



# THE SAVING WORD

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

16 JUNE 2024

## FIRST READING

Ezek 17: 22-24

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*I have made the small tree great.*

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,  
from the highest branch I will take a shoot  
and plant it myself on a very  
high mountain.

I will plant it on the high mountain  
of Israel.

It will sprout branches and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Every kind of bird will live beneath it,  
every winged creature rest in the shade of its  
branches.

And every tree of the field will learn that I,  
the Lord, am the one  
who stunts tall trees and makes the low  
ones grow,

who withers green trees and makes the  
withered green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 91: 2-3, 13-16. R. cf. v. 2

**R.** Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord/  
to make music to your name, O Most High,/  
to proclaim your love in the morning/and  
your truth in the watches of the night. **R.**

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree/and  
grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R.**

3. Planted in the house of the Lord/they will  
flourish in the courts of our God,/still bearing  
fruit when they are old,/still full of sap, still  
green,/to proclaim that the Lord is just./  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R.**



## SECOND READING

2 Cor 5: 6-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul  
to the Corinthians

*Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it,  
we are intent on pleasing the Lord.*

We are always full of confidence when we  
remember that to live in the body means to be  
exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and  
not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say,  
and actually want to be exiled from the body  
and make our home with the Lord. Whether  
we are living in the body or exiled from it, we  
are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth  
about us will be brought out in the law court of  
Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves  
for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

■ The word of the Lord.

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

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## ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

### Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

### Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

### Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$421.00 Presbytery: \$601.00

Special Collection: \$308.00 - Project Compassion

### Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: R Rodrigues

Lector - Sunday: P Donohue

Counters: M Beaumont & 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

### Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$359.00 Presbytery: \$476.40

Special Collection: \$94.40 - Project Compassion

### Next Week's Roster

Lector: A Powell

## ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

### 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

Tue 11 June: St Barnabas, Apostle

Thu 13 June: St Anthony of Padua

Sun 16 June: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Devotions to St Joseph** are held every 1st Wednesday at St Joseph's Church in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Enter via the Chapel's own door on the right hand side of the church building.

2:00pm commencement with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Adoration and Novena to St Joseph, concluding with a song. This is followed by quiet personal prayers. At 3:00pm, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed together.

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 26:7, 9)

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 26:4)

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

*Those who are ill:* **Richard Grant, Paulette Dobbin, Eamonn Whelan, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family**

*Recently Deceased:* -

*Death Anniversaries & Remembrances:* -



### Feast of St Anthony of Padua

The Feast of St Anthony of Padua, will be celebrated at St Anthony's Parish on the weekend of 15 & 16 June 2024.

After the 11am Mass, there will be a social gathering at the Padua Pavilion to celebrate the Parish Day. Please bring a plate to share.

**After all other Masses, all are welcome to a cuppa.**

### Trivia Lunch @ Holy Cross Parish Hall

A Trivia Picnic Lunch will be held on Wednesday, June 19th at 12-noon. Bring a plate and enjoy the trivia session and a catchup.

### Many hands make light work

We are in need of more parishioners who are able and may be interested in serving in various ministries.

You will find a Volunteer Form in the church foyer, so please take one home and consider how you can help out in our Parish. Those of you who are already on the volunteer list, or who indicated your interest earlier are also requested to complete the form. Many thanks to those who have already completed and returned their 'Expression of Interest' form.

Please note that for Safeguarding reasons, you must be 18 years of age or older for the form to be accepted.

Completed forms can be returned to the boxes in the church, but please do so by 23rd June. Thank you.

### Altar Servers' Day Out

A Day of Training and Fellowship will be held on Saturday, 6 July 2024 (9:30am-3:30pm) at Holy Saviour Catholic Church, 765 Highbury Road, Vermont South.

This event is organised for Pallottine run parishes, and welcome those:

- aged under 18 years
- who have received First Communion
- already trained or want to be trained as Altar Servers.

Enrol through our parish office by 25th June. Parents are welcome to attend. \$10 per Altar Server.



## Local Catholics recognised in King's Birthday honours ~ Excerpt from article by Melbourne Catholic ~

In the King's Birthday honours list for 2024, a number of people from the Catholic community in Victoria have been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for outstanding service in the areas of religion, healthcare, education, social welfare, and governance and advocacy. The Order of Australia is an order of chivalry, with four levels of award, established by Queen Elizabeth II in 1975 to recognise the outstanding service or exceptional achievement of Australians in different fields.



Among the Victorians awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia this year were **Veronica Blair** and **Gwen Fitzgerald**, both of them long-time parishioners and volunteers at St Anthony's Parish in Glen Huntly. Veronica received her award for 'service to the community, particularly through the church', and Gwyneth for 'service to the community of Glen Eira'. Together, they founded Tony's Café at the parish, serving free meals to members of the wider community, and for 31 years they have coordinated the popular St Anthony's Christmas dinner for those who have nowhere to go on Christmas Day, catering for more than 300 guests each year.

Since 1978, Veronica has also volunteered in the parish in many other capacities, including in music, catechesis, safeguarding and Sunday school, and Gwen - who was awarded Citizen of the Year by Glen Eira Council in 2021 - has also played a central role in the parish's Sunday school and children's liturgy.

