



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

30 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Jer 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

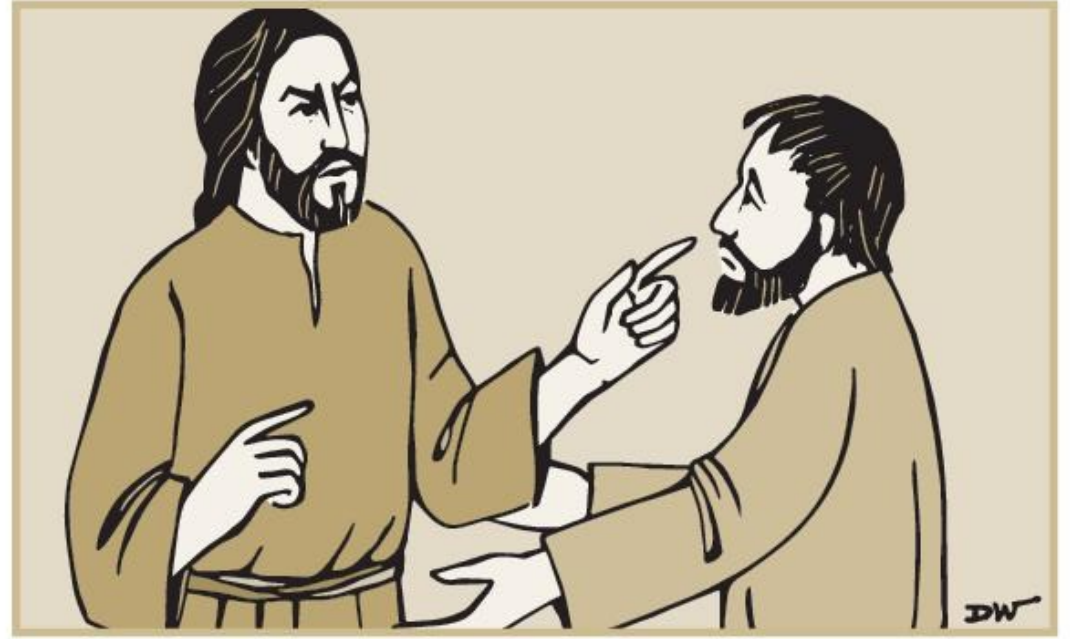
Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v. 2

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; /
for you my soul is thirsting. / My body pines for you / like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary / to see your strength and your glory. / For your love is better than life, / my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. So I will bless you all my life, / in your name I will lift up my hands. / My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, / my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**



4. For you have been my help; / in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. / My soul clings to you; / your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Eph 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of our heart, / that we might see how great is the hope / to which we are called. / Alleluia!



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
Parish Office: 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162 ☎ 95285988 ✉ elsternwick@cam.org.au
📮 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 J Lam
Sunday 9:00am D Sarah 10:30am E Zheng

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Thu 3 Sep: St Gregory the Great
Sun 6 Sep: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thanksgiving



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

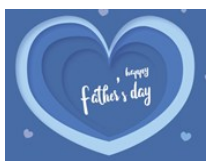
Our Chapel offers a quiet, sacred space to pray and to spend time with Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 with a security tag. To apply, contact the Parish Office. A fully refundable security deposit will be required.

RCIA has resumed

Those seeking renewal of faith or know someone desiring to become Catholic, please contact our parish office to learn more about the RCIA sessions which will take place on Thursdays, 6:30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, Elsternwick.



Father's Day Book



Our Father's Day Book is placed on the altar rail in front of Our Lady's statue in the church.

Please write the names of all fathers for whom you would like prayers to be offered on Fathers Day. There will be a special blessing for all fathers at all Masses on weekend of 6th September.

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*: Virginia Poloie Tu'I, Paula Person, Sister Miriam-Elizabeth Cusack, Bernadette Duffy, Ian & Sue Besomo

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

Recently Deceased: Augustine Neetany (Fr Leenus' brother)
Oscar Keys

Death Anniversary: -

Prayer Service of Lament

On Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 4pm, Archbishop Peter Comensoli will be holding a Prayer Service of Lament for survivors of abuse. The service will also be livestreamed, enabling others to join in prayer from across the Archdiocese. Archbishop Comensoli's letter regarding this service has been placed on our Parish notice board.

Online Info Session on the Permanent Diaconate

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Tuesday, 22 September 2026, 7-8pm via ZOOM

Attendance will be by invitation. Email Deacon Kevin Pattison to express your interest - Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady will arrive at St Anthony's Church on Friday 2 October and be with us till Saturday 10 October. There will be a procession and rosary at 5pm on Saturday 10 October before the 6pm Mass. All parishioners especially youth welcome!



Parish Social Afternoon Tea at Holy Cross

All who attended the event on Wednesday August 26th, had a very enjoyable footy-themed afternoon tea! A great spread and lively conversation.

Our Lady of Vailankanni 2026

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.

