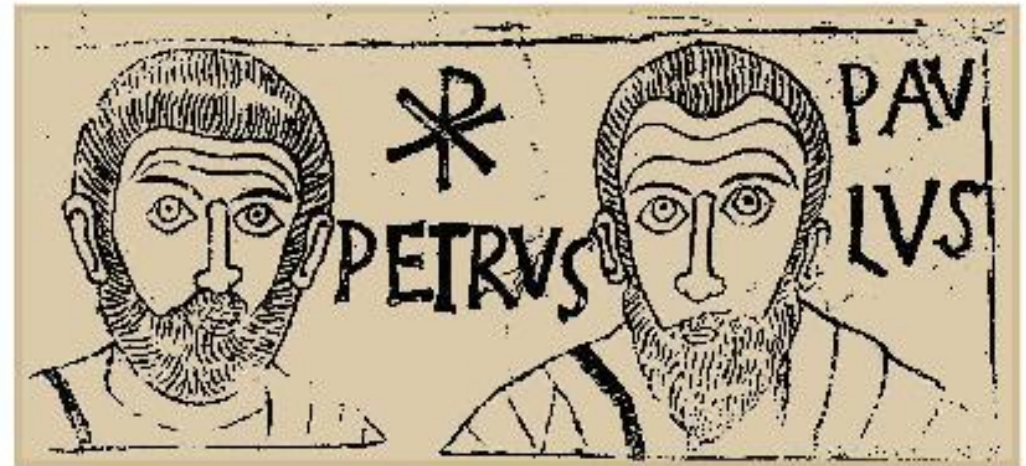
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now I know it is indeed true: the Lord has saved me from the power of Herod.

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true,' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

■ The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 33: 2-9. R. v. 5

R. The Lord set me free from all my fears.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. Glorify the Lord with me. / Together let us praise his name. / I sought the Lord and he answered me; / from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

3. Look towards him and be radiant; / let your faces not be abashed. / This poor man called; the Lord heard him / and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

4. The angel of the Lord is encamped / around those who revere him, to rescue them. / Taste and see that the Lord is good. / He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Tim 4: 6-8, 17-18

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy.

All that remains now is the crown of righteousness.

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might

THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

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Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

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www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Facebook



Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$603.00 Presbytery: \$633.00

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: J Lam

Lector - Sunday: Sonia??

Counters: M Beaumont & E Ambrose

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$344.10 Presbytery: \$354.15

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: D Sarah

Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving



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-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Thu 3 Jul: St Thomas, Apostle

Sun 6 Jul: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The Perpetual Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the centenary celebration of St Joseph's Church.

The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to apply for a tag.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became friends with God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Mt 16:16, 18)

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Carol Ann Burgess, Pauline Cresswell**

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

Recently Deceased: **Sebastian Neetany, Michelle Moore**

Death Anniversary: **Toni Tomaselli**

This Week's Special Collection: Peter's Pence

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul and on this occasion, the traditional Peter's Pence collection takes place. This is a concrete way to support the Holy Father in his mission of service to the universal Church. Please be generous.

Young Adults Hosting Mass: Saturday 28 June

Thank you to the Young Adults, who were joined by the Youth, from our 3 churches who have come together this Saturday to host the 6:30pm Vigil Mass at St Joseph's.

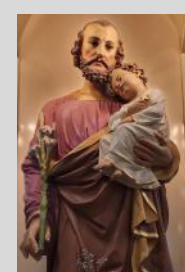
Our Young Adults are aged 18-35 and our Youth are those aged 7-17. For those who are slightly older but still young-at-heart, you are most welcome to join the group as Youth Coordinators. This is an important role, as you will be supporting the Young Adults and also guiding our Youth at Mass and during fellowship.



We hope to start the RCIA Program early July 2025, so the Catechumens are prepared leading up to Easter 2026.

For all who would like to journey towards becoming a Catholic, please email to register interest a.s.a.p. We also welcome new Facilitators to assist us with the program.

Novena to St Joseph



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

~ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ~
Rosary ~ Adoration ~ Novena to St Joseph ~
Divine Mercy Chaplet ~

First Friday Devotions

A special evening of prayer is held at St Joseph's on the 1st Friday of the month. 7:00pm Friday, 4th July 2025. Adoration, Prayers & Holy Mass. All are welcome.



Combined Societies of Mary.

www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com

Enquiries: Joy Hunt 9509 2207

Praise & Worship

All welcome to the Praise & Worship session on Friday, 18 July from 7-8pm at Holy Cross Parish Hall, followed by a cuppa. Please bring a plate to share.



Registration Open!

The ACYF is wonderful opportunity for engagement with other young people while experiencing talks, prayer, workshops, live concerts, games, Mass, etc. It is right at our own doorstep and an opportunity not to miss!

- Sunday, 30 November - Tuesday, 2 December
- Year 9 - 25 years plus Leaders 25+
- Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
- \$390-410 per person for the entire Festival. Travel and food at additional cost.



The Parish Leadership Teams realise that the cost to attend is quite significant and will be discussing how we can support the youth and leaders who are interested in attending. **However, we need names a.s.a.p. in order make further plans; be it sponsorship or fundraising.**

You are encouraged to register with your Parish using the form available at the church foyers. Parents need to complete the forms for those under 18.

The Parish of St Joseph's & Holy Cross and The Parish of St Anthony's & St Aloysius will register a 'combined contingent' for those who would like to attend or lead.