Congratulations Gwen and Veronica!

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

This week, the Year 3 children of St Joseph's Primary School received their Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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.

## 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.

Volunteers are reminded to maintain valid Working With Children Check.

For more information on Safeguarding, please visit: [melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding](http://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding)

## Public Policy Matters - Prayer in Parliament

In response to a push by some parliamentarians to end the recitation of prayer in the Victorian Parliament, together with other religious leaders, Archbishop Comensoli has written to all Members of Parliament about the fundamental and ongoing importance of prayer. The letter can be found at: [www.bit.ly/parliamentaryprayer](http://www.bit.ly/parliamentaryprayer)

There are two simple ways you can support the continuation of prayer in parliament:

1. Sign this petition to the Legislative Council:

[www.bit.ly/petitionparlprayer](http://www.bit.ly/petitionparlprayer)

2. Write to your local state MPs to respectfully let them know your views. [findelectorate.parliament.vic.gov.au](http://findelectorate.parliament.vic.gov.au)

## Jesus' Mission to Save ~ By Archbishop Comensoli ~

One can rightly say today, welcome back to the Ordinary Time in the liturgical cycle of the Church. This is the first Sunday we are back in 'green' since Ash Wednesday. Being Ordinary Time, we pick up the missionary journey of Jesus, as recorded in the Gospel of St Mark.

We find ourselves at the early stages of Jesus' ministry in and around the Sea of Galilee. Just prior to what we heard in today's gospel reading, Jesus had begun proclaiming his invitation of the people to a life of repentance and entry into the kingdom of God. He showed this proclamation in two ways: he began calling together a group of disciples, and he followed up this invitation with a series of healings.

These healings at the early stage of Jesus' mission - of Peter's mother-in-law, of a person possessed, of a leper and, finally, of a great crowd of suffering people - are striking enough to have resulted in causing quite a stir throughout the region. By the time he comes back to Capernaum, his home in Galilee, things have become chaotic.

The man whom they had grown up with, Jesus from Nazareth, son of Mary and Joseph, is suddenly manifesting powers they had not experienced before. What was Jesus up to? Where had this power come from? Had he gone mad, or even bad? Those on the receiving end of Jesus' manifestation of God's kingdom would say, neither mad nor bad, but definitively glad. You, Jesus, are showing the power of God's presence among us. Perhaps you are the Messiah, the chosen one, we have been waiting for?

Hence the reactions, first of the scribes, who accuse Jesus of cooperating with the devil, and then his own family and neighbours, who are suddenly confronted by this 'new man' among them, whom they thought needed protection. Let me say a few words about the reaction of the scribes.

Note that they do not deny that Jesus had been healing many people. They were not trying to downplay what had happened; rather, they were attempting to give it a frightening twist. Great crowds were now following Jesus, who was manifesting the presence of God to them. The scribes felt threatened by this and wanted to turn the people away by accusing him of ungodly actions.

We would benefit here in seeing the extent to which the mission of Jesus was to save. Some do not wish this to be the case, when it does not fit into their vision for human society. This has always been the case, from the time of the scribes and pharisees, up to today. To find in Christ—and not in some other theory or ideology—the gift of life, and to find meaning in our sufferings and difficulties, is to find salvation and hope.

Turning briefly to Jesus' family, we might see there a desire for protection, but it manifests itself in isolation. Keep him close; keep him away from others. But this, too, was not Jesus' way. He called people into his life, to share in it and be transformed by it. His family and neighbours wanted him to stay the same and keep him for themselves. Christ is for all of us; he came to give all of himself to us. God, in Christ, does not wish to be isolated away from us in an ivory tower of glory; he comes close, to be near in compassion and healing. He continues to say to us: here—among you—are my mother, and sisters and brothers.

# Breaking Open the Word

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; / all who come to him will live for ever. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mk 4: 26-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.*

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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## EXPLAINING THE UNEXPLAINABLE

How do we understand the kingdom or reign of God? The Gospel of today brings two examples and a word about understanding parables. This passage is preceded by Jesus telling the parable of the sower and explaining it to his disciples. We have the inside running on this as we hear and read what Jesus explains, for we too are disciples. Today's first example tells what the kingdom of God is like, continuing the theme of the sower. We see the imagery of the kingdom of God as something that is not static but growing. It takes time to flourish and bring a harvest. Those on the land know this is an ongoing process season to season, sowing and harvesting. The kingdom of God is like this, growing wherever it is planted and harvested.

Then Jesus asks, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God or what parable will we use for it?' What follows expands further on the kingdom of God. It is like the smallest of seeds that will grow to become the greatest of shrubs giving shelter for further life and growth in its branches and shade.

It seems a mystery that Jesus used many parables like this to speak the word to them, 'but he explained everything in private to his disciples'. Jesus entices the crowd with images of what the kingdom of God is like. Jesus explains the meaning to those who believe. This echoes Paul's words in the second reading 'for we walk by faith, not by sight'. How would you explain the kingdom of God today?

Dr Rosemary Canavan