

# THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

10 AUGUST 2025

## FIRST READING

Wis 18:6-9

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*Just as you struck our enemies, you made us glorious by calling us to you.*

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 32:1, 12, 18-20, 22. R. v. 12

**R.** Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; / for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. / They are happy, whose God is the Lord, / the people he has chosen as his own. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, / on those who hope in his love, / to rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord is our help and our shield. / May your love be upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*We will look for the city designed and built by God.*

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance



given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been



# 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: R Rodrigues

Lector - Sunday: M Nelson

Counters: M Beaumont and B Leong

**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 Duffy

**Thanksgiving & Special Collections**

Church: \$974.00 Presbytery: \$998.35

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**

Mon 11 Aug: St Clare

Thu 14 Aug: St Maximilian Mary Kolbe

Fri 15 Aug: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sun 17 Aug: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## St. Mary MacKillop

The Feast of the very first canonised Australian saint St Mary of the Cross, was celebrated on Friday, 8th August. Let's put into practice her saying "Never see a need without doing something about it."

## 40 Days for Life (40DFL)

This year's 40DFL campaign in Melbourne will begin in a few months' time. Look out for more information in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, please pray for the success of the campaign, for a renewed appreciation for the value of human life in Victoria and that all members of the Catholic church may be exemplars of purity and chastity.



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## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 73:20, 19, 22, 23)

Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 147:12, 14)

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

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

Recently Deceased: **Bishop Elliott, James Sutherland**

Death Anniversary: **Brian Schaefer**

## Bishop Emeritus Peter Elliott

With deep sadness, yet in the hope of the Resurrection, the Archdiocese of Melbourne announces that Bishop Emeritus Peter John Elliott has returned to the Father's house. Bishop Elliott died peacefully on Wednesday 6 August 2025, in Box Hill Hospital at the age of 81.

Funeral arrangements will be announced in the coming days. We invite all the faithful to pray for the repose of his soul, and for comfort for his family, friends, brother priests, and all who mourn his passing.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.



## Thank you from Fr Leenus

Thank you everyone for extending your condolences to me on the loss of my oldest brother Sebastian. The Neetany Family and I would like to thank everyone for your prayerful support. May his soul Rest In Peace!

## The Assumption & The Queenship Of Our Lady

Come and be part of this unique tribute to honour Our Lady, who is the Queen of heaven and earth and the Queen of our hearts.



**1:30pm on Sunday 10 August  
Holy Cross Church**

Adoration, Prayers, Inspirational Talk Divine Mercy and Holy Mass. The Miraculous First Class Relics of St Padre Pio and St Rita of Cascia!



## The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Masses on Friday, 15 August

St Anthony's - 9:15am and 7:00pm

St Joseph's - 10:00am

Holy Cross - 5:30pm

## Legion of Mary at St Joseph's & Holy Cross

A new Praesidium has been formed at The Parish of St Joseph's & Holy Cross. Weekly meetings are held at 7:15pm on Fridays at the Holy Cross Parish Hall. New members are welcome.





## Congratulations, Bishop Tony Ireland

Bishop Ireland, who has been serving us as the Auxiliary Bishop for the Southern Region of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, will be officially installed as the twelfth Bishop and eleventh Archbishop of Hobart on Tuesday 12 August at St Mary's Cathedral in Hobart.



"It is with a spirit of service and devotion that I come to the Archdiocese of Hobart," Archbishop-elect Tony said in a statement following the public announcement. "I kindly ask for your prayers," the Archbishop-elect added.



Our RCIA Program has commenced at St Joseph's Presbytery and will run every Thursday at 6:30pm.

The program includes film and personal sharing. If you know of anyone who would like to know more about the Catholic faith or would like to become a Catholic, please ask them to contact the Parish Office.

## The Vibrant Parish Formation Series

Guest speakers share how we can strengthen the characteristics of a vibrant parish with Worship, Evangelisation, Formation, Fellowship, and Service using the TWG Renewal Framework.

**Tuesdays: 6:30-9:00pm at Mulgrave Country Club, Corner of Wellington and Jells Roads, Wheelers Hill.**

August 12: Service - Beyond the church doors

September 9: Evangelisation - Bridging the gap between parish and school.

Contact the Parish Office if you wish to attend a session.

## Sacrament of Confirmation

Bishop Leslie Tomlinson, Fr Leenus, Fr Pat and Deacon John celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for the students of St Joseph's School on Thursday, 8 August.

We thank Bishop Leslie, the school staff and parents for preparing the children for this blessed Sacrament.

Our parish community congratulates them on this very important milestone of their faith journey.

We pray for the students, their family and teachers to continue keeping God at the centre of their daily life.

