



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 JANUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 49: 3, 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel,

in whom I shall be glorified';

I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken,

he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him,

to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 39: 2, 4, 7-10. R. vv. 8, 9

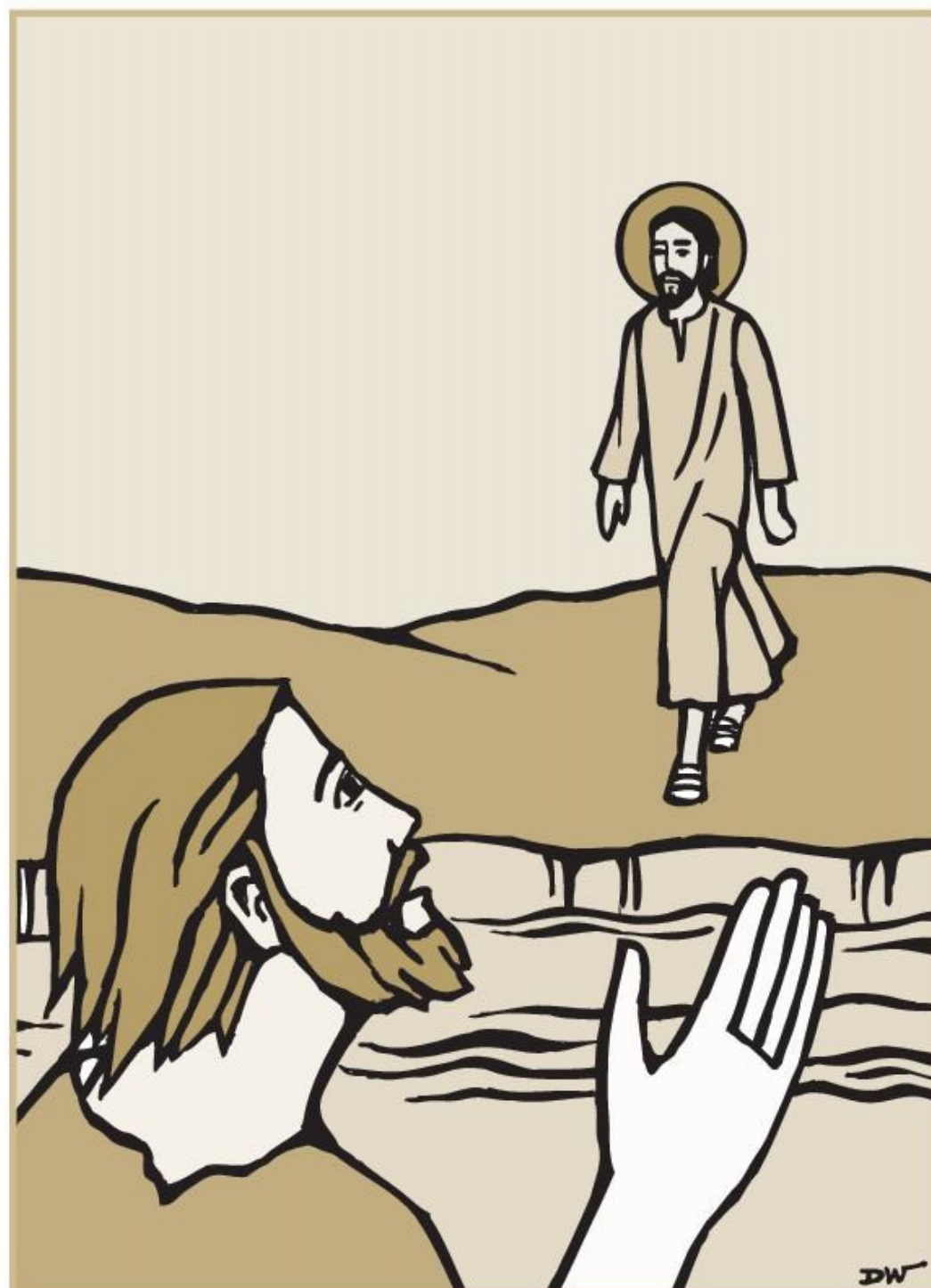
R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord / and he stooped down to me; / he heard my cry. / He put a new song into my mouth, / praise of our God. **R.**

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, / but an open ear. / You do not ask for holocaust and victim. / Instead, here am I. **R.**

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written / that I should do your will. / My God, I delight in your law / in the depth of my heart. **R.**

4. Your justice I have proclaimed / in the great assembly. / My lips I have not sealed; / you know it, O Lord. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

■ The word of the Lord.



