



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

30 MARCH 2025

FIRST READING

Josh 5: 9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 33: 2-7. R. v. 9

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

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.**

SECOND READING

2 Cor 5: 17-21

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we

are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 15: 18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid

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

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

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Facebook



Mass

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

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: M Ellis

Lector - Sunday: D Joseph

Counters: No Counting

Thanksgiving



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: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: D Sarah

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

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 6 Apr: 5th Sunday of Lent

Lenten Scripture Reflection - 5 Faces of Mercy

Starting on Monday 3rd March and every Monday thereafter during Lent from 7pm - 8pm at The Crying Room in St Anthony's. All welcome!

Australia's Treatment of Refugees

What needs to happen? A talk by David Manne, renowned Human Rights lawyer and CEO of Refugee Legal.

Sunday 30 March, 2:00pm at St John's Uniting Church, 567 Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick.

Afternoon tea provided. Your gold coin donation will help needy refugees.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Isa 66:10-11)

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Luke 15:32)

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Ian and Sue Besomo, Stella Bai, Pope Francis, Richard Grant**

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

Extra Weekday Masses at Holy Cross

Repair works at St Anthony's Church is still ongoing. There will be no 9:15am weekday morning Masses at St Anthony's Church. Instead, weekday Masses will be as follows **until Friday, 4th April 2025.**

Holy Cross - Mon to Fri: 9:15am (no Thu 10:00am Mass)

St Joseph's - Fri: 10:00am

No changes to time and place of Saturday and Sunday Masses at all parishes.

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Holy Cross: Thursdays after 9:15am* Mass

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

St Anthony's: Fridays after 7:00pm Mass

** Until 4th April 2025*

Petition to Defend the Honour of Our Lady

Please consider signing this petition which is asking for a name change to the "Ave Maria Family Planning Clinic" in Seaford - a sacrilegious contraception clinic in Victoria fli.org.au/a-sacreligious-contraception-clinic-in-melbourne/

The Annual Pilgrimage Walk

This Sunday, 30th March at 12:30pm. Meet at the front of St Anthony's Church.

We will be visiting St Patrick's Mentone (and St Bridget's Mordialloc), and the Divine Mercy and Our Lady of La Vang Shrines, Keysborough.

Some of the distance (about 50kms) will be on foot and some by bus or car.

Pilgrimages such as these attract a plenary indulgence.

Tea and coffee will be provided at St Anthony's after 11:00am Mass for those who want to bring their lunch.

Please bring water, a hat and wear comfortable shoes.

Easter Raffle Tickets on Sale

Tickets are \$5 each or \$10 for three tickets. There will be a total of 4 prizes. Proceeds go to St Anthony's Church. Please email glenhuntly@cam.org.au to organise tickets.



Australia Catholic Youth Festival 2025

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is excited to be hosting the festival during the Church's Jubilee Year and looks forward to welcoming thousands of pilgrims from Year 9 to 25 years of age, together with their accompanying leaders, teachers and clergy.

Registration costs will range from \$390–410 per person for the entire Festival with access to all areas and experiences.

Groups will be responsible for all travel to/from the Festival. Meals from vendors at the venue will be available at additional cost.

We encourage the young people of our 3 parishes who may be discerning attending the Festival, to please register your interest using the clipboards provided. Parental consent is needed for those under 18 years.

We would like to coordinate and register as one contingent from our 3 parishes. Youth Leaders and Coordinators will lead and supervise the contingent at the Festival.

Those who prefer to register and attend on their own may make their own arrangements.

Youth Group: Year 7 to under 18 years old

Our three parishes are planning to start a Youth Group.

Parents need to complete an Expression of Interest Form, available at each of our churches, and submit it to their Parish Office. While you are completing the Expression of Interest Form for your children, please consider ticking other boxes as well, for example, Altar Servers, Choir, Children's Liturgy Leaders.

Once we have the names of the interested Youth, we will plan some activities and programs.

Young Adult Group: Aged 18 to 35

Are you in the 18-35 age group? If so, you are eligible to join our Young Adult Group. We have members from Holy Cross, St Joseph's and St Anthony's Parishes.

Once a month, the Group organises and takes an active part in the Saturday Vigil Mass at St Joseph's Elsternwick, after which they meet to share food and plan their activities.

To be part of the Group, and to participate in other Parish Ministries, please complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) Form available at each church and submit it to your Parish office. When completing the EOI Form please tick the box for age bracket 18-25 or 25-35. Please note the option of sharing your contact details within your chosen Ministry Groups.

Forthcoming events include a seminar for Young Adult Group organised by the Pallottine-run Parishes and participation as one contingent from our three parishes in the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF).

