



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 OCTOBER 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me.

Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**



4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

■ 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

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Eugene San SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

In Residence: Fr Zsolt Kiss

Mass

Wednesday and Friday 10:00am

Saturday 6:30pm, Sun 10:30am

Reconciliation

After weekday Mass and Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am

Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

After weekday 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 and Saturday 9:45am - 10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$819.80 Presbytery: \$859.80

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm Youth & Young Adults

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

Counters: M Beaumont & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 23 Oct: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thanksgiving



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Our Chapel offers a quiet, sacred space to pray and to spend time with Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 with a security tag. To apply, contact the Parish Office. A fully refundable security deposit will be required.

International Pallottine Family Feast Day

Day of Retreat, Reflection and Renewal

Saturday, 24th October, 10am to 3pm
St Anthony's Church

Prayer, Input from Fr Eugene San SAC, Reflection, Sharing Time, Input from Mary Whiting, Lunch, Act of Apostolic Commitment, Reflection, Holy Mass.

All members of the Pallottine Family are expected to annually Renew their Act of Apostolic Commitment at this time.

Kindly email pfn@uacpallottines.au to RSVP for catering purposes by 22 October 2026.



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*: Virginia Poloie Tu'l, Sister Miriam-Elizabeth Cusack, Sue Besomo, Dolores Conte

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

Recently Deceased: Bernadette Duffy

Death Anniversary: -

Thank you Fr Kevin Burke

We thank Fr Kevin Burke for celebrating the 9:00am Holy Cross and 10:30am St Joseph's Sunday Masses with us this weekend.

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass: 24th October

The Youth & Young Adults' Group of our Parish will host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church. Mass is preceded by Adoration and Confessions starting 5:30pm.

Celebrating Friendships!

This month, the young people will gather for a light supper, fellowship and music after Mass at St Joseph's School Atrium.



Rosary after Sunday Mass in October

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary - to express gratitude and honour the Blessed Virgin Mary for the protection that she gives the Church when we pray the Rosary. All are invited to join us in praying the Rosary after the 10:30am Sunday Mass at St Joseph's Church.

Parish Social Lunch

The Camden Hotel - 414 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South, Wednesday 28th October at 12:00pm. All welcome to come together over a meal for conversation, fun, and friendship.

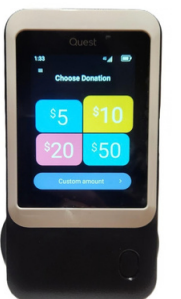
RSVP: Denise 0410311326 by Monday October 26th.

Parish Thanksgiving

"Every good and perfect gift is from above..." ~ James 1:17

We invite you to continue supporting the works of our Clergy and maintenance of our Parish.

For your convenience, an EFTPOS machine is now located at the back of the church. Simply tap your card or device to make your offering. You can also set up a recurring offering using the Thanksgiving QR code above the machine.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Those seeking renewal of faith or desiring to become Catholics please come to our RCIA sessions on Thursdays, 6:30pm at Holy Cross Community Hall. For more info contact our Parish Office.

Pope Leo XIV's Surgery

Pope Leo XIV successfully underwent surgery for lung cancer. Let us keep him in our prayers.



World Mission Sunday 18 October

The 2026 theme for World Mission Sunday has been released: **“One in Christ, United in Mission.”**

Chosen by Pope Leo XIV, this theme carries deep significance as 2026 marks 100 years since the establishment of World Mission Sunday by Pope Pius XI.

This centenary celebration will be held as a moment of gratitude and reflection for missionaries around the world, highlighting the Universal Church's enduring commitment to support the life-giving work of mission. Pope Leo XIV highlights the importance of unity in Christ as the foundation of our missionary calling.

Together, we embody the Church's universal mission: to make God's love known and lived, so that all may experience the joy of being one family, united in mission.



Will you let Christ form you?

INTRODUCTORY RETREAT

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2026

CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE, EAST MELBOURNE

Come and experience a deeper way of being formed in Christ.