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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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: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm Young Adults

Sunday 9:00am A Powell 10:30am E Galero

Counters: No Counting

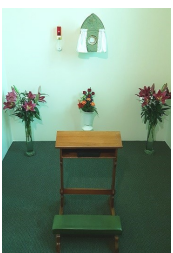
Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 21 Jan: St Agnes

Sat 24 Jan: St Francis de Sales

Sun 25 Jan: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thanksgiving



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the Centenary Celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Contact the Parish Office to apply for one.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants - 24/1/2026

Holy Mass in Reparation for and Healing from Abortion on at 9:00am **every 4th Saturday** at St Patrick's Cathedral. Confessions from 8:30am. Rosary Procession after Mass. Join us in prayer to the edge of the 150m Abortion Prayer Exclusion Zone, Wellington Parade, East Melbourne (Opposite Jolimont Station Ramp Exit).

Parking available off Lansdowne Street. Please vacate carpark by 11:30am. For further details, contact 0407090367.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA Sessions resumes on Thursday, 15th January at 6.30pm.

The sessions are held at St Joseph's Presbytery, 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 65:4)

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (1 Jn 4:16)

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

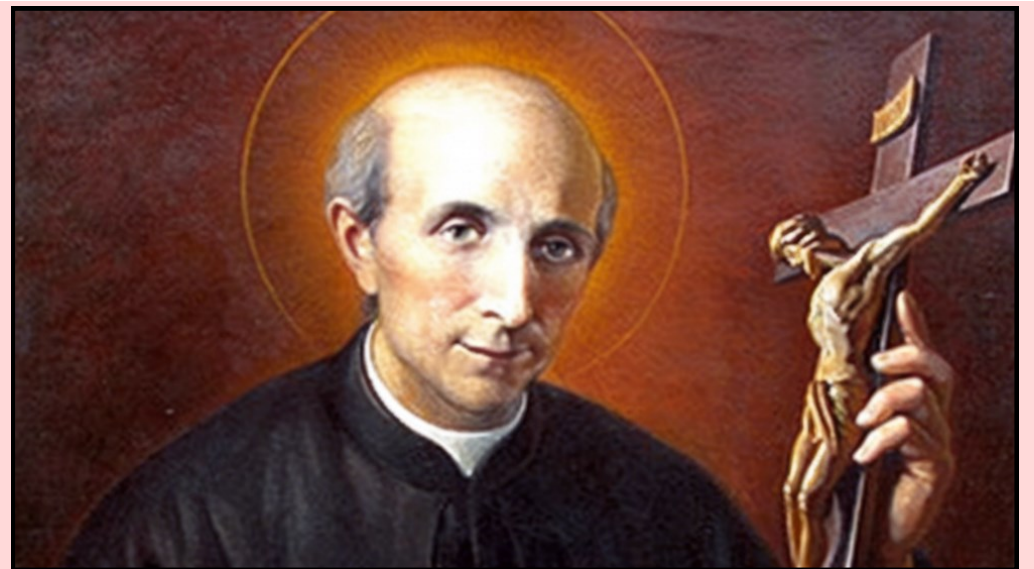
PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Thanh Ninh, Alice Lew

**Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -



Feast of St Vincent Pallotti

Thursday, 22 January 2026.

At St Joseph's Church, 71 Orrong Rd, Elsternwick

Additional Mass: 11.30 am, followed by a

Light lunch at the Presbytery.

There will be an update on "The Flame of Love Orphanage at Keshero" in Congo, along with an opportunity to donate to it.

Spread the word and bring along your friends and family.

Kindly RSVP by contacting

Brother Lindsay/Fr Pat/Fr Leenus.

Or by using the clip-boards in our churches

Or email our Parish Offices on

Glenhuntly@cam.org.au, Elsternwick@cam.org.au

Your presence will help make the occasion a memorable one.

Bring a plate to share, if possible!

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.

National day of mourning for Bondi victims to be held on January 22, Albanese announces

Young Adults & Youth Mass - 25 January 2026

This is an initiative from the combined Young Adults' Group of our Sister Parishes to host the 6:30pm Saturday evening Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church, 71 Orrong Rd, Elsternwick.

Our Young Adults are aged 18-35 and our Youth are those aged 7-17. For the slightly older but still young-at-heart, you are most welcome to join the group as Youth Coordinators; to support the Young Adults and also to guide our Youth at Mass and during fellowship. Spread the word and join in!



Fr Pat's Birthday Celebration

This is a joint event by the Sister Parishes of
St Joseph's & Holy Cross and
St Anthony's & St Aloysius

On Sunday, 1st February 2026
Mass at 11am, followed by Lunch at
St Anthony's Parish Hall.

Signing Birthday Card for Fr Pat

These are placed in our Church foyers
for everyone to sign them.

Special Collection

To meet the expenses of the celebration there will be a special collection at all the Masses of next weekend at our 3 Churches.

Those who would like to contribute using
the Eftpos machine, can do so.

