

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TEL: 9791-4611/OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MONDAY-FRIDAY/EMAIL: dandenong@cam.org.au

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

23 FEBRUARY 2025

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.'

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH—Nicene Creed
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. As we celebrate your mysteries, O Lord, with the observance that is your due, we humbly ask you, that what we offer to the honour of your majesty may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 9: 2-3

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may experience the effects of the salvation which is pledged to us by these mysteries. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

LOVE THE ENEMY

We are now into the heart of Luke's Sermon on the Plain. We are also presented with the most important Gospel teaching that characterises Jesus' followers: Love and forgiveness of the enemy. But this is also dangerous teaching, for it is easy to misunderstand what Jesus is asking of his disciples. He is not addressing disciples individually, but together. The response to the 'enemy' comes from the total gathering of the Gospel household who support each other as they deal with the enemy. It is not the individual disciple who bears responsibility for enemy love. It is a collective response.

The response is also agential or active, never passive or submissive. Disciples disarm by their attitude of 'love'—a desire that the aggressor comes to know their own self-worth in their relationship to God and others. It is not about feeling affection or warmth towards the enemy, an impossible response in the face of suffering or hurt. 'Turning the other cheek' is a form of passive resistance to the aggressor, rather than responding with tit-for-tat assault, a response culturally expected. Luke's audience who are wealthy are encouraged to be generous. Jesus encourages disciples to act compassionately, like God.

Today's Gospel is challenging, especially in the context of the issues that today's believers are concerned about. Luke offers sage advice. A spirit of kindness and non-aggression towards the assailants of our world can help create a society shaped by peace rather than violence. Such a spirit ideally characterises our faith communities imbued with today's Gospel.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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LOVE YOUR ENEMIES. The words of Jesus we hear in today's Gospel are very challenging: 'love your enemies, do good to those who persecute you, freely part with your possessions and money, do not judge, forgive.' In brief, we are asked to imitate the unconditional compassion and love of God. The challenge is great but so is the reward. The more we give to others, the more richly we are blessed.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 12: 6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. For we have sinned against you.

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

R. And grant us your salvation.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory; / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father: / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father: / Amen.



COLLECT

P. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

1 Sam 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
A reading from the first book of Samuel.
The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 102: 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13. R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. R.

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. R.
3. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. R.
4. As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. / As a father has compassion on his sons, / the Lord has pity on those who fear him. R.

SECOND READING

1 Cor 15: 45-49
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 6: 27-38

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

PARISH WEBSITE
https://melbcatholic.org/s/dandenong

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Sebastian Arockia
PARISH SECRETARY: Franca Van Boxtel
FINANCE OFFICER: Deslene de Niese
PARISH CENTRE MANAGER:
Mr. Miguel Matamala

If you urgently need a priest please call 9791 4611, if Father does not answer, please leave a message and he will call you back.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES
Saturday Morning: 9.15am
Saturday Evening: 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIMES
Monday to Friday: 9.15am
Friday (9.45am –12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction at 12.30pm)

ANOINTING MASS
Last Friday of every month 9.15 am
DAILY ROSARY
After morning Mass Mon-Sat
(Friday will be before Mass)

RECONCILIATION
Saturday after 9.15am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM
Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

MARRIAGE
Please book the Church at the same time as you book your venue. As marriage preparation is an essential condition of marriage, you must book your preparation course at least 4 months prior to the wedding. Further details can be obtained from Fr. Sebastian

HOUSE BLESSING
If any Parishioner would like their house to be blessed, please contact Franca or at the Parish office on 9791-4611 to make a booking with Fr Sebastian

COMMUNION AND ANOINTING OF SICK
Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing. Any parishioners who take Communion to the sick, could you please put your name and the person you are taking Communion to, into the **Communion to the Sick** book. This book is kept in the sacristy.

PARISH CENSUS continues this weekend we invite each member of our parish to participate in our census process. By completing the census form, which will be made available during Mass this weekend, we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also enable the parish to strategically plan for important events, ministries, and other future endeavours. Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality. Thank you.

Scott Hahn Reflects on the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The story of David and Saul in today’s First Reading functions almost like a parable. Showing mercy to his deadly foe, David gives a concrete example of what Jesus expects to become a way of life for His disciples.

The new law Jesus gives in today’s Gospel would have us all become “Davids”—loving our enemies, doing good to those who would harm us, extending a line of credit to those who won’t ever repay us.

The Old Law required only that the Israelites love their fellow countrymen (see [Leviticus 19:18](#)). The new law Jesus brings makes us kin to every man and woman (see also [Luke 10:29–36](#)). His kingdom isn’t one of tribe or nationality. It’s a family. As followers of Jesus, we’re to live as He lived among us—as “children of the Most High” (see [Luke 6:35](#); [1:35](#)).

As sons and daughters, we want to walk in the ways of our heavenly Father, to “be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Grateful for His mercy, we’re called to forgive others their trespasses because God has forgiven ours.