Learn more or register: melbournecatholic.org/bethanyway

Enquiries: proclaim@cam.org.au



29th Ordinary Sunday Year A

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus

The Pharisees and Herodians came and asked Jesus whether they should pay the hated Roman tax or not. They had an answer ready in their pockets, because they carried with them the coins a Jew had to buy to pay his taxes, coins with the head of the emperor on them. They didn't come for an answer; they came to trap him. If Jesus said, "No, you should not pay the tax", the Herodians would report him to the Romans police. If he said "Yes, you should pay," he would be caught by his own people as a collaborator.

Jesus knew they had only come to trap him. He knew they didn't care about the poor or the oppressed, so he asked them to show him one of those tax coins. One of them was naïve enough to do just that. He put his hand in his pocket and produced one. Jesus took the coin, tossed it head-side up and asked, "Whose head and title is this?" At the answer, "Caesar's," Jesus replied, "if it belongs to Caesar, give it back to him."

He successfully escaped their trap but put the onus back on them to decide for themselves where to draw the line between the emperor's jurisdiction and God's jurisdiction. In asking the question, "Whose image is this?" Jesus takes the issue to a deeper level. The coin bears Caesar's image and belongs to Caesar. Humans, on the other hand, bear the image of God. They may pay the infamous tax, but they don't belong to the emperor. They belong to God, and that belonging has powerful implications, whether they are in church or engaged in social, economic, political or religious spheres. That image of God moves us to challenge those governments which might act as if all citizens belong to the state or treat people as less than human.

There are times when every person must stand up and say what is right. Like Johanna Howe and her husband James and five kids who suffered for their fight for children. It's the same for adults. We are citizens of two worlds—citizens of this world and citizens of heaven. We have obligations towards each which we must respect. It is hoped that our dual citizenship and the obligation we have to each will never clash. But if they do, we must resolve them without compromise to our God or to our conscience. Our first and basic loyalty is to God and to the deepest reality of being human. To change the life even of one person can result in the enrichment of many.

Fr Pat Jackson

An atheist complained "You Christians have special holidays: Christmas and Easter. Jews celebrate their national holidays: Passover and Yom Kippur. But we atheists have no recognized national holidays, It's unfair." His friend replied, "Why don't you celebrate April first?"

First Holy Communion

The Year 4 students of St Joseph's School will receive their Sacrament of First Eucharist on Thursday, 29th October, 2026.

Please keep these young people and their families in your prayers as they make their final preparations.

Rosary by Young People at St Anthony's Church

During October, the month of the Rosary, you are invited to come to join the youth in praying the Rosary every Friday at 7pm in the Church, followed by light refreshments.

Friday 23rd October: Adoration and Rosary

Friday 30th October: To be advised

St Anthony's Spring Plant Sale

Sunday 25th October from 9:30am-1:30pm. Beautiful plants, books & cakes, pre-loved treasure & refreshments.

Proceeds help Tony's Café Soup Kitchen keep up their good work.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

WHO IS OUR GOD?

Homilists today may be tempted to use this Gospel as an encouragement to honour taxation: every citizen contributes to the common good, and perhaps parishioners might even be urged to contribute a little more to the parish coffers. After all, Jesus does say, 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar!' While we certainly have a responsibility to support those social structures that advance the common good, and to assist those who struggle, something more troubling is at work in this Gospel.

The setting is the Temple Mount, where Matthew presents Jesus undergoing a theological trial before religious leaders and guardians of orthodoxy. It is a scene repeated in every generation of Jesus' followers: the attempt by theological rigorists to indict those whom they regard as out of step with orthodox teaching. Jesus refuses the premise of their question. Instead, he asks them to produce the coin used to pay the tax and to identify the figure and inscription upon it. 'Caesar's,' they reply.

Here lies the real issue. These religious leaders publicly champion the Torah's fundamental confession that there is only one God. Yet, in Israel's most sacred place, the Temple, they carry an image of the god-king Caesar. Their actions contradict the faith they claim to defend. Thus, today's Gospel is not primarily about the lawfulness of taxation. It is about fidelity to the Divine One. Beneath the question of what belongs to Caesar lies the more searching question: Who is our God, the One to whom our ultimate love, allegiance and obedience belong?

Fr Michael Trainor