



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, 2025

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE 9th WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

(33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
16 November 2025)

You are my hope (cf. Ps 71:5)

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

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

1. “You, O Lord, are my hope” (Ps 71:5). These words well up from a heart burdened by grave hardship: “You have made me see many troubles and calamities” (v. 20), the Psalmist exclaims. At the same time, his heart remains open and confident; steadfast in faith, he acknowledges the support of God, whom he calls “a rock of refuge, a strong fortress” (v. 3). Hence, his abiding trust that hope in God never disappoints: “In you, Lord, I take refuge; I shall never be put to shame” (v. 1).

Amid life’s trials, our hope is inspired by the firm and reassuring certainty of God’s love, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. That hope does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5). Thus Saint Paul could write to Timothy: “To this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God” (1 Tim 4:10). The living God is in fact “the God of hope” (Rom 15:13), and Christ, by his death and resurrection, has himself become “our hope” (1 Tim 1:1). We must never forget that we were saved in this hope, and need to remain firmly rooted therein.

2. The poor can be witnesses to a strong and steadfast hope, precisely because they embody it in the midst of uncertainty, poverty, instability and marginalization. They cannot rely on the security of power and possessions; on the contrary, they are at their mercy and often victims of them. Their hope must necessarily be sought elsewhere. By recognizing that God is our first and only hope, we too pass from fleeting hopes to a lasting hope. Once we desire that God accompany us on the journey of life, material wealth becomes relativized, for we discover the

real treasure that we need. The words that the Lord Jesus spoke to his disciples remain forceful and clear: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Mt 6:19-20).

3. The gravest form of poverty is not to know God. As Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*: “The worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care. The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them his friendship, his blessing, his word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith” (No. 2000). Here we see a basic and essential awareness of how we can find our treasure in God. As the Apostle John insists: “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen” (1 Jn 4:20).

This is a rule of faith and the secret of hope: all this earth’s goods, material realities, worldly pleasures, economic prosperity, however important, cannot bring happiness to our hearts. Wealth often disappoints and can lead to tragic situations of poverty — above all the poverty born of the failure to recognize our need for God and of the attempt to live without him. A saying of Saint Augustine comes to mind: “Let all your hope be in God: feel your need for him, and let him fill that need. Without him, whatever you possess will only make you all the more empty” (Enarr. in Ps., 85:3).

4. The word of God tells us that Christian hope is certainty at every step of life’s journey, since it does not depend not on our human strength but upon the promise of God, who is always faithful. For this reason, from the beginning, Christians have identified hope with the symbol of the anchor, which provides stability and security.

(...continue on last page)

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
Feast of Christ the King Sunday Year C, 2025

First Reading

2 Samuel 5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: 'It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.'" So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel
The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem, built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.
As it was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord. F
or there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David .

Second Reading

Colossians 1:12-20

Brothers and sisters: Give thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. The Father has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the Church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.
For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his Cross.
The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 23:35-43

The leaders scoffed at Jesus saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked Jesus, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

This is the Gospel, the Good News of the Lord

Reflection

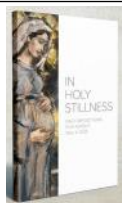
In what areas of my life—like my time, money, family, or work—do I need to invite Jesus to reign more fully?
How can I better serve the "least" of these, recognizing that in serving them, I am serving Christ?
What does it look like to serve a cause "noblest of all" and build God's kingdom here on Earth?

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



ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKLET

Advent is only two weeks away. Our Piety Stall has some Advent Reflection booklets available if you are looking for something to assist with reflection during this Advent. Cost is \$7 per copy.



BREAD RUN

The Bread Run is one of our longstanding outreach programs. Vianney & Alex have been faithfully volunteering to coordinate the bread run for 30 years. Both Alex & Vianney feels that this is the time to pass on this role. They already have a team of volunteers to pick up and deliver the bread, however we are looking for a dynamic duo to take over coordinating and managing the program. Please contact the parish office if you are interested and need more information

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our Children's Liturgy team is having their Christmas gathering on **SUNDAY the 30th of NOVEMBER after 11am Mass**, at Martin Place (the yard behind the Parish Office). All children (accompanied by their parents) are invited to join. Please bring a plate to share. There will be some activities organised by the Children's liturgy team.

VOLUNTEERS

This is a reminder for **ALL WHO REGULARLY HELPS GARDENING**. Please ensure that you have fulfilled all the safeguarding requirements (including a Working with Children's Check and safeguarding training) If you are in doubt, please don't hesitate to approach Didi at Mass or to call the parish office. We will assist you with completing the necessary requirements.

GARDENING DAY

Since this is Spring, our Church garden grows faster. Therefore, we are planning to have another gardening day on **SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER** from 8.30am to 11am. If you have a little time to spare to help us, please come along with your garden tool. The more help we get, the more areas we can cover.

BINGO—correction on the time

This is an early notice from the Bingo team. Their last session of Bingo for the year will be on **FRIDAY, 28th NOVEMBER 2025. Starting time is 7.30pm**. As usual, the theme of the final session is 'Christmas'. All whom have joined this event in the past have expressed how much fun they had. If you wish to join or have an inquiry please contact us.

SENIORS BRUNCH

As we entered month of November, we are only a step away from December. Please note that we are organising **SENIORS BRUNCH on FRIDAY, 5 DECEMBER**. It begins with Mass in the Church at 10am (no 9am Mass on this day) follow by brunch in the annexe. Sign up sheets are available in the gathering space. Please remember to put your name down if you wish to join in. Any finger food donation is most welcome.

