



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

19 OCTOBER 2025

FIRST READING

Ex 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus

As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage.

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 120. R. cf. v. 2

R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains: / from where shall come my help? / My help shall come from the Lord / who made heaven and earth. **R.**

2. May he never allow you to stumble! / Let him sleep not, your guard. / No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, / Israel's guard. **R.**

3. The Lord is your guard and your shade; / at your right side he stands. / By day the sun shall not smite you / nor the moon in the night. **R.**

4. The Lord will guard you from evil, / he will guard your soul. / The Lord will guard your going and coming / both now and for ever. **R.**



SECOND READING

2 Tim 3:14-4:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

This is how the people of God become equipped and ready for every good work.

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

■ The word of the Lord.



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 Youth & Young Adults

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

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 26 Oct: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Thanksgiving

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 16:6, 8)

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings, protect me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 32:18-19)

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Tony Messina, Paulette Dobbin, Carol Burgess**

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

All Souls Day - Sunday 2 November

A book has been placed on the altar rail in front of Our Lady's statue. Please write the names of your deceased family and friends to be prayed for on All Souls' Day.

Envelopes for the November offering for Masses for the faithful departed are available in the church porches and can be placed with the weekend collections.



Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

1. Do you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion at home or at a care facility?
2. Would you like to volunteer as a Special Minister for this important Ministry to help offer Communion Service and Pastoral visits on weekdays?

Please contact the Parish Office for more information. Training will be provided and visits are usually made with our Clergy or another Special Minister.

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 25 October

We look forward to celebrating Mass with the Young Adults and Youth from our 3 churches.

This is an initiative from the Young Adults' Group to host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church. 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.

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

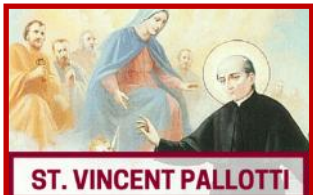
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185

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>



During World Mission Sunday, we are called to be 'Missionaries of hope among all peoples', and we invite you to extend Christ's love to those in need in Zambia. You can support this work by going online at catholicmission.org.au/mission. Your gift will also assist other Church programs around the world.

Pallottine Annual Retreat



All are invited to a Day of Recollection and Commitment on Saturday 25th October from 10:30am to 2:30pm at St Andrew's, Clayton South.

If you are planning to attend, please let Fr Leenus, Fr Pat or Br Lindsay know, or email our Parish Office. All welcome.

Plant Sale 9th November

How is your garden growing? Now is a good time to think about preparing for the Plant Sale. Donations of potting mix very welcome. It would be helpful to know who is actually growing plants for the Sale. If you are cultivating seeds and plants, please let Veronica know via the Parish House. Proceeds go to Tony's Café.

Euthanasia Bill

The State Government is seeking to amend Victoria's euthanasia and assisted suicide laws. If passed, the Government's Bill would further weaken protections for vulnerable patients and reduce protections for medical practitioners who conscientiously object to euthanasia and assisted suicide.

In response to the Government's plans, the Bishops of Victoria have written to Catholics in Victoria to ask that they contact their local Members of Parliament to urge them to vote against the proposed laws. This is particularly important as Members of Parliament will have a conscience vote on the matter – meaning they do not have to vote according to party lines and can vote according to their own conscience.



For full details, scan the QR code or visit our Parish website and click the link on the banner on top of the page.

Stand
Against
Euthanasia



St Carlo Acutis' First Class Relic

Exhibition at Stella Maris Church in Beaumaris, and at St Joseph's Hall in Black Rock. Details on the notice board.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

The Persistent Widow

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

We have just heard of a woman who wouldn't take 'no' for an answer. She was determined to go as far and any number of times, but would not give up trying and crying until she has achieved what she wanted. According to the Bible this woman is known as the "persistent widow". She must have had a very good reason to be so persistent. Jesus says, 'that is how we should be in our prayer-life'.



The parable of the persistent woman, reminds us of St. Mary MacKillop. It was from Australia that she went as far as Rome, in the year 1873 to meet with the Pope and make her request. Her cry was on behalf of the poor. Therefore, she was determined to be heard. By the way, 17th October 2025 marked the 15th anniversary of her Canonisation.

