

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

17 AUGUST 2025

FIRST READING

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king, 'My lord king,' he said 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 39:2-4, 18. R. v. 14

R. Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord / and he stooped down to me; / he heard my cry. **R.**
2. He drew me from the deadly pit, / from the miry clay. / He set my feet upon a rock / and made my footsteps firm. **R.**
3. He put a new song into my mouth, / praise of our God. / Many shall see and fear / and shall trust in the Lord. **R.**
4. As for me, wretched and poor, / the Lord thinks of me. / You are my rescuer, my help, / O God, do not delay. **R.**



SECOND READING

Heb 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

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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

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: M Ellis

Lector - Sunday: E Galero

Counters: No Counting

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Next Week's Roster

Lector: A Powell

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

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

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 20 Aug: St Bernard

Thu 21 Aug: St Pius X

Fri 22 Aug: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sun 24 Aug: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pallottine Cenacle Prayer



This month's session will be at St Andrew's Church, 76 Springs Road, Clayton South on Friday, 22 August at 7:30pm followed by light supper. All welcome!

Theme: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Trivia Lunch @ Holy Cross Parish Hall

Join us on Wednesday, 20th August at 12-noon.

Bring your own lunch and enjoy the trivia session and a catchup. All are welcome.



News Bulletin
Subscription

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 83:10-11)

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 129:7)

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina**

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

Vale Bishop Peter Elliott

Vigil Mass

Sunday 17 August at 7:30pm. St Patrick's Church, 10 Rogers Street, Mentone.

Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass

Monday 18 August at 10:00am. St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

Principal celebrant: Most Rev Peter A Comensoli



The Queenship of the Virgin Mary - 22 August



"Since the great Virgin Mary was raised to the dignity of Mother of the King of Kings, the Church justly honours her, and wishes that she be honoured with the glorious title of Queen." *St. Alphonsus de Liguori*

Many hands make light work!

We are very appreciative of those of you who have come forward to offer your time and assistance. There are still many roles needing your talents:

- Setting-up before Mass and closing-up after Mass
- Readers for weekday and weekend Masses
- Organising a cuppa for after Mass
- Safeguarding Committee members
- Children's Liturgy catechists and assistants
- Parish Pastoral Council members
- Parish Finance Committee members

The more volunteers we have, the less each one has to do. Please speak with Joanna after Mass or email the Parish Office if you can lend a hand. Thank you!

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All children and young people who come to our parish have a right to feel and be safe.

All volunteers are reminded to ensure they:

1. Have a current Working With Children Check card. When completing or updating your details online, please use the following details:
Organisation: St Joseph's & Holy Cross Parish
Address: 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185 or 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South, VIC 3162
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185
2. Complete the Safeguarding online training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>

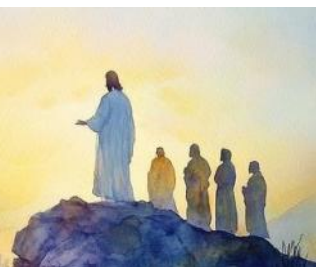
Liturgical Reception & Installation of Archbishop Anthony Ireland

The new Archbishop of Hobart, Most Rev Anthony John Ireland, was installed on Tuesday 12 August at St Mary's Cathedral in Hobart during a Mass attended by close to 600 people, including bishops, clergy and lay people from around the country.

<https://youtu.be/OvNkWJMazCk>



17-31 August Archbishop's Campaign



Last year in August 2024, the Archbishop's Campaign was launched in all parishes. This year, with our generosity, we are invited to help with the vital ministries and key projects of the Church in Melbourne.

Donors will be able to make either a tax deductible or non-deductible gift.

Tax-deductible gifts will go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund, which supports:

- Corpus Christi College Building Fund
- Priests Retirement Foundation
- University of Divinity Building Fund
- John Pierce Centre
- Melbourne Overseas Mission
- Other deductible gift recipient entities such as Catholic community agencies and community service organisations.

Non-deductible gifts will go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund, which supports:

- The Archbishop's evangelisation initiatives, such as Australian Catholic Youth Festival.
- Seminarian education.

By supporting the fundraising effort within our Archdiocese, we are responding to Christ's invitation to "go out to all the world and spread the Good News."

