



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C, 20-21 September, 2025

Darkness would not be dark to you

(by Sr Finn Gray in Columban magazine)

Last April, I sowed wild flower seeds – I just raked the ground and scattered the seeds, as did the Sower whom Jesus talks about in the Gospels.

As I let them go, the seeds sank into the dark earth where I would not be able to see what was happening to them. It was a simple act of faith and trust in Mother Earth.

Those seeds were on a journey - a journey of waiting in the dark, and I found myself challenged by the words of American Carmelite nun and poet, Jessica Powers: *"Joy waits with me. I think of the marvellous flower that is to come and how the light will hover over it. Now and again, though, is the message blurred by brief uncertainties."*

As the weeks passed, I wondered — would those seeds take root? Would they flower? Or would they die in the dark? And then, the first minuscule shoots began to appear, to grow in strength as they reached out to the light of the sun, and my precarious hope began to strengthen.

"Who would have thought my shrivelled heart could have recovered greenness? It was gone quite underground as flowers depart to feed their mother root when they have blown." (George Herbert, *"The Flower"*)

Not all my seeds survived, of course, but I was filled with wonder at the resilience of those tiny shoots that did continue to mature — so fragile and yet seemingly so determined to grow.

Today, our world seems to be filled with darkness and uncertainties — war, starvation, unnecessary death in so many countries, destruction of so much of our planet. In all this darkness and suffering, as we wonder where God is, it seems impossible to experience the seeds

of hope that we can nurture into blossoming. We need to be as convinced as Desmond Tutu was that *"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness"*.

With all of this in mind, in springtime this year, I will once again sow wild—flower seeds, and I will again sense the challenge to my faith and hope. Will they take root? Will they flower? Or will they die? I will watch and wait for the flowers to appear on the tiniest shoots, struggling upwards, preparing to bring joy and wonder.

As I pray for all those who are suffering in the darkness of our world today, I ask myself to be like the seeds and be consoled and encouraged with the words of the psalm: *"If I asked darkness to cover me, and the light to become night around me, that darkness would not be dark to you, night would be as light as day."* (Psalm 739)



Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note
Sunday 11am online
Mass is

[https://youtube.com/
live/O7vpPWkbbSk?
feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/O7vpPWkbbSk?feature=share)

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr OBrien Chanda CP
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

St Paul Apostle North
Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

St Paul Apostle South
Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's
Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for NEXT WEEK
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading

Amos 6.1a, 4-7

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts: "Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria!

"Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! "Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of those who lie in ease shall pass away." The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free.

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind
and lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous
and watches over the strangers.

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2: 1-8

As for you, man of God; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time. He is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no human being has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen. The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet he became poor,
so that his poverty you might become rich .
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 16.19-31

Jesus told this parable to those among the Pharisees who loved money: "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

"The poor man died and was carried away by the Angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.'

"But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.'

"The man who had been rich said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send Lazarus to my father's house — for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.'

"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' Abraham said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

This is the Gospel, the Good News of the Lord

Reflection

- How does the rich man's luxurious lifestyle and complete lack of compassion for Lazarus contrast with a life that seeks to bless others?
- What responsibilities do I have, as a "blessed" person, to be a blessing to others in my community, as the parable suggests in the concept of a "coming great reversal"?

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.
St Paul Apostle safeguarding policies can be found on our website at
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> or in hardcopy in the Sacristy



SAFEGUARDING CORNER

Volunteers are those who help the Church in any ways on a regular basis. That is from the biggest duty to the very minimum level. If you do this at our church, you are required to complete all the safeguarding requirements (Working with Children's check and the safeguarding training and code of conduct). Completing all of these (either in person or online) is a critical requirement (as advised by the archdiocese of Melbourne) to be a volunteer in the church. You will need to temporarily cease volunteering in any form until this is done.

ALTAR SERVERS

The Parish team will be approaching **ALL** altar servers and their parents over the coming weeks to complete a registration form. Please approach one of the team if we happen to miss you. Again this is an important requirement if they wish to continue serving in the church.



PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

4:12 YOUTH (our Parish Youth for grade 5 to yr 9)

Please remember that this group is open for children in grade 5 to grade 9. They meet regularly on the second Friday of each month, in August their meeting will be on **FRIDAY, October 10th in the Tim O'Toole Annexe from 7pm**. A variety of activities is arranged for each gathering. For planning purposes, please contact Candice on 0423 482 537 if you wish to attend.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY—welcomes all primary school children and younger to our Children's Liturgy program at 11am Mass each week. Please note that the 11am Mass is being **LIVE-STREAMED** every week.

We wish to remind parents that all children under 4 or with special MUST be accompanied by

A PARENT (not siblings). Our leaders will be easily identifiable, if your child has any allergies, a serious medical condition or special needs, please alert the leader on the day. Due to possible allergic responses we ask that you refrain from bringing any food into the Children's Liturgy space. When the children are returning to their seats after the session please ensure they are aware of where you are seated. If you have any questions or feedback please feel free to chat to one of our Chil-

dren's Liturgy volunteers or someone on the parish team

THANKSGIVING

If your thanksgiving to the church is through Direct Debit and Credit Card Contributors, please note the following:

If you notice anything unusual on your bank statement related to your pledge to our parish, please contact **"the parish office"** promptly. We'll investigate the matter for you." Please do not contact the bank

PIETY STALL

As stock-take has now completed, our piety stall is back in operation. Many new items have been added. Remember to check it out as you leave the Church today. You may find something that you like.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Our St Vincent de Paul group, more popularly known as the VINNIES, has been quietly working hard behind the scenes, helping those who are in need. Their work includes providing groceries and store vouchers, whenever needed, and distributing bread twice a week to several families.

In order to cover the many demands, there is always a requirement for more volunteers. Next week, at all Masses, we will provide additional information as to the many activities they are involved in and how you too can join in the group to help make a difference to the lives of those in need.



GOOD NEWS

Last week we received good news from one of our parishioners, (Sheldon Dias) who works for the international food & spices company MCCORMICK & CO. Each year the company acknowledges the charitable work of its employees, and this year they have recognized the work Sheldon does through the St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) society. We are grateful for the generosity of McCormick's whose financial support will enable us to continue this important ministry. We want to thank Sheldon and all our SVDP volunteers who continue to represent the Gospel and our community.



Readings:

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C

Amos 8: 4-7
1 Timothy 2: 1-7
Luke 16: 1-13

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C

Amos 6: 1, 4-7
1 Timothy 2: 12-18
Luke 16: 19-31

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Stephanie Kinson, Cecile Potier, Tauasu Vaeafe, Fr. Michael Willemsen, Sebastian Nowakowski, Keith Gilmore, Maria Terezia Szabo, Mavis David, Parama Sivam, Nethanjal Tu'ulakitau, Christopher de Zilva, Christina Williams, Italia Fata, Eva Marie, Kevin Ooi, Rose Liew, Annabelle Ghatt, Marantha Fidow, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Merlinda B. Szuba, Marian Meade, "Horse" Ian Price, Josip Dujic, Anton Nadarajah, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Raymond Parsons, Zetro Leonardo Purba, Boy Quilala, Jeannine Georgette Therese Chadwick, Noel McNamara, Neomi Therese Jackson, Shelagh Maureen Gleeson, Joseph Quang Khanh Do, Brett Daly, David Rae, Anne Marlene Rae, Janine Batista, Lucia Florindo **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2025

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe Jennifer Cunningham	Vianney Clark Antoniette Gargano Stephen Herbert Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Aloma Pereira David Goh Rinku Arora	Sharon Normington Sai Dilingir Naomi Falo Stephen Nasalio Santhanamary	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antoniette Gargano Binitha Mathew Patricia De Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe David Goh	Naomi Falo Sharon Normington Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Swineetha Disanayake Dominique Maclou Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Nila Fernando Rinku Arora	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Sharon Normington	Peng Chee Jenny Catania Marg Keating

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2025

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Janina Gorski	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio William Roncon
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Alvita Dias Rinku Arora	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating Luiza Monteiro
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Janina Gorski	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu

Please note that the above rosters are subject to the completion
of the required SAFEGUARDING documents and training