## Many hands make light work!

We are very appreciative of those of you who have come forward to offer your time and assistance. There are still many roles needing your talents:

- Setting-up before Mass and closing-up after Mass
- Readers for weekday and weekend Masses
- Organising a cuppa for after Mass
- Safeguarding Committee members
- Children's Liturgy catechists and assistants
- Parish Pastoral Council members
- Parish Finance Committee members

The more volunteers we have, the less each one has to do. Please speak with Joanna after Mass or email the Parish Office if you can lend a hand. Thank you!

## 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 have:

1. A current Working With Children Check card
2. Completed the Safeguarding online training using the link - <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>

## 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

*Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,*

When you have arranged to meet someone at the footy, such as the main gate of the MCG, you are constantly on the look-out for that person. If you don't meet up, there's the nagging thought, "I wonder what happened to him or her?" that can distract you from the main game. But when you do connect, there's the enjoyment of taking in the action together and getting more out of it.

The thrust of the readings calls us to be on the look-out for Jesus' coming; for the coming of the Kingdom and how to prepare for it. There's great imagery in the Gospel, making sure our treasure and our heart are in the same place, dressed for action, lamps lit, waiting, and Jesus coming like a burglar. But the over-riding theme is, do not be anxious or afraid; the Lord has already given us the Kingdom. Go for it!

In our own lives, sometimes we are totally helpless. We can't work out the problem. It's too strong, it's beyond us. We have to wait in the dark, with the questions still remaining in our heart, trusting, hanging on to God. Folding the arms of our faith as we wait till the light comes, but not the arms of our action.

Jesus speaks into our fear, past or future, something whose coming we don't know when. He says, "Fear not little flock. It has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom." God loves us. He is pleased to give us all and more. A lady was walking through Jells Park; she was deeply troubled and poured her heart out to Jesus. Then she stopped, feeling God so remote, and cried, "Are you really listening to me, Jesus?" Immediately her mobile rang and a friend asked, "Are you alright, I was at work and felt the need to ring you."

God wants to encourage and console us when we are living our life to the best of our ability. So right here, right now there is something we can do—not closing in on ourselves, hoarding stuff that the moths get into, but setting our hearts generously on God and others.

Faith is the opposite of fear. In the second reading Abraham and Sarah did not know what was ahead of them. They trusted in something unseen. They trusted in the promise of God.

*Fr Pat Jackson SAC*

Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards?

He was just going through a stage!

## Australia Catholic Youth Festival



The ACYF is a wonderful opportunity for engagement with other young people while experiencing talks, prayer, workshops, live concerts, games and Mass. An opportunity not to miss - it is right at our own doorstep!

- Sunday, 30 November - Tuesday, 2 December
- Year 9 - 25 years plus Leaders 25+
- Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
- \$390-410 per person for the entire Festival. Travel and food at additional cost.



We will be contacting those who have expressed interest to finalise payment details for our parish's registration.

If you missed out on earlier notices and are interested, please contact the Parish Office a.s.a.p.



made to him and he had been told: it is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

*Shorter form Heb 11:1-2, 8-12*

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Mt 24:42,44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

#### **GOSPEL**

Lk 12:32-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*See that you are prepared.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

*Longer form Lk 12:32-48*

#### **A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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# Breaking Open the Word

## **BE ALERT**

Luke's audience consists of people who are wealthy and those who are poorer, from the lower rung of the social ladder. The evangelist's focus is frequently on those of comfortable and wealthy status. This is presumed in today's reading. This Gospel passage follows immediately from last Sunday's. Luke continues to reflect on the themes of wealth and the disciple's attentiveness to God. Jesus reminds Luke's audience that God wants to offer the Kingdom to all. It is not restrictive. But there is one barrier for its reception: wealth and greed—a theme noted last Sunday. Disciples are encouraged to be generous and respond tangibly to the needs of the poor, encouragement that is at the heart of Catholic social teaching.

A second theme emerges: besides generosity, disciples must also remember Jesus' *Parousia*, his coming at the end of time. This perspective is not to be forgotten, though perhaps some in the Lukan household had done so. The example are householders being alert to the master's eventual arrival after a wedding or to a burglar who might smash through the house's mud brick walls. Alertness is thus key. It will surface again later in the Gospel when the disciples are told in Gethsemane to 'keep awake!' Luke promises that such existential alertness will be substantially rewarded.

For ourselves, too, today's Gospel is a spiritually healthy reminder. As we gather around the Lord's Table, we are encouraged to an alertness for the Lord's coming at the end of time. The acclamation after the words of Institution in the Eucharistic Prayer echoes this.

**Fr Michael Trainor**