There will a second collection for this week and next. You can also donate via a link on our website or at:
melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

Toward a Synodal Church: Sr Nathalie Becquart

On Monday, 25 August, Sr Nathalie is the under-Secretary of the Synod of Bishops and an insightful speaker on the synodality. Sr Nathalie will speak on what and how a synodality might be embedded within the life of the Church in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The evening begins with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Comensoli followed by dinner.

Tickets: \$20 per person, with the ability to purchase tables of 8. Places are strictly limited, please book early.

www.trybooking.com/DDPBK



World Day Against Abortion

'World Day Against Abortion' will be held on Saturday, September 6th at Corpus Christi, Tynong. The day will start with a Mass of Reparation for abortion at 11am, followed by talks and lunch. Bookings are requested for catering purposes: www.trybooking.com/DDPOZ

A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information, please contact Marita Dunphy via the Parish Office.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

We have a difficult Gospel passage for this Sunday. The passage seems to suggest that we hate our parents and family in order to be able to love our God. If that's what is meant, then it's hard to appreciate it, and surely that would be a misinterpretation. We misunderstand the meaning of the words of Jesus, "fire, division and hate".

Jesus, who taught us to honour our parents, couldn't have ever told us to hate them. In fact he warns those who do not honour them. Honouring our parents is one of the first of the Ten Commandments. And we who praise our parents on Mother's Day and Father's Day cannot turn around today and say that they mean nothing to us. Here in this passage Jesus wants to make it clear to us that we should choose God above all else.

The very fact that Jesus is asking us to choose God even above our parents, means that Jesus is giving our parents a very high rating. That should be true in our own eyes too, that our parents should rank very high; and Jesus does not ask us to despise, dishonour or hate them. All that the Lord is asking us is that no one, not even our parents should stand in our way of loving God. No one should stop us from following God's laws. Good parents would also say the same.

I remember a song in which a mother sings to her child about her fears. She, being a very good mother, selfless, caring and loving, fears that her child might love her more than loving God. She sings out her worry that the child might think too highly of her. Even while she feeds, bathes, protects and looks after the child with much affection, the mother continues to sing: "Do not forget that it is in fact God who is doing all these for you, and do not neglect the God who created you and me and everyone else too. As you keep growing up, how I long to see Jesus growing up within you". The mother fears that she would be unfortunate if her child showed undue regard for her. "Even if you do not love me, it's okay my child, but please love the God who really cares about you."

In the Old Testament 2 Maccabees in Chapter 7 we read about a mother who encourages her children to sacrifice their own lives rather than disobey God. She says, "I'm your mother, yes I carried you in my womb for 9 months and I gave you birth, and raised you, and educated you until this day, but my child I do not even know how you grew in me, it is not I who gave you breath and life, it is not I who joined your limbs together to form one body. It is God who brought the whole humanity to being, so follow his commandments, and do not ever despise your God". In turn, God in today's Gospel is asking us never to despise our parents, but honour them and to thank God for them.

Fr Leenus

Two antennas decided to get married. The ceremony was pretty boring, but the reception was great!



Our RCIA Program sessions start at 6:30pm every Thursday at St Joseph's Presbytery. The program includes film and sharing. If you know anyone who would like to learn more about our faith or would like to become a Catholic, please contact the Parish Office.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

BAPTISMAL COMMITMENT

Over these Sundays we continue to steep ourselves in Luke's journey teaching. Over Chapters 9 to 19, Luke offers readers teaching about discipleship and fidelity amid the struggles that they experience in their Greco-Roman world. One of them is the struggle to live out authentic discipleship as Jesus' followers when the temptation is otherwise.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers this late first century audience a sobering reminder. Faithful discipleship is not easy. It will come at a cost and struggle. It will touch the very heart of life. Jesus looks towards his passion. This is the 'baptism' that he will undergo. But the very mention of 'baptism' in the Gospel's opening words reminds listeners that their baptism connects them to Jesus. They, too, will suffer – not because this is God's intent or 'will' (which some even today think) – but because of the very nature of the life of discipleship lived within the particular social and cultural context of their world.

Baptismal commitment does not, then, equal tranquillity and a life of ease. These matters have already been reflected upon over the last few Sundays. For some, the struggle to remain true to one's baptismal commitment will affect even core relationships. This is seen in the divisions experienced in Luke's day within households. The shocking nature of Jesus' words would be felt by Gospel listeners. The family household and its internal relationship were the building blocks for a secure society with the Greek (and Jewish) world. Baptismal fidelity to Jesus will at times be a struggle and may even cause family division and conflict.

Fr Michael Trainor