Another example I could think of is that of St. Monica, mother of St Augustine, she persisted in praying for her wayward son for 33 long years. Was she heard? Yes, more than heard. Her prayers were just that her son may return to the Catholic faith'. But in answer to her persistent prayers, God not only brought him back to the faith, but made him a priest, a Bishop and a Saint, one of the greatest of Saints.

In the Bible there are many examples of people who prayed in tears for years, and when at last God answered them, he did it beyond measure. One of those examples is of a couple, who were growing into old age, having no children. But they kept praying to God to give them a child. There was no answer for very many years. But they were not disheartened or disappointed, nor did they give up praying in tears. Were Joachim and Anne's prayers answered? Yes, more than answered. Their persistent prayers were answered with a child, whose name was Mary, who in turn gave us Our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Persistent prayers are always answered in abundance. But, by giving these examples I do not mean to convey a wrong message that God is hard-hearted; that only if we cry and wail for very many long years would He answer. We believe that, God answers every true prayer even if said only once. He cares about us even if we do not pray at all. These examples tell us as to "how much more" God would answer if we prayed with hope and trust without being disappointed! God knows the perfect time!

Our hope is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth!

Fr Leenus

Q: What was Jesus' favourite part of the newspaper?
A: The Cross word section

Lifeboat Foundation

For some years, the "Lifeboat Foundation" has been assisting victims of church-related sexual abuse with basic living costs, counselling, vehicle expenses – and just simply listening, believing and caring. The Foundation has been greatly assisted by donations of unwanted cars e.g. from deceased estates, or people relinquishing licence etc., either to give to victims who need them, or selling them to raise funds.

You could help this important work by identifying people who might donate an unwanted motor vehicle, and identifying someone to assist in the administration of Lifeboat's "Car Donation Project" e.g. speaking to potential donors of vehicles

If you would like more information about the "Lifeboat Foundation" and/or the "Car Donation Project", please contact Fr. Kevin Dillon via the Parish Office.

A festive poster for St Anthony's Parish Fundraising Dinner Dance. It features a yellow background with green pine branches, a large yellow Christmas ball, and silhouettes of people dancing. The text is in various fonts and colors, including red and gold. It includes details about the date, time, location, ticket prices, and sponsors.

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH
FUNDRAISING
DINNER DANCE

SAT 15 NOVEMBER
6.00 PM ONWARDS

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH HALL,
164-168 NEERIM ROAD, GLEN HUNTLY

DOOR / SPOT PRIZES

Below 6 yrs: free (no seat) • 6-12 yrs: \$30 • Above 12yrs: \$50
Indian/Italian dinner included • BYO drinks
Dress to impress and enjoy music for a cause by Floyd

OUR SPONSORS

Quality Groceries
KIMCHI grandma restaurant
COSTCO WHOLESALE
hobba
Miss Mavis CAFE
KORNER & Co. cafe

ORGANISED BY FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH MAINTENANCE
TICKET SALES AFTER EVERY MASS
CONTACT - RON : 0417 153 086 / PARISH OFFICE : 9401 6336

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Heb 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our
heart.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 18:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

God will see those who cry to him vindicated.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."'

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

HOPEFUL EXPECTATION

'What is the good of praying if wars and evil things continue to exist? Prayer seems to have no effect.' A similar concern existed in Luke's day: why pray if it seems ineffectual? Today's Gospel speaks to the heart of this. It takes the form of a parable, encouraging constant prayer. The parable concerns an unjust judge ignoring a troubling and annoying widow who seeks justice against an *adversary*—even though one translation inaccurately describes her antagonist as an 'enemy'. The widow needs help, and the judge refuses her request. That is, until she continues to badger him; finally, he relinquishes.

Luke's Jesus uses the story as a classical way of describing God: if the judge finally relents through persistent pleading how much more quickly will God respond to those who cry out for help. Prayer opens the one praying to God's presence, allowing God to act within the one praying for what is needed. This deeply religious perspective affects the pray-er in daily life. This in turn shapes wider social contact, which effects relationships and, eventually, global change. Local personal prayer has, though imperceptibly, universal influence.

The last sentence of the Gospel speaks into this global perspective: 'When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on earth?' In other words, in the eschaton, at the definitive coming of Christ at the end of time, will people have given up conviction that prayer is effective and that God responds to the cry of the needy? Today's Gospel encourages us to pray, constantly and with hopeful expectation.

Fr Michael Trainor