COME AWAY DAY

The last Come Away Day for 2025 will be held at Holy Cross on **WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19th**. The theme of the day is 'ONE CANDLE LIGHTS THE WAY ...'. This is an opportunity to rest and reflect and to focus on the deeper meaning of our life journey as we approach the time of Advent. The day's program provides opportunities for prayer, silent reflection and group interaction in the beautiful grounds and facilities of Holy Cross. All are welcome. Just come as you are. BYO lunch. Registration is from 9.30am. The program concludes with a celebration of the Eucharist with a departure time of around 3pm. The suggested cost is \$30.00 or a donation according to your means. Registration is helpful for planning purposes. For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com. Please put this Date in your Diary and consider inviting a friend along to share the Come Away Day experience.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER LIST

As is our tradition at the beginning of Advent, we will be giving hampers to all who are in need. Please check out this space for future updates. The lists will be available next weekend for all wishing to make and donate a hamper

Readings:

33 Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr C

Malachi 4:1-2a

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Luke 21:5-19

Feast of Christ the King Sunday, Yr C

2 Samuel 5:1-3

Colossians 1:12-20

Luke 23:35-43

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Desiree Madeira, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Tyronne Walles, Stephanie Kinson, Cecile Potier, Fr. Michael Willemsen, Sebastian Nowakowski, Maria Terezia Szabo, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, 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

Annabelle Ghatt, Paul Sanders, John Santospirito, Elizabeth Parer, Shaun Gallagher, Merlinda B Szuba, Melville Stone, Geraldine Rafferty, Tauasu Vaeafe, Anton Nadarajah, Raymond Anthony Parsons, Maria Antolini, Cheryl Anthony, Allan Bonhomme, Giorgio Fuda, Telesia Litia Dunlop, Jim Souter, George Ellyot Bhugon, Philomena Hickey, Murcia Harter **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS

This year Parish Carols will be led by Fr Chris & his band as well as our Choir groups, they will be held on **SUNDAY, the 14th of DECEMBER** from 7pm-9pm

ADVENT RECONCILIATION is on **TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER** at 7pm in the Church

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Christmas Eve Masses are 6pm (Children's Mass), 8.30pm (Family Mass) and Midnight Mass (precedes by Carols at 11.30pm)
Christmas Day Masses are 9am & 11am
New Year's Day Mass is 9am

(.....continue.....)

Christian hope is like an anchor that grounds our hearts in the promise of the Lord Jesus, who saved us by his death and resurrection and will come again among us. This hope continues to point us toward the "new heavens" and the "new earth" (2 Pet 3:13) as the true horizon of our existence, where every life will find its authentic meaning, for our real homeland is in heaven (cf. Phil 3:20).

The city of God, therefore, impels us to improve the cities of men and women. Our own cities must begin to resemble his. Hope, sustained by God's love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:5), turns human hearts into fertile soil where charity for the life of the world can blossom. The Church's tradition has constantly insisted on the circular relationship between the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. Hope is born of faith, which nourishes and sustains it on the foundation of charity, the mother of all virtues. All of us need charity, here and now. Charity is not just a promise; it is a present reality to be embraced with joy and responsibility. Charity engages us and guides our decisions towards the common good. Conversely, those who lack charity not only lack faith and hope; they also rob their neighbors of hope.

5. The biblical summons to hope thus entails the duty to shoulder our responsibilities in history, without hesitation. Charity, in fact, "is the greatest social commandment" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1889). Poverty has structural causes that must be addressed and eliminated. In the meantime, each of us is called to offer new signs of hope that will bear witness to Christian charity, just as many saints have done over the centuries. Hospitals and schools, for instance, were institutions established to reach out to the most vulnerable and marginalized. These institutions should be a part of every country's public policy, yet wars and inequalities often prevent this from happening. Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!

The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel. The celebration of the World Day of the Poor is meant to remind our communities that the poor are at the heart of all our pastoral activity. This is true not only of the Church's charitable work, but also of the message that she celebrates and proclaims. God took on their poverty in order to enrich us

through their voices, their stories and their faces. Every form of poverty, without exception, calls us to experience the Gospel concretely and to offer effective signs of hope.

6. This, then, is the invitation extended to us by this Jubilee celebration. It is no coincidence that the World Day of the Poor is celebrated towards the end of this year of grace. Once the Holy Door is closed, we are to cherish and share with others the divine gifts granted us throughout this entire year of prayer, conversion and witness. The poor are not recipients of our pastoral care, but creative subjects who challenge us to find novel ways of living out the Gospel today. In the face of new forms of impoverishment, we can risk becoming hardened and resigned. Each day we encounter poor or impoverished people. We too may have less than before and are losing what once seemed secure: a home, sufficient food for each day, access to healthcare and a good education, information, religious freedom and freedom of expression.

In this promotion of the common good, our social responsibility is grounded in God's creative act, which gives everyone a share in the goods of the earth. Like those goods, the fruits of human labor should be equally accessible to all. Helping the poor is a matter of justice before a question of charity. As Saint Augustine observed: "You give bread to a hungry person; but it would be better if none were hungry, so that you would have no need to give it away. You clothe the naked, but would that all were clothed and that there be no need for supply this lack" (In I Ioan., 8:5).

It is my hope, then, that this Jubilee Year will encourage the development of policies aimed at combatting forms of poverty both old and new, as well as implementing new initiatives to support and assist the poorest of the poor. Labor, education, housing and health are the foundations of a security that will never be attained by the use of arms. I express my appreciation for those initiatives that already exist, and for the efforts demonstrated daily on the international level by great numbers of men and women of good will.

Let us entrust ourselves to Mary Most Holy, Comforter of the Afflicted and, with her, let us raise a song of hope as we make our own the words of the Te Deum: "In you, O Lord, is our hope, and we shall never hope in vain."

From the Vatican, 13 June 2025, Memorial of Saint Anthony of Padua, Patron Saint of the Poor

LEO PP. XIV

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