In the context of today’s liturgy, we’re all “Sauls”—by our sinfulness and pride we make ourselves enemies of God. But we’ve been spared a death we surely deserved to die because God has loved and shown mercy to His enemies, “the ungrateful and the wicked,” as Jesus says.

Jesus showed us this love in His Passion, forgiving His enemies as they stripped Him of cloak and tunic, cursed Him and struck Him on the cheek, condemned Him to death on a cross (see Luke 22:63–65; 23:34). “He redeems your life from destruction,” David reminds us in today’s Psalm.

That’s the promise, too, of today’s Epistle: that we who believe in the “last Adam,” Jesus, will rise from the dead in His image, as today we bear the image of the “first Adam,” who by his sin made God an enemy and brought death into the world (see [1 Corinthians 15:21–22](#)).

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER A ministry in the Catholic Church offering couples a weekend of discovery for their marriage. Enhance communication and rekindle the passion in your marriage! When: 25-27 April 2025 Where: St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South For additional information contact us: Mobile 0409 183 676 Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES
5TH MARCH 2025
Masses will be celebrated at 8:00am, 9.15am and 6:00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass at 7.00pm



OUR PARISH WELCOMES
Kenzou Siafausa
LEILUA
who will be baptised this weekend. May God bless you

St. Mary’s Primary School Phone: 9791 7650, New St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Terry Gardiner
St. John’s Regional College Phone 8793 2000 Caroline St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Timothy Hogan
St. Mary’s Community Centre: Tel 7064 3928 **Bookings:** Miguel Matamala 0402 155 192

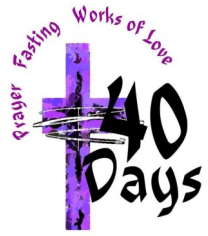
PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Deceased: Walter (Wally) Lockwood

Anniversaries: Annamma Devasia, Domenico Reda, Fiora Reda, Maria Reda, Will David Sore & Teresa Gonsalvez, Pedro Calda, Arnold Paica Sonls

Sick: Rosa Maria Santos, Long Phan, Ush Henry Bangkal, Leti Luki, Kathleen Nelson, Jim Lynch, Bernardo, Ray Gilligan, Frank Pezzaro, Janet Augustine, Bridget Phyland, Desmond Hopper, Chris Grubb, Solofuti, Samantha Vasanthy, Kevin, Maria Perez, Alan John Borninkhof, Angela Anthony, Ray Simmons, Frank Camara, Rita Breen, Katrina, Tasileta Lolesio, Jim, Lucia Germano, Imelda Quatre-bornes, Sandra Wills, Reuben Jacobs, Maddie, Herve, Asis Zullah, Nacera Burekovic, Charlie Mastrogiovanni, Carla Lunardi, Russell D’Costa, Satty Lee, Ping Lo, Dale Reynolds, Keith Reynolds, Gabriele Chiodo, Robyn
(The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed)in the Marian.

Santhom Cultural Centre Ltd, Dandenong South is a community development initiative of Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Melbourne.
Santhom Cultural Centre is hosting a multi-cultural event on 1st March 2025 at St John’s Regional College, Dandenong.
Event brings together multiple multi-cultural communities to share culture, history, heritage through food, art, song and dance.
Date: 1st March 2025
Venue: St John’s Regional College
5-11 Caroline Street, Dandenong
Time: 10:00am-10:00pm
Attractions: Food, games, childrens fun rides, workshops, music, dance and more. More info on parish notice.
ALL ARE WELCOME

**PLEASE JOINS US DURING LENT**
40 DAYS STATION OF THE CROSS
FOLLOWED BY MASS COMMENCING
5TH MARCH 2025
ASH WEDNESDAY 6PM—7PM
ALL ARE WELCOME

CHILDREN CATECHISM CLASSES HAVE COMMENCED
TUESDAYS 4:30PM—**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION**
THURSDAYS 4:30PM— **CONFIRMATION**
Where: Parish Meeting Room 1 (Parish Office)


<u>CALENDER</u>	
DATE	EVENT
25 Feb (Tues)	Catechism Classes—First Eucharist/Reconciliation
26 Feb (Wed)	R.C.I.A Meeting
27 Feb (Thur)	Jazz Junction Musical Club—Marian Room
27 Feb (Thur)	Catechism Classes– Confirmation
4 Mar (Tues)	Catechism Classes—First Eucharist/Reconciliation
5 Mar (Wed)	R.C.I.A. Meeting
5 Mar (Wed)	Ash Wednesday—8am, 9:15am & 6pm
	Stations of the cross 7pm Mass
6 Mar (Thur)	Catechism Classes-Confirmation

ROSTERS 1-2 March	6:00PM	8:30AM	10:30AM	5:30PM
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Maxine Fernandez R. Coomaraswamy Elizabeth Fernandez	Greta Pereira Joanna Van Der Ven	Ofelia Alvarado Orito Awo Thorwald Philipp	Marie Michel Graham Newberry Wima Nunez
READERS	Allister Simon Dayang Balenbin	Yolande Blom Marie Monty	Pamela Spink Ofelia Alvarado	Angela Hartin Michelle Tordillo

St. Mary’s Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adult