Youth Coordinators: Aged 25 and above

Those who can oversee the Youth Group and Young Adults' Group, especially with regard to Safeguarding, mentoring and supporting, please complete an Expression of Interest Form available at each of our churches, and submit it to your Parish office.

4th Sunday of Lent, Year C

Return of the Prodigal Son, and Mercy of God

Once, a preacher held out a new, crisp and clean \$20 note and asked the congregation if anyone wanted it. All hands went up. Then he wrinkled the \$20 note within his palm and then asked if anyone still wanted it. Again all hands went up. Then he threw the dollar note to the ground, trampled it under his feet, soiled it and then picked it up and asked if there was anyone who still wanted it. Again all hands went up.

Then the preacher said, "If this is how we see the value of a dollar note irrespective of its uncleanness; that should also be how we see one another irrespective of their sinfulness."

In the parable of the Prodigal Son Jesus teaches us that God our Father does not disown us because of our sinfulness; we continue to be his dear sons and daughters. But unfortunately that is not how we see one another, especially when the other is known to be a sinful person. For this reason, Jesus taught us the parable of the Prodigal Son. The parable invites us to change our attitude towards those whom we label as sinners. Jesus wants us to have compassionate and understanding hearts like that of the Father in this parable.

I often wonder, what would have happened if the younger brother happened to meet his older brother before he could meet the father. Or what would have happened if the younger had overheard all the arguments of the older? Or, if the younger brother had known what the older brother thought and said? I suppose, he would have run off again, even if it meant misery, hunger and death. It's our goodwill towards one another that holds us together.

And now the father is out there with the older son, entreating him to be considerate. The father does not want to lose one, in order to have the other. The father goes down on his knees requesting the older son to see as the father sees. There is no celebration without both.

Each of us is deeply loved by God the Father. We all have sinned, in different ways, though. God the Father is Compassionate towards each and everyone of us. So must we be to one another; no matter what!

Know the Father's Love and share it!

Fr Leenus.

I can never take my dog to the park, because the ducks and the magpies keep pecking on him. I guess that's what one gets for buying a pure 'bread' dog.

Permanent Diaconate Information Session

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service.

The information session is open to everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate. If you have attended any previous session, you are also welcome to attend this session. Wives most welcome.

Details of the session

Date: Saturday 3 May 2025 (10:00am - 11:30am)

Venue: Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

Register: Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.” ’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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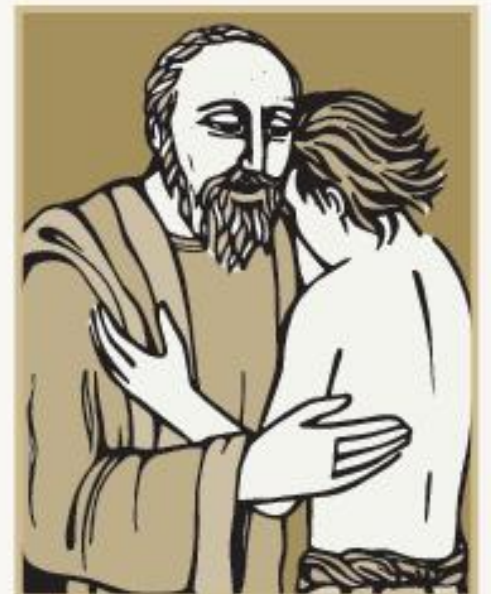
Breaking Open the Word

GOD'S LAVISH DELIGHT

This Sunday's Gospel brings us to the very heart of Luke's teaching—forgiveness and God's delight in the return of the sinner. The Gospel's introduction sets the scene: Jesus attracts and dines with moral reprobates. Is this mirroring what's happening with Luke's householders as they gather for the Lord's Supper? Like Jesus, are they too being criticised by religious legislators?

Three parables follow. Our focus is on the third, the parable of two lost sons. Preachers often exclusively focus on the young son who demands his inheritance to leave the farm for a life of pleasure. The son is virtually treating his father as though dead when inheritances were usually bequeathed. He wants to completely cut family ties. We know what follows. The son's need to address his chronic hunger and loneliness sitting with Earth's most unclean creature, the pig, brings him to acknowledge his wrongdoing. He wants to return to his father's farm not as a son but as a hired hand.

The father's longing for his son's return is palpable and completely upturns social expectation. It reflects God's visceral response to the lost one who returns. The second older son is also lost. His adamant rejection of his younger brother's behaviour and his unwillingness to join the celebration of the brother's return flags an attitude circulating in Luke's world. The father's plea to this son for a change of heart is also a plea to the Gospel audience: Are we able to celebrate the joy of God's lavish delight over those we would prefer to exclude?



Fr Michael Trainor