

St Cecilia's Catholic Church
37 Hillside Parade
GLEN IRIS VIC 3146
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Parish Priest:
Fr Kevin McGovern



Sunday Masses:
Sun. 10 a.m.
Sun. 5:30 p.m.
Weekday Masses:
Mon. 9:15 a.m.
Wed. 9:15 a.m.
Fri. 9:15 a.m.
Confessions:
By arrangement

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27 July 2025

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

ANNIVERSARIES: Patty Cox, John Patrick Doherty, Cyril Gerard Bernard Drew, Ellen Hanrahan, Denise Patricia Hoy, Eileen Magree, Eileen Marie McHenry, Lois Medley, Mary Eileen Ryan, John (Hans) Staubli, Poh Fah YONG

COMMITMENT MASS FOR FIRST COMMUNION: At both our 10 am and 5:30 pm Masses today, we welcome the children from St Cecilia's who are preparing for their First Communion and their families. At this Mass, they and their parents commit themselves to preparing well for First Communion. The parents will pray, "God our Father, help us to grow closer to you as we share our faith with our children." The children will pray, "We promise to prepare for the Sacrament of First Communion by praying to God and listening carefully to our parents and teachers." Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Body of Christ for the first time.

These children will receive Communion for the first time at either the 10 am Mass or the 5:30 pm Mass on Sunday 24th August, or at the 10 am Mass on Sunday 31st August.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY: We began our Masses today with an Acknowledgement of Country.

Within the Catholic Church in Australia, its Fifth Plenary Council concluded in July 2022. Its Decrees are binding on all dioceses, parishes and other Church organisations in Australia.

One of the documents which was submitted to the Plenary Council came from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC). This position paper was titled *Embracing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the life of the Catholic Church*. Among its other recommendations, NATSICC recommended that "the traditional custodians of the land on which the Church, school, parish or organisation stands be acknowledged in a prominent and appropriate manner. Verbal acknowledgement prior to meetings and Mass is also encouraged." At a minimum, an Acknowledgement of Country should be made on significant days in the life of a parish.

The Plenary Council "joyfully received and accepted the recommendations contained in the NATSICC position paper." This is stated in the first of the Decrees of the Plenary Council.

In keeping with this Decree, we have made an Acknowledgement of Country on this day, as children and parents in this parish commit themselves to prepare well for First Communion.

WEEKDAY MASSES this week are at 9:15 am on Monday 28th July, Wednesday 30th July, and Friday 1st August. Are you able to join us this week for a weekday Mass?

PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE IN GAZA: The only Catholic Church in Gaza is Holy Family Catholic Church. Hundreds of Palestinians have been sheltering in its compound from the war. Its parish priest is Fr Gabriele Romanelli.

On Wednesday 16th July, an Israeli shell slammed into the compound of this church, killing three people and wounding ten others. One of the people injured was Fr Romanelli, who suffered a light leg injury.

In a telegram signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, Pope Leo XIV expressed deep sorrow for the loss of life and for the injuries caused by the attack. He conveyed his spiritual closeness to Fr Romanelli and the entire parish community, commended the souls of the deceased to the "loving mercy of Almighty God", and offered prayers for the recovery of the injured and the consolation of those who grieve. He also renewed his appeal for peace and for a ceasefire, and expressed his "profound hope for dialogue, reconciliation, and enduring peace in the region."

Please join Pope Leo in praying for negotiations, a ceasefire, and an end to the war in Gaza.