Saints' Relics 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

Powerful Novena:

Sunday, 30th August to Monday, 7th September at 7pm
- Adoration, Novena Prayers & Holy Mass

The Wonderful Feast:

Tuesday, 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



St Anthony's Parish Flats - Lake Street, Carnegie

Owned by the Parish since 1987, the flats are administered by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) and are available to those over the age of 55 who are applying for public housing.

The Parish has nomination rights, so if you would like to be on the Parish waiting list, you should first be registered with DFFH, who will assess eligibility and provide an application number (income & asset limits apply).

For more information please contact DFFH on 1300 555 526 or email: callcentre@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities

The Cagliero Project is an initiative of the Australia-Pacific Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco, providing overseas volunteer experiences for Australians and New Zealanders who wish to work with young people in the Asia-Pacific region.

We are seeking volunteers for January 2027 departure. Volunteer placements run for 6-12 months and are centered around working with young people in educational settings.

We are currently recruiting for volunteers for Cambodia, Samoa, Timor Leste, Mongolia and the Solomon Islands. Rather than "helping," we walk in solidarity with young people, creating opportunities for mutual learning and growth.

Volunteers work in the Salesian way, placing young people at the centre of all they do and approaching life with joy, compassion, and respect. While the focus is on those we serve, the experience is often deeply rewarding for volunteers as well.

Applications close October 31st, 2026.

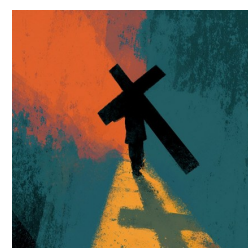
Enquiries: www.cagliero.org.au

Email: lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last week, Peter was praised as the "rock" of the Church. Today, Peter tries to correct Jesus and tells him that suffering and the cross should not happen to him.



Jesus turns Peter into a "stumbling block" because wanting a crown without the cross is a false path. We often act like Peter; we want an easy, comfortable faith without any pain or sacrifice.

Despite Peter's confession of faith the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means.

Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom.

Taking up the cross means transforming our daily struggles from meaningless burdens into active acts of love and trust in God. Jesus does not ask us to seek out suffering, but He shows us how to carry the difficulties that naturally come with human life. Ordinary hardships, financial stress, illness, grief, or difficult relationships happen to everyone, regardless of faith.

The Cross - The cross is how we respond to those hardships. It is the decision to handle pain with patience, forgive those who hurt us, and remain faithful when life gets dark.

The Human Instinct - Like Peter in the Gospel, our first reaction to suffering is often rejection, anger, or asking, "Why me?"

The Christ-like Response - Taking up the cross means moving past resentment. It means saying, "Lord, I do not understand this pain, but I offer it to You." When we carry our difficulties with faith, they change us. Hardships can melt away our selfishness, deepen our empathy for others, and build a stronger, quieter inner joy.

The Cross of Acceptance - Trusting God's plan when plans fail, health declines, or prayers seem unanswered.

God bless!

Q: How did God cure Moses' headache?

A: He gave him two tablets.

World Youth Day 2027

Over 600 people gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral on Thursday 20 August for the launch of the Archdiocese's pilgrimage to the next World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea.



The SeoulFest began with an hour of prayer with the Blessed Sacrament, led by Archbishop Comensoli. Festivities then spilled out onto the Cathedral grounds with a Korean food truck, music and a special badge-making station for would-be pilgrims.

The Archdiocese is offering three pilgrimage options to the 2027 World Youth Day - via Japan, via the Diocese of Incheon for an experience of the local church (Days in the Diocese), and a pilgrimage direct to Seoul.

'There's going to be all sorts of great moments during these days ahead, including gathering with Pope Leo,' said Archbishop Comensoli.

In addition to the Masses and catechesis offered at World Youth Day, the Archbishop pointed to some of the quieter moments on pilgrimage that can be just as powerful. 'Moments like reconciliation, healing... forgiveness. And quiet moments of prayer, gathering, and of finding new friends.

For more details: <https://youth.melbournecatholic.org/wyd27>

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

GENUINE DISCIPLESHIP

Today's Gospel follows on immediately from last Sunday's Gospel and the question posed to Jesus' disciples in Matthew's day, and to us, about his identity. Jesus then outlines what awaits him in Jerusalem—his suffering, death and resurrection. These words seem either incomprehensible to his disciples, represented by Peter, or are rejected.

Whatever the reason for Peter's reaction, following God's anointed one on a path of suffering, death and resurrection is unfathomable. The disciples imagine a triumphant, powerful figure who will overcome Roman opposition. Success and status are their vision for the future of discipleship!

Today's Gospel is a sobering reminder that suffering is not excluded from discipleship. Life's tragedies and concerns are not the opposite of following Jesus; they can be authentic expressions of it. Disciples are not called to seek suffering nor to become victims. Rather, suffering can be integrated into genuine discipleship. These are important insights especially for some who think that they must 'prove' their loyalty to Jesus by seeking out further pain or suffering. We know that suffering is part of life; we need not look for it further. We are surrounded by a world of suffering.

Today we acknowledge the sufferings of those who gather with us in our Assembly, especially those borne silently or through violence, including domestic violence.

Fr Michael Trainor