



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

7 SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Wis 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Who can comprehend the will of the Lord?

‘What man can know the intentions of God?

Who can divine the will of the Lord?

The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable;

for a perishable body presses down the soul,
and this tent of clay weighs down the
teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what
is on earth,

laborious to know what lies within our reach;
who, then, can discover what is in the
heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt
it, had you not granted Wisdom

and sent your holy spirit from above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth been
straightened

and men been taught what pleases you,
and saved, by Wisdom.’

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 1

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been
our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust / and say: ‘Go
back, sons of men.’ / To your eyes a thousand
years / are like yesterday, come and gone, / no
more than a watch in the night. **R.**

2. You sweep men away like a dream, / like
grass which springs up in the morning. / In
the morning it springs up and flowers: / by
evening it withers and fades. **R.**

3. Make us know the shortness of our life /
that we may gain wisdom of heart. / Lord,
relent! Is your anger for ever? / Show pity to
your servants. **R.**

4. In the morning, fill us with your love; / we
shall exult and rejoice all our days. / Let the
favour of the Lord be upon us: / give success
to the work of our hands. **R.**



SECOND READING

Philem 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to
Philemon

*Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very
dear brother.*

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what
is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am
appealing to you for a child of mine, whose
father I became while wearing these chains:
I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to
you, and with him – I could say – a part of my
own self. I should have liked to keep him with
me; he could have been a substitute for you, to
help me while I am in the chains that the Good
News has brought me. However, I did not want
to do anything without your consent; it would
have been forcing your act of kindness, which
should be spontaneous. I know you have been
deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only
so that you could have him back for ever, not
as a slave any more, but something much better
than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to
me, but how much more to you, as a blood-
brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if
all that we have in common means anything to
you, welcome him as you would me.

■ The word of the Lord.



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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📮 P.O.Box 664, Elsternwick 3185 🌐 www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross

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: \$671.50 Presbytery: \$696.50

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm R Rodrigues

Sunday 9:00am S McMillan 10:30am La Bonne family

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 8 Sep: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sat 13 Sep: St John Chrysostom

Sun 14 Sep: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Thanksgiving

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 118: 137, 124)

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps. 41:2-3)

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Tony Messina, May Li**

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

Recently Deceased: **Paul Gaetan Labonne, Maria-Natalia**

Death Anniversary: -

Our Lady of Vailankanni 2025

The Novena and Feast of Our Lady of Vailankanni has become one of the most grace filled annual events organised by the Combined Societies of Mary at **Holy Cross Church**. Every year, so many who attend report of the most wonderful favours having been granted to them through the praying of this Novena to Our Lady of Health Vailankanni.



She is so powerful and always grants so many healings and graces through this Novena and Feast. In making this unique Novena we are inviting the saints of the Church to pray for us each night.

The Relics of the following Saints will be available for veneration:

- ♦ 30th August St Bernadette
- ♦ 31st August St Rita of Cascia
- ♦ 1st September St Francis Xavier
- ♦ 2nd September St Anthony of Padua
- ♦ 3rd September St Alphonsa
- ♦ 4th September St Maria Goretti
- ♦ 5th September St Teresa of Calcutta
- ♦ 6th September St Peregrine
- ♦ 7th September St Philomena
- ♦ 8th September Our Lady's Veil

Powerful Novena:

Saturday, 30th August to Sunday, 7th September at 7pm

- Adoration, Novena Prayers & Holy Mass

The Wonderful Feast:

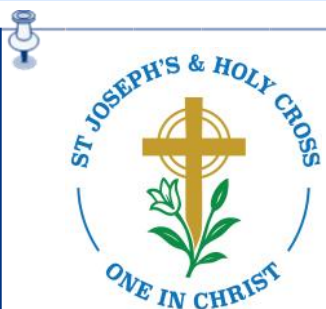
Monday, 8th September on Our Lady's Birthday at 7pm

- Adoration, Prayers Benediction, Procession & Mass

Combined Societies of Mary

www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com

Enquiries: Joy Hunt 9509 2207



New Parish Logo and Prayer

Heavenly Father

We ask you to bless our Parish of
St Joseph's, Elsternwick and
Holy Cross, Caulfield South.

Make us faithful in our duties to you and each other
and open-hearted to all who need our help.

We ask you also to bless our Clergy
who lead us to our heavenly goal,

And all those who will come after us,
who strive to keep the faith alive.

Remain forever in our hearts and minds,
always drawing us closer to you.

May St Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family
and the Holy Cross of Christ,
be our guiding lights in our Parish's future.

May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
remain with us forever.

Amen.



40 Days For Life

The international pro-life campaign, 40 Days for Life, runs in Melbourne from 24th September to 2nd November.

To sign up, or for more details, please contact Marita Dunphy via the Parish office.

For donations to support this cause:

40 Days for Life Melbourne

BSB: 063-176 ACC: 11053337

For more information: 40daysforlife.com/en/melbourne

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 (WWCC) 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. All parish volunteers over the age of 18 are required by the Archdiocese to undertake the Safeguarding online training every 3 years. Complete the training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>
3. **For those needing help with the training, you are invited to join the face-to-face training session on Saturday 13 September at 10:30am at St Anthony's Parish Hall. Please bring your valid WWCC card. We can also assist with renewal of your card if need be.**

Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia

The Victorian Government plans to make doctor assisted suicide and euthanasia more widely available by changing the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 (VAD 2017), planned before the end of 2025 which will dramatically expand access to doctor assisted suicide and euthanasia by removing vital safeguards.