For catering purposes register your name latest by Sunday, 25th January

By using the clip-boards at our Church foyers.
or email our parish offices on
Glenhuntly@cam.org.au
or Elsterwick@cam.org.au

Join in the Singing Practice

on Wednesday, 28th January, 7.30pm
at St Anthony's Church, Glen Huntly.
All welcome to sing at the Hall as well

Parish Hall set-up

Volunteers are needed at the Parish Hall
on Saturday, 31st January,
after the Vigil Mass,
to set up the Parish Hall
for the Birthday celebration!



Year of St Francis

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Jubilee Year coinciding with the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis Assisi.

A year long celebration from
10 January 2026 to 10 January 2027



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

John the Baptist, as he was pointing out Jesus to his disciples said, "behold the Lamb of God." He did not say, behold a miracle worker; nor did he say, behold the good shepherd; nor 'behold the King of kings'. We know and John too knew that Jesus is all these and more, yet John the Baptist chose the very best description for Jesus and said "Behold the Lamb of God."



This title for Jesus is not an invention by John the Baptist. We can see it mentioned right from the first book of the Bible to it's last book, from Genesis to Revelation. From the beginning of creation right up to the very end of the world and even beyond.

In Genesis, Abel offered God an acceptable offering that was of a Lamb. Again in Genesis itself, when Abraham was about to sacrifice his son Isaac, suddenly God's voice was heard saying 'not your son, but I will send my Son to be sacrificed.' and then shows a lamb to represent God's only begotten son and asks Abraham to sacrifice that lamb instead. In the book of Exodus, in Moses' time at Passover the Pascal Lamb that the Israelites were to slain and eat prefigured Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Not only throughout the Biblical history can we see Jesus as the Lamb of God, but in his own life here on earth we see lambs representing Jesus. A legend says that at Jesus' birth one of the lambs at the manger was also given the name 'Jesus.' We are also familiar with the images of Mother Mary holding Baby Jesus as well as a Lamb in her arms; meaning that the Baby is meant to be the "Lamb of Sacrifice". We also see images of Jesus as the Good Shepherd carrying lambs on his shoulders.

Some paintings of the Last Supper shows a lamb in place of Jesus at the table. Some other paintings have a lamb slain together with the figure of Jesus on the Cross. Even the Risen Lord is often represented by the image of a lamb holding a victorious flag.

The last book of the Bible, the Revelation speaks of Jesus as the Lamb 29 times. He is shown as the slain Lamb the only one found worthy to open the scroll and read it. In sacred art, the image of "Lamb of God" is seen on stained glass windows, on altar cloths, on the host to be consecrated, on medals etc,

An apparition on a church wall, at Knock in Ireland on 21 August 1879 includes an image of Jesus as the Lamb, shown on altar, shown in place of the Tabernacle, right in the centre.

When John says, "Behold!", He is asking us to accept Jesus, to receive Jesus and to follow Jesus, for Jesus is the True Lamb of God. Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Fr Leenus.

A young couple talked to a friend about joining the church. The man asked the husband what church did he belong to? After a short hesitation, he replied, "I am transferring from the Golf Course."

Pray for Iran; Pope Leo XIV

As anti-government protests in Iran continue despite an internet blackout and the reported use of lethal force against demonstrators, Pope Leo XIV expressed his concern over the escalating situation in Iran.

I hope and pray that dialogue and peace may be patiently nurtured in pursuit of the common good,
the Pope said.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 1: 29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

THE LAMB OF GOD

The historical memory between John the Baptist and Jesus identified in last Sunday's Gospel from Matthew continues in today's Gospel from John. Themes from last week continue: John the Baptist declares Jesus' pre-existence (1:30), a central theological motif in the Gospel, as God's chosen one, and as the bearer of God's Spirit (1:33). The Baptist also publicly attests to Jesus' holiness using Jewish expressions drawn out of the Passover and Exodus story. Jesus is called 'the lamb of God' (1:29). This evokes the memory of the Passover lamb. This was the lamb sacrificed in the Exodus event (Exodus 12:1-13) whose blood daubed the lintels of the doors identifying its Jewish residents as God's protected ones as the Angel of Death passed over them.

In John's Gospel, Jesus' blood will also become the life-giving and liberating agent that creates the new community formed around the Mother of Jesus and the Beloved Disciple at Jesus' death (19:26-35). At the beginning of this Gospel and in today's reading, John the Baptist becomes the Gospel's witness to the holy and elevated status of Jesus as God's representative who can 'take away the sin of the world' (1:29). In other words and again drawing on a Jewish atonement ritual performed on one of the holiest days in the Jewish Calendar, *Yom Kippur* (literally, 'the Day of Atonement'), Jesus becomes the scapegoat for people's sins to release them from the burdens they carry and bring them to life and freedom—another theme of John's Gospel. All these insights associated with today's Gospel are key for us: we look to one who can represent us before God, release us of sins that weigh us down, and offer us life and spiritual agency.

Fr Michael Trainor