



THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

30 NOVEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and
they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of
the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into
ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. cf. v. 1

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say: / Let us
go to God’s house. / And now our feet are
standing / within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**



2. It is there that the tribes go up, / the tribes
of the Lord. / For Israel’s law it is, / there
to praise the Lord’s name. / There were set
the thrones of judgement / of the house of
David. **R.**

3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: / Peace
be to your homes! / May peace reign in your
walls, / in your palaces, peace! **R.**

4. For love of my brethren and friends / I say:
‘Peace upon you!’ / For love of the house of
the Lord / I will ask for your good. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The time has come, our salvation is near.

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake
up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was
when we were converted. The night is almost
over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up
all the things we prefer to do under cover of
the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in
the light. Let us live decently as people do in
the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity
or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy.
Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

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

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after 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 & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm R Rodrigues

Sunday 9:00am D Sarah 10:30am E Zheng

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 3 Dec: St Francis Xavier

Sun 7 Dec: 2nd Sunday of Advent



Thanksgiving



Feast of St Francis Xavier

The First Class Relic of this great Saint will be at the 9:15am Mass at St Anthony's on Wednesday 3rd December.

St Francis Xavier is the Apostle to India, Sri Lanka and Japan, the Patron Saint of the Missions and a most powerful intercessor.

Also, an antique hand-carved wooden statue of St Francis Xavier that came from the spot where he landed in Kerala, India.

Come and be blessed!

Celebration to honour the Immaculate Conception

Sunday 7 December, 1:30pm at Holy Cross Church.

Adoration, Prayers, Time of Mercy and Holy Mass.

There will be the opportunity to venerate the first-class relic of St Catherine Labouré. A very special life-size image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be present. This particular image belonging to the Combined Societies of Mary has been associated with various miracles.

Free miraculous medals for all in attendance.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 24:1-3)

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 84:13)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Tony Messina, Paulette Dobbin, Carol Burgess, Pam O'Reilly, Bernie Smith, Marie Gaudry

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: Anamary Francis, Guy Messina, Robert Tomaselli, Guglielmo Tomaselli

ACYF 2025 Starts This Sunday!



A Commissioning Mass will be held at 10:30am this Sunday at St Joseph's Church. Our pilgrims will join the 6000+ young people and leaders attending the 3-day event starting on Sunday 30th November.

We pray for all participants and leaders to enjoy a safe and fruitful Youth Festival.

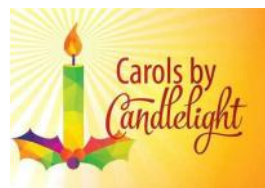
The Christmas Travelling Crib

There are 7 travelling Cribbs seeking a stop over for 2 days at family homes in the Parishes and Schools of St Joseph's & Holy Cross and St Anthony's, commencing 1st December until Christmas Eve.

Please register on the clipboards next to the crib. For more info, contact Fr. Pat or the Parish Office.



Carols by Candlelight at St Anthony's



Sunday, 14th December at St Anthony's Parish Hall, immediately after the 5pm Mass. This is a joint event by the Sister Parishes of St Joseph's & Holy Cross and St Anthony's & St Aloysius'.

We are looking for solo/group performances with Christmas themed songs and approximately 5 mins per performance.

To register your participation and choice of performance please contact enzo.lambrose@gmail.com or our Parish Office and for St Anthony's - veronica.blair@cam.org.au or wong.joyceik@gmail.com

Advent Scripture Reflection Sessions

"Advent Scripture Reflection" sessions will be held on 4 consecutive Fridays, commencing on 28th November 2025 from 7pm to 8pm at St. Anthony's Church.

All welcome!



St Vincent de Paul Society
CAULFIELD SOUTH & ELSTERNWICK *good works*

Columban Calendars and Vinnies Christmas Cards will be on sale starting November after weekend Masses.

Calendars \$10.00 each

Christmas Cards \$5.00 per pack of 5 cards

PPC Meeting held on 25 November 2025

Summary of our Pastoral Council meeting:

1. ACYF 2025

Our pilgrims have been attending information and formation sessions in preparation. Fundraising efforts via cake stalls raised a total of \$1221.50. The Festival starts on Sunday 30 November with the Pilgrims being Commissioned during the 10:30am Mass at St Joseph's.

2. Small Group Discipleship

A reminder to start recruiting potential leaders to take up the training opportunity offered by Everett Fritz and the Andrews Ministry which will commence next year.

3. Proposed Renovations for St Joseph's

- Meeting held with CAM Property and Infrastructure personnel to seek advise on proposed renovations.
- PPC will work on an architectural brief. An architect will then be engaged to work with the PPC on a design for our new gathering space.
- Fr Leenus to request for clarity and a review of the RULBA before any plans are put forth for approval.
- Necessary repairs at the Presbytery will commence as soon as possible.

4. Other Matters:

- Carols by Candlelight - Sunday 14 December after 5pm Mass at St Anthony's Parish Hall. Volunteers needed to coordinate the event with St Anthony's team.
- Fr Pat's 90th Birthday Celebration - Sunday 1 February after 11am Mass at St Anthony's Parish Hall. All PPC members to assist in necessary preparations.
- Relic of Mother Teresa - The Combined Societies of Mary has requested permission to house the 1st Class Relic at Holy Cross Church. Proposed location and necessary preparations to be approved.
- Thanksgiving - Donation Point Terminals have been ordered for St Joseph's and Holy Cross.
- Cuppa at St Joseph's - To continue with the trial of having the after-Mass cuppa outdoors when the weather is good.
- Christmas Cribs - To encourage more families to take the cribs home during Advent.
- Advent Reflection at St Anthony's - Fr Pat will be running the session from 7-8pm every Friday for the 4 weeks of Advent.