1. Removing the ban on healthcare professionals raising VAD with patients
 2. Forcing health care professionals to give information about VAD against their conscience
 3. Casting a wider net
 4. Shortening the request time for VAD from 9 to 5 days
- Please write to one Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) AND five members of the Legislative Council (MLC). For more info, please contact 'Right to Life' or Fr Pat.



Australia Catholic Youth Festival 2025

We are happy to announce that we have a total of 10 participants who have confirmed their attendance to the ACYF from 30 Nov - 2 Dec.

We will be inviting our pilgrims to a few meetings to get to know each other, discuss fundraising ideas and start preparation for the event.

Please keep our young people in your prayers for them to grow in their faith and flourish in our parish community.

The Vibrant Parish Formation Series

The formation series aimed at inspiring and guiding how we can strengthen the characteristics of a vibrant parish using the TWG Renewal Framework.

This final session will be on **Evangelisation - Bridging the gap between parish and school.**

Tuesday, 9th September from 6:30-9:00pm at Mulgrave Country Club, Corner of Wellington and Jells Roads, Wheelers Hill. Light supper served before session.

Contact the Parish Office if you wish to attend the session.

Friday, 12 September 2025

6:30pm – 9:30pm

St John Vianney's Parish
23 Police Road, Mulgrave

This unforgettable evening is tailor-made for high school students, offering a unique opportunity to encounter Jesus with prayer, fellowship, food, and, of course, a whole lot of fun. Parents need to 'sign in' and 'sign out' their children.

Register at www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1346850



Father's Day is a special day in the year which has been set aside to say thanks and show appreciation for fathers and father figures who inspire and support their family with guidance and kindness. We honour all fathers as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence that fathers play in our society.

10 inspiring dads from the Bible and Catholic history

(Excerpt from an article written by Melbourne Catholic)

In the Bible and throughout Catholic history, we encounter fathers who embodied virtues in extraordinary ways.

1. The generous dad: Caleb

Caleb, one of the faithful scouts sent by Moses into Canaan, is remembered for his courage and trust in God. But he was also a generous father. His example reminds us of generosity that's rooted in love.

2. The adoptive dad: St Joseph

St Joseph is perhaps the most famous father figure in Christian history. Joseph teaches us that fatherhood is more than bloodlines - it's about love, presence, and protection; willing to do God's will. In every sense, he was the faithful presence Jesus needed as he grew up.

3. The teachable dad: Zechariah

Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, shows us that even fathers can learn and grow in faith. Zechariah's story reminds us that humility and openness to God can make us better parents.

4. The faithful dad: Jairus

Jairus, a synagogue leader. When his young daughter was dying, he fell at Jesus' feet and pleaded, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Jairus reminds us that faith can bring light in the darkest moments.

5. The virtuous dad: St Basil the Elder

St Basil the Elder (c. 329–379). With his wife, St Emmelia, he raised a family of saints, including St Basil the Great, St Gregory of Nyssa, St Macrina the Younger, and St Peter of Sebaste. He made God the foundation of his household.

6. The role-model dad: St Stephen of Hungary

The first King of Hungary, St Stephen (c. 975–1038), saw his role as both monarch and father as a sacred duty. With his wife Gisela of Bavaria. Stephen's guidance was not just about ruling a kingdom but about shaping a holy family life.

7. The diligent dad: St Isidore the Farmer

St Isidore the Farmer (c. 1070–1130) was a simple man of Madrid whose life shows the dignity of hard work. Known for his devotion to prayer, he rose early each day to attend Mass before heading to the fields.

8. The principled dad: St Thomas More

St Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England, was not only a statesman and martyr but also a devoted father of four. Along with his biological children, he also welcomed a stepdaughter, and was guardian to two other girls, caring for them as his own children.

9. The compassionate dad: Venerable Pierre Toussaint

Born into slavery in Haiti in 1766, he and his wife Juliette had no children of their own but they adopted his orphaned niece Euphemia and raised her with love and care.

10. The devout dad: St Louis Martin

Louis Martin, the father of St Thérèse of Lisieux, embodied a quiet devotion that inspired his children, with five of his daughters entering religious life.

Why did the Dad bring a pencil to his Father's Day dinner?

Because he wanted to draw some attention.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, 'Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish.' Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

What is the 'cost' of being a disciple? What will it require? These questions are addressed in today's Gospel. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem where suffering and death await. He is accompanied by a crowd of people. They, too, are on the 'way'—the earliest expression used of Jesus' followers who, according to Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, are named people of 'The Way' (Acts 9.2f).

It is clear from Jesus' teaching that discipleship will not be easy. We have met this theme already back in August, on the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, when Jesus spoke of the tensions that would arise within households where committed disciples lived. In today's passage, this household division is even more dramatically described. Disciples' relationship to Jesus must trump every other. The word which Luke uses is 'hate'. Disciples must 'hate' parents and siblings. The language of Luke's day employed superlatives and exaggerated speech to make a point. So, the disciple is not to literally 'hate' family members., but the 'hate' expression is a reminder that following Jesus will come at a cost. This cost requires commitment and needs calculation.

This is the point of the two examples which conclude the Gospel: calculation is needed in building materials or the chances of victory in battle. The final note the passage ends on is one of Luke's favourite themes: Disciples must not be possessed by possessions. The disciple must be free, of wealth and even relationships that hinder communion with Jesus.

Fr Michael Trainor