



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

24 AUGUST 2025

## FIRST READING

Isa 66:18-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*They will gather all of your people from all nations.*

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15

**R.** Go out to all the world; and tell the Good News (*or Alleluia!*)

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations, / acclaim him all you peoples! **R.**
2. Strong is his love for us; / he is faithful for ever. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*The Lord disciplines those he loves.*

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did



not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.  
Alleluia!



# THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

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**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

**Next Week's Roster**

Lector - Saturday: J Lam

Lector - Sunday: D Joseph & E Zheng

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

**HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH**

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

**Mass**

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

**Reconciliation**

Thursday after Mass

**Next Week's Roster**

Lector: D Sarah

**Thanksgiving & Special Collections**

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

**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-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

**Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar**

Wed 27 Aug: St Monica

Thu 28 Aug: St Augustine

Fri 29 Aug: The Passion of St John the Baptist

Sun 31 Aug: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



News Bulletin  
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## 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.

## Novena to St Joseph

Novena to St Joseph every 1st Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Adoration, Novena and Divine Mercy Chaplet. All welcome.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 85:1-3)

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 103:13-15)

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill\*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina**

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

Recently Deceased: -

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

## 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](http://www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com)

Enquiries: Joy Hunt 9509 2207



## World Day Against Abortion

'World Day Against Abortion' will be held on Saturday, September 6th at Corpus Christi, Tynong. The day will start with a Mass of Reparation for abortion at 11am, followed by talks and lunch. Bookings are requested for catering purposes: [www.trybooking.com/DDPOZ](http://www.trybooking.com/DDPOZ)  
A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information, please contact Marita Dunphy via the Parish Office.





## 17-31 August Archbishop's Campaign

Last year in August 2024, the Archbishop's Campaign was launched in all parishes. This year, with our generosity, we are invited to help with the vital ministries and key projects of the Church in Melbourne.

Donors will be able to make either a tax deductible or non-deductible gift.

**Tax-deductible gifts** will go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund, which supports:

- Corpus Christi College Building Fund
- Priests Retirement Foundation
- University of Divinity Building Fund
- John Pierce Centre
- Melbourne Overseas Mission
- Other deductible gift recipient entities such as Catholic community agencies and community service organisations.

**Non-deductible gifts** will go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund, which supports:

- The Archbishop's evangelisation initiatives, such as Australian Catholic Youth Festival.
- Seminarian education.

By supporting the fundraising effort within our Archdiocese, we are responding to Christ's invitation to "go out to all the world and spread the Good News."

**There will another second collection this week. You can also donate via a link on our website or at: [melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign](https://melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign)**

### Young Adults Hosting Mass - 23rd August

Thank you to the Young Adults, who were joined by the Youth, from our 3 churches who have come together this Saturday to host the 6:30pm Vigil Mass at St Joseph's.

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.

This is an important role, as you will be supporting the Young Adults and also guiding 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 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. Complete the Safeguarding online training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>

### Father's Day Book

Our Father's Day Book has been placed on the altar rail of our church. Please write the names of any fathers you would like prayers offered in the book.

## 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

*Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,*

Once, a man died and entered heaven. He being new to heaven, Peter offered to take him around. At one point they came to an enclosure. Passing by the enclosure, Peter asked the man to be silent and not to let the people inside know of his presence. "Why, who is inside?" asked the man. Peter answered, "They are Catholics inside, and they think they are the only ones in heaven; if they knew that there are also others in heaven they might ask for their money back".

The idea of "only a select few being saved" is a controversial idea. This topic is often misunderstood and misinterpreted. Sometimes, those who have this idea presuppose that they themselves are among the select few, and that the others are not. Such thoughts of exclusiveness can lead us to uncharitable and unchristian conclusions.

In today's Gospel, the man who asked Jesus, 'will only a few be saved' may have thought that heaven was reserved only for the people of his own religion. But Jesus makes two points clear. Firstly, belonging to any particular religion or a race does not guarantee of heaven. One has to prove worthy of it. One has to try to enter by the narrow gate, which means one needs to struggle through the life here on earth.

Secondly, Jesus makes it clear that no group or category of people can monopolise heaven for themselves. Heaven is open to anyone and everyone. In today's first reading we hear that God's plan of salvation is universal. The reading indicates that God comes to gather people of all nations and all languages. In the Gospel we hear the words of Jesus, "People from East and West, from South and North will come to take their places at the feast in the Kingdom of God".

God does not limit His grace to any particular group, because God wants everyone to be saved: His interests are to be our interests. What then is His interest? Jesus said to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that He has only one interest; and His one and the only interest is "souls"; He wants every soul to be with Him for all eternity. Can we then have an interest that is contrary to His? And Jesus asks us to pray constantly, 'Sacred Heart of Jesus, Save all Souls'.

Therefore, just as our attitude should be "heaven for all" and "Jesus for all", let our prayer also be "lead all souls into heaven". Again not with the understanding that "we are saved, let others also be saved". No, but acknowledging that, we and they are all in the same need of being saved. Jesus reminds us that for everyone it is the narrow way that leads to heaven.

By saying this, I do not mean to say that all religions are equal. Our Catholic faith must remain very dear to us. For we believe that the safest means to get to heaven is to belong to Catholic Church and be nourished by the Sacraments and to lead good Christian lives. Yet we cannot be religious fanatics and despise others or think poorly of them.

Faith in Jesus has a big role in one's salvation. For everyone Jesus alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Let us pray that, everyone will accept Jesus as their only Saviour, and that soon there will be only one flock and one shepherd, Jesus Christ. Pray also that those who do not believe may be saved too, through Him who died for all.

*Fr Leenus.*

What did one elevator say to the other?  
*I think I'm coming down with something.*



## GOSPEL

Lk 13:22-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*From east and west they will come to take their place in the kingdom of God.*

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets," but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word

## AT THE FEAST IN THE KINGDOM

In this Sunday's Gospel we are still in that section of Luke that concerns the journey of Jesus and his disciples on their way to Jerusalem. This section of the Gospel, Luke 9-19, is long. It is also important as the evangelist seeks to contemporise the teaching of Jesus, for a later time and culture. The evangelist also provides us in this 'journey narrative' with a window into what some of the issues were with which Jesus' followers were dealing.

One of them here concerned salvation and ultimate communion with God. Someone enquires about the number of those 'saved'? Will it be a few? The question allows Jesus in Luke's Gospel to address a key presumption circulating within the Gospel audience. There were some who presumed that simply being a member of the Gospel household, participating in a meal (the Eucharist?) or listening to the teaching of the Master guaranteed admittance into the Kingdom.

Jesus reminds Luke's audience to be careful about such presumptive and elitist behaviour. This attitude, of being better than others because of one's spiritual heritage or conduct, does not guarantee automatic admission into the Kingdom. It needs to be checked. Rather than a restrictive or exclusive view of Kingdom admission – only those with the right 'credentials' will be admitted – ultimate communion with God is open ended and available to all, as people 'from east and west, from north and south will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. A spirit of openness, hospitality and inclusivity must characterise Jesus' disciples.

**Fr Michael Trainor**