Christmas Day Dinner 2025

Thursday 25th December at 12-noon at St Anthony's Parish Hall, 164-168 Neerim Road.

This will be the 33rd year St Anthony's has served a traditional meal on Christmas Dinner. We all know that December can be a difficult time for many and 2025 is no exception. In 2024 we served over 500 meals. In 2025, as always, we ask for your help to reach out to others.

We will again be offering 3 options: a sit down meal; a takeaway meal; or a meal delivered to people who are housebound and who live locally.

What sort of help is needed?

1. Please pray that those who need the Dinner will hear about it and be able to attend.
2. Reach out to anyone you think might like a Dinner, or some company and give them a yellow invitation.
3. Think about practical help, especially volunteering and complete a green form accordingly.

Both yellow and green forms can be collected from the church foyers. Thank you all for your support.

For more information please contact 9401-6336 or email stanthony.christmasdinner@gmail.com

1st Sunday of Advent, Year A

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Jesus wants us to live in the present, because Jesus not only "had come" in the past; and he not only "will come" in the future; but he also "ever comes" in our present times. That's why today's readings speak also about "staying awake" at all times.

"Staying awake" is not to be understood as the opposite of "going to sleep". Much more, it means "being vigilant" and "being alert". More than "staying awake physically", Jesus wants us to "stay awake spiritually." That is to say, 'a spiritual awakening' of our lives is called for during this liturgical season of Advent. It is to be noted that "the spiritual awakening" of our lives is not something that can be put off for a later date.

Our moral failings should be 'dealt with' at the earliest. When the Lord comes, whatever may be unacceptable to Him shall not be found in our lives: and whatever may be pleasing to Him should be filling our lives. "Staying awake" is 'actively looking for the opportunities to serve, to do good works, to reconcile, to make amends and avoid all wrong choices. Being awake is to look for different ways to grow in intimacy with the Lord and thus make spiritual progress daily.

The Bible reminds us that, anyone who wants to make spiritual progress is bound to be at war with the enemy. And if we are at war we cannot but be alert; just like the soldiers are alert and watchful always.

St. Peter in his letter (1 Peter 5:8) says, "Be alert and watch out! Your enemy, the devil is roaming around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to eat. Stand firm in your faith and resist him".

Let us then, take advantage of the present moment and stay awake to welcome Jesus into our lives in the here and now.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Liturgical Year!

Fr Leenus.

At a wedding ceremony, Little Johnny leaned over to his friend and asked, "I wonder how many wives a man can have?". His friend answered, "16 wives. Weren't you listening? The priest just said it - four better, four worse, four richer, and four poorer."



Fr Pat's Birthday Celebration



Fr Pat's 90th birthday is on 30th January 2026. We, together with our Sister Parish, will celebrate the occasion on Sunday, 1st February at St Anthony's Parish Hall after the 11:00am Mass.

We seek expressions of interest in forming an organising team. Please contact the Parish Office.

Cause for Sainthood - Dr Mary Glowrey

The cause for sainthood for Australian-born medical missionary Dr Mary Glowrey has advanced after Pope Leo XIV recognised her "heroic virtues" on 21 November 2025. Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey, as she will now be titled, is only the second Australian to be accorded this status.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli expressed 'deep joy' at the news. 'A proud daughter of Melbourne, Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart, Glowrey was one of our early female doctors' he said. 'Her healing hands, her compassion, and her bold spirit were a living sign of God's tenderness. May her example and intercession continue to inspire Aussies and people everywhere to live lives of service and holiness.'



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Stay awake, you must be ready.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135.
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Breaking Open the Word

STAY AWAKE!

Happy New Year! Today we listen to the Gospel according to Matthew for the first time on this first day of the new liturgical year, Year A. Matthew writes for Jewish followers of Jesus living in the mid-80s of the first century. We shall listen to this Gospel aware that Israelite-Jewish concepts permeate its presentation of the Jewish Jesus, so different from Mark or Luke.

The language of today's Gospel is very Jewish. It is drawn from imagery of the Old Testament—typical, as we shall see, of Matthew—and from a particular style of biblical writing called 'apocalyptic'. Tempted to take our selection literally, it is better and to think of it as 'theological-poetry'. The evangelist uses a familiar Jewish literary style of writing. Its basic theme is that, despite the evil and tragedies that surround people, God will save and protect those who are faithful, especially at that definitive moment of divine judgement at the end of time.

Jesus' injunction is to 'stay awake' to this moment—not to fall asleep or become disheartened by its delay. God will definitively act against evil and vindicate the faithful. Today's Gospel is a sobering reminder. We, too, must 'stay awake' and 'stand ready' to what will unfold in the year ahead and not be dispirited by all that seems negative, fruitless and disheartening. God's presence, the God who 'will be with us' will be revealed in the figure of the 'Son of Man'. This is a recurring theme in the Gospel and throughout this new liturgical year.

Fr Michael Trainor