

PLEASE TAKE
ME HOME

SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Parish of The Holy Spirit and St. Francis

St Mary's

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sacred Heart

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL FATHERS AND FATHERLY FIGURES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Dear Parishioners, this weekend we celebrate some important people in our lives, our society and our world – our fathers, dads, grandfathers, heroes, helpers, protectors, just to name a few images. How did this day celebrating these important men in our lives begin? Father's Day in Australia began in the 1930s as local communities and churches experimented with ways to honour fathers, inspired in part by the earlier American celebration.



The first known Australian observance took place in Melbourne in April 1930, and throughout the mid-1930s newspapers in cities like Perth and Newcastle began promoting Father's Day events and gift ideas. In 1936, the Retail Traders' Association proposed the first Sunday of September as the official date, choosing springtime as a pleasant season for family gatherings.

The celebration gradually grew through the 1950s, supported by media promotion and community involvement, and in 1957 the Father's Day Council was formed to coordinate national recognition and select a "Father of the Year." By 1964, the Commonwealth had formally adopted the first Sunday of September as Australia's Father's Day, giving the celebration its distinctive place in the national calendar.

So, what are we celebrating when we think of our fathers or fatherly figures – both alive and passed? When I think of my father, what comes to mind was a man who worked hard to support his family, who cared for us by teaching us, helping us and even inspiring us to make good choices in life. One memory of my father which really has stayed in my mind was that my father prayed with me and my two brothers every night and teaching us to say the Lord's Prayer and the prayer to Mary. All fathers and fatherly figures are different, they have different qualities, gifts they share, and are uniquely themselves. These men are not perfect, but they do their best to provide for their families. What is uniquely special about your fathers - both those who are living or passed?



When we look at the different fathers and fatherly figures in scripture who would come to your mind? Scripture presents a line of fatherly figures beginning with God the Father, followed by Abraham as the patriarch of faith, Moses as the guiding leader of Israel, and David as the father of the royal line pointing toward Christ. Joseph stands out as Jesus' earthly guardian, while St Paul becomes a spiritual father to the early Church. Alongside them, figures like Noah, Jacob, and the prophets also reveal how God shapes His people through those who lead, protect, and hand on the faith. Let us today and everyday honour these men who have nurtured us, even in their simple ways, with gratitude, important moments remembered and to prayer for them – both living and passed.



On Saturday 29 August, the Most Reverend Stuart Russell Hall was consecrated as Bishop of Australia's Military Ordinariate at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne. Speaking to the crowd gathered, the new bishop said his mission ahead is simple: 'to bring the peace of Christ to every corner of the ordinariate, and to make it known to every member of our military community—from recruits to recent veterans.' What does a Military Ordinariate do?

The Bishop of the Military Ordinariate is responsible for the spiritual and pastoral care of Catholic members of the armed forces, their families, veterans, and military chaplains. Although he functions like a diocesan bishop, his jurisdiction is based on people rather than a geographical area, making the Military Ordinariate a "diocese without boundaries." He oversees chaplains, ensures access to the sacraments and pastoral support, promotes Catholic teaching and moral guidance, and accompanies military personnel through the challenges of service, deployment, family separation, and conflict. In Australia, the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Military Services carries out this mission for the Australian Defence Force and its wider military community. As we celebrate Father's Day this weekend, may Bishop Stuart express his fatherly role in caring and listening to all military personnel.

Finally, we will be starting to sell raffle tickets next weekend to raise money for the scholarship fees of 5 students from Timor Leste to help further their education in the future due to their financial situations. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Great to see you all this weekend. God bless, Fr Martin.

WE PRAY FOR...

ILLNESS:

Rosa Nistico, Elizabeth Kiernikowski, Maria Reilly, Mick Zuccala, Nancy Camera, Lucy Finnegan, Ebony McDonald, Teresa Styne, Oliver & James Mendis, Mary Ryan, Sunny & Hunter Drew, Joseph Galekovic, Clive O'Connor, Rita Spinella, Kerstin Thomas, Marie Northey, Martin Patane, Shane Cowie, Anna Slawek, Melita Lambiris, Malcom Keys, Carmel Finley, M.S., Barry Martin, Vera Molloy, Claire Lawrence, Tom Fischer, Joan Tranter, Stella Noal, Peter Teasdale, Paul Kennedy, Vlad, Antonio Salas, Prue Turner, Anna, Joseph Spinella

ANNIVERSARIES:

Michael Rupena
Hugo Carigg,
Michael James
Geoff Hall,
Frank Perriam,
Isobel Armstrong,
Norma Bencraft,
Anne Campbell,
Delys Cripps
Joan Gadsden,
Noel Field,
Donald McKeown,
Tom McKenna

BAPTISM:

Lachlan & Liam Bryant

SACRAMENTS 2026



FIRST RECONCILIATION

TERM 4

Tues 10,17 & 24 Nov 5:30 pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Semester 1: 2027

CONFIRMATION

Thu 3 Sept to 19 Nov 5 pm

Information & bookings at
sandringham@cam.org.au

Parish Office Closure from Tue, 25 Aug, until Thu 24 Sep while the parish office staff are on leave.

During this time, please contact us by email. Our emails will be monitored daily, and we will respond as soon as possible.

You are also welcome to call the Parish Office and leave a voicemail with your name and a brief message. We will return your call as soon as we can. For emergencies, please choose option 3.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

FUNERAL NOTICE: Late Leanne Warner

Late Leanne Warner's Funeral Mass will be held at:

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

13 Fernhill Road, Sandringham VIC 3191

On Wednesday, 9 September 2026 at 12:30pm

We ask you to please keep Leanne, her family and friends in your prayers at this difficult time.