We will be holding the following Info Sessions:

1. St Joseph's Presbytery - Saturday 28 June, 7:30pm
2. St Anthony's Church - Sunday 5 July, after 11am Mass

Christmas-in-July Dance at St Anthony's



Saturday, 26 July 2025, 6pm.
Fundraising for Church Maintenance. Food on sale and BYO drinks.

Music by Floyd Solo Band. Dress code is semi-formal.

Tickets on sale from next weekend. Adults \$30pp, below 14-yrs \$15pp, below 6-yrs free (no seat).

The Superpower of Small Groups

- Where are the young people of our Parish?
- Why aren't there more teenagers attending Mass?
- How come so few youth participate in Parish events?

Do the above questions sound familiar, or have you perhaps asked the same questions yourself?

We, as a Parish community, might need new perspectives in helping to make that positive shift. Do we truly understand the needs of our young people today?

Our Parish, together with St Anthony's Parish, have been selected by our Archdiocese to take part in the Pilot Program for coaching with Everett Fritz to establish Youth Small Group Discipleship.

Discover the power of small groups with Everett Fritz, founder of Andrew Ministries and a leading expert in discipleship. Everett believes that discipleship does not happen through parish programs or events alone - it happens through relationship and accompaniment.



You may be interested as:

1. Parents of teens
2. Prospective mentors

We are all called to be disciples of Jesus! How do we grow communities of disciples who form more disciples?

Please email the Parish Office to register your interest.

The Feast of Saints Peter & Paul, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

I often wonder how two men so different as Peter and Paul could be celebrated together as the pillars of the Roman church. The blood of martyrdom united them, Paul by the sword in 62 and Peter by crucifixion in 64 during Nero's persecution. Pope Francis spoke to the patriarchs of the "Armenian and Orthodox Churches, "The blood of martyrs is the seedbed of our unity." Peter and Paul are revered because of their dynamic leadership and preaching. By their witness the primitive Christian community came to be not a memorial society with its eyes fastened on a departed Master; but a dynamic community created around a living and present Lord.

In some sense Peter and Paul were ordinary men, people like you and me, with gifts and failings, strengths and weaknesses. Who would have chosen a fisherman to head his church or a persecutor to spread the Gospel? What made the difference was meeting Jesus and being chosen by him, and they, despite setbacks, remained faithful to that choice.

That was certainly true of Paul who met the Lord on the road to Damascus. The risen Lord turned Paul and his plans upside down. It was true of Peter right at the beginning. The eyes of Jesus penetrated Peter's inner being and saw his heart. Right at the start in John's Gospel; Jesus called him no longer Simon son of Jonah but Petros, "rock". Matthew has this same story, as does Mark, at a pivotal point of the Gospel. If Christ's work is to continue, he needs people who know his deepest identity - and this knowing is the graced work of God. On Peter, he builds his Church on his faith, yes; but also on the man. Jesus met Peter and Paul many times in their own ministry, like he does with us, to take them deeper.

There is a little church on the outskirts of Rome called, Quo Vadis where Peter escaping Rome, met Jesus. He asked Jesus, "Where are you going, Lord? (Quo vadis, Domine)" Jesus replied, "To Rome to be crucified again." Peter turned back and followed him.

Peter and Paul surrendered their own life plans to take up a higher destiny - they went with and for Jesus. His concern became theirs - to bring forth God's kingdom of justice and love. The same questions Jesus asks of you and me - do you want to give your life to Jesus?

Fr Pat Jackson SAC

The collector approached a parishioner and held out the box. "I never give to the Missions," whispered the man. "Then take something out of the box, sir," suggested the collector. "The money is for the heathens."

The Vibrant Parish Formation Series

Local and international guest speakers will share how we can strengthen the characteristics of a vibrant parish with Worship, Evangelisation, Formation, Fellowship, and Service using the TWG Renewal Framework.

Tuesdays: 6:30-9:00pm at Mulgrave Country Club, Corner of Wellington and Jells Roads, Wheelers Hill.

July 1: Hospitality - Transformation for host and guest

August 12: Service - Beyond the church doors

September 9: Evangelisation - Bridging the gap between parish and school

Contact the Parish Office if you wish to attend a session.

be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 16: 18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will
build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 16: 13-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew.

*You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples. 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

THE HEART OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today's Feast celebrates the universality of our catholic world. We know from the *Book of Acts* and Paul's letters that Peter and Paul struggled to come to an agreement as to their respective missionary focus. For Peter it was to the Jews; for Paul, to the non-Jewish, Gentile world. While both retained their Jewish identity, they saw that God's commitment of love was to all and not restrictive to one cultural or religious grouping.

Matthew's Gospel affirms the role of Peter as the foundational disciple, the 'rock' (in Greek, 'Petros'), for the fledgling Jesus movement. But this is preceded by the most important and essential characteristic of discipleship and leadership within this movement: a firm witness of Jesus as God's anointed one, the 'Son of the living God.' Peter's affirmation of Jesus' identity comes from God. It is a statement of faith upon which the Jesus movement is built.

Faith lies at the heart of discipleship; witnessing to Jesus' relationship to God precedes any form of leadership. Peter is portrayed in Matthew's Gospel as a flawed, even failed disciple (and leader). We are only too aware today of the failings in ecclesial leadership. However, relationship with Jesus, the one from God, is what sustains and enables the 'rock', that firm foundation, to carry the Church through into a future that is uncertain.

Fr Michael Trainor