



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C, 6-7 September, 2025

Mercy before rules

August 19, 2025 Peter Roe SM (from 'Flashes of Light')

In an interview with 'America; in 2013, Pope Francis "I see the Church as a field hospital after battle. It's useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol. You have to heal his wounds, and then we can talk about everything else." A field hospital isn't sterile. It is noisy, rushed, and stitched together on the fly. You treat people where they've fallen; before the shooting stops, before they've cleaned up, before they even know what's happened to them.

We see what happens when we wait for people to tidy up their lives before offering the assistance they need. It's not a great "ministry" model. Francis put his idea of the Church as a field hospital plainly in his interview: "*The things the Church most needs today is the capacity to bind wounds and warm hearts. Proximity. Closeness. You don't ask someone who's just been blown apart about their cholesterol levels. You stop the bleeding first. Everything else can wait*".

The image of the Church as a field hospital the Gospels, where Jesus first touches the leper - and then speaks; he lifts the woman bent double - and then calls her daughter. Mercy comes before rules, presence before doctrine, touch before teaching. In the ordinary rhythms of life, this is not theory. It looks like the neighbour bringing soup to someone who is having chemo. It sounds like a friend listening through the night during a devastating life-or-death situation. It feels like someone supporting the parents of a disadvantaged child. We don't have to go searching for these sacred spaces of mercy; they're everywhere.

Mercy before rules

The Church, in this sense, is not just the clergy or an institution; it is everyone: the people of God, believers who respond to the pain around them with presence, patience, and compassion. We carry this "field hospital" into our kitchens, workplaces, classrooms, and bus stops. And it is work we do together; Field hospitals rely on teams. In the Church, that means small groups who pray for the sick, parish ministries that stand with the disadvantaged, friends who walk with the bereaved, and communities that advocate for justice.

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/d9k--p7AbQo?
feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/d9k--p7AbQo?feature=share)

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

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**

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading

Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"

The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise

Second Reading

1 Timothy 1: 12-17

Beloved: I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life.

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,
and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 15: 1-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them a parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'"

Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'"

Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the Angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

This is the Gospel, the Good News of the Lord

Reflection

- Whom does anger primarily affect?
- Jesus is telling us that there is no limit to the depth and breadth of mercy and forgiveness that we must offer another.

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

Thank you to those who attended the Safeguarding sessions at our Church. If you are volunteering in our church in any way and missed both sessions, please contact us urgently. Completing this session (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



THANKSGIVING ENVELOPE

You may have noticed that your thanksgiving envelopes are about to run out. The good news is that the **NEW SETS** are ready to be picked up from the Gathering space in the Church. They are arranged in alphabetical order of the **STREET NAME (not your name)**

If you encounter any difficulties in finding them, please do not hesitate to approach a member of the parish team.

If you are not in this program yet, but wish to take part, please contact the parish office and we can give you all the necessary information

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

4:12 YOUTH (our Parish Youth for grd 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, September 12th 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 Children's Liturgy volunteers or someone on the parish team

PARISH BINGO

Our next parish Bingo will be on **FRIDAY, 19 September** at 7.30pm in the Annexe. You can come on your own or as a group. For more information please contact Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441. Please note that this activity is strictly adults only (18 years or over). Unfortunately, there is a strict policy which states that anyone under this age is not permitted inside the hall during Bingo

COME AWAY AT HOLY CROSS

Next Come Away is on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th**. The theme '**Awakening to the new**' promises an uplifting day in the beautiful surrounds of Holy Cross.

Gather for a cuppa at 9.30am for the formal beginning to the day at 10am and we aim to conclude the day which will include Eucharist by 2.30pm. Please BYO lunch – tea and coffee is provided. A donation of \$30 is welcomed. Perhaps you would consider inviting a friend to join you for this spring gathering. It is helpful if we have some idea of numbers so an email to Sr Brigid CP will give us an indication for printing purposes. E-Mail: bridget.m64@gmail.com

DANDENONG DEANERY

Dandenong Deanery will conduct a Dinner & Talk evening on **WEDNESDAY, 10 September** at Graduate's Restaurant "St John Regional College" (Caroline Street, Dandenong) Topic of the night will be **SOLIDARITY** with guest speakers are Fr Brian Collins and Vicki Russel Cost is \$48pp (incl. 3 course meal and a glass of wine) RSVP no later than **FRIDAY, 5 September** to Paddy on 0422 296 961 or to dandenongdeanery@live.com.au

Readings:

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C

Wisdom 9.13-18

Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

Luke 14.25-33

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C

Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14

1 Timothy 1: 12-17

Luke 15: 1-32

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Eva Marie, 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, Dominique Balmano, Marie-Noelle Herchenroder, Kevin Ooi, Rose Liew, Annabelle Ghatt, Maranatha 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

Zetro Leonardo Purba, Boy Quilala, Jeannine Georgette Therese Chadwick, Noel McNamara, Neomi Therese Jackson, Shelagh Maureen Gleeson, Joseph Quang Khanh Do, Most Rev Peter John Elliott, Yolande Bonnefin, Santana Bernadine D'Souza, Cheryl Anthony, Ann Marlene Rea, Dilhan De Alwis, Errie Gunawan, Clency Clark, Lomaga Pa'u, Noella Lobo, John Lobo, Gervais Balmano, Elma Carmel Diling *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 Antionette 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 Antionette 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