Entrance Antiphon Psalm 118:137, 124

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

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!

Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R)

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)



*If he listens to you, you
have won back your
brother angels*

Matthew 18:15

Second Reading Romans 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation 2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Cf Psalm 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 TAKE
ME HOME
FOR FURTHER
REFLECTION.**



POPE'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER: FOR THE CARE OF WATER.

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil

5 pm St Mary's

59 Holyrood St, Hampton

Sunday Morning

9 am Sunday - Sacred Heart

13 Fernhill Rd, Sandringham

10:30 am Immaculate Heart

441 Bluff Rd, Hampton East

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 9:15 am Immaculate Heart

Tue 9:15am Sacred Heart

Wed 9:15am Sacred Heart

Thur 9:15am St Mary's

CONFESSION TIMES

Sat. 4:45 pm St Mary's

Sun. 8:45 am Sacred Heart

PRAYER & ADORATION

All are welcome!

Rosary & Prayers

Sun, 10 am Immaculate Heart

Mon, 8:50 & 9:50 am Immaculate
Heart

Tue, 8:45 am Sacred Heart *New
Time!!*

Wed, 8:20 am Sacred Heart

Thu, 8:45 am St Mary's *New
Time!!*

Adoration

Wed, 8:45-9:10am Sacred Heart

EMERGENCIES

For anointing of the sick please
call 7036 9381 and dial 3

PARISH CELEBRATION – FEAST OF ST FRANCIS

Sunday 4th October 2026 2pm

Your invitation to our Parish Celebration has been included in this week's online parish newsletter. Hard copies are also available at the back of the churches. Please return your completed RSVP (hard copy) to the RSVP box at the church. If you have any queries, please contact:

St Mary's: Jennifer Withecomb, Michele Connell, Angelina Robinson

Immaculate Heart: Angelina Robinson, Cheryl Juelg, Rick Thomas

Sacred Heart: Sue Thorp, Heather McGrath, Mark Shannon

BITE SIZE THOUGHTS BY GREG SUNTER

Historical Context – Tell the Church

The idea of bringing a 'sinner' or offender before the church community to be confronted is one that the early Christians borrowed from the Jewish culture out of which they were formed. In Jewish society, the local synagogue was effectively a community centre. It was a gathering place, not only for worship and education, but also for meeting, debating and seeking solutions to problems. The synagogue community took on the role of mediator, witness, jury, judge and, if needed, punisher. The role of the scribes in Jewish society was to interpret the Law – the Torah – in resolving everyday situations.

TURN UNWANTED FOREIGN CURRENCY INTO A GIFT!

Have foreign coins or banknotes from past holidays? Donate them as part of our Parish Spring Clean!

Current banknotes will be exchanged for Australian Dollars and donated to our Scholarship Appeal in Remexio, Timor-Leste. Coins & obsolete currency will be donated through Travel Money Oz to UNICEF.

Collection boxes will be in each church foyer and will be collected weekly or give directly to your local contact. For more information, speak to your parish contact (see poster) or visit: www.travelmoneyoz.com/donate-foreign-coin



SYNODALITY AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

At the heart of synodality is trust in the Holy Spirit. Without prayer, synodality becomes mere strategy. With prayer, it becomes a path of grace.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB

The Healing Journey: From fear and uncertainty to safety and hope

With Jemma Mead and Patricia Bergin

Wednesday, 23rd September, 6.00 – 9.00pm
Hampton RSL 25 Holyrood Street, Hampton

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL – BY FRIDAY 11th September

For Bookings and/or further details contact:

MICHELE: michelekennan@presvic.org.au OR 0415 956 107(mob)

CATRIONA: catriona3171@gmail.com OR 0419 109 830 (mob)

Donations collected on 22nd July SIP & 23rd September SIP to go to Good Samaritan Project

Community
Cuppa

Sundays After 9:00 am Mass, Sacred Heart.
Sundays After 10:30 am Mass, Immaculate Heart.
Wednesdays After 9:15 am Mass, Sacred Heart.

Monthly Dinner

1st Saturday of the month after 5 pm Mass.
Contact Michele: 0427 508 003.

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH COLLECTIONS

Please note that at our Masses there are two collections:

- The First collection is for priest and retired priests
- The Second collection helps support the day-to-day expenses of the parish.

If you would prefer to give by card, tap machines are available in the foyers of the churches.

DIRECT DEBIT

**Parish of The Holy Spirit
& St Francis**

BSB: 083 347

Acc. Num: 646745079

Presbytery Account

BSB: 083 347

Acc. Num: 646741705

ON LINE DONATIONS

at our [website](#) or using your phone to read our QR code



Thank you for your generosity to help us continue our ministry.

Donations to SH Social Justice Group

Sacred Heart Parish SJG East
Timor Project

BSB: 083347

Acc: 250540755

or through Return-It Vic!

Parishioners returning bottles and cans at refund points operated by CDS Vic East can now



donate their refund directly to the Parish Social Justice Group by using the Parish Donation Partner ID C2000075764



Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Tanti martin.tanti@cam.org.au

Parish Secretary: Maria Jesus de Santisteban

Parish Office 13 Fernhill Rd, Sandringham VIC 3191

sandringham@cam.org.au Tel.7036 9381

Tue to Fri - 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

www.melbcatholic.org/holyspiritstfrancis