



## SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2025.

### THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

#### Reflection on the Gospel - (John 3:13-17)

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross traces its origins to 4th-century Jerusalem. According to tradition, Saint Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, journeyed to the Holy Land around 326 AD, where she discovered the True Cross, the cross upon which Jesus was crucified.

To honour this discovery and mark the sacred sites of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, Constantine ordered the construction of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335, and the next day, September 14, the Cross was publicly displayed for veneration.

By the 7th century, this became an annual celebration across Eastern and Western Churches. The veneration of the Cross gained prominence after Constantine's conversion and the legalization of Christianity with the Edict of Milan in 313 AD. Christian symbols, especially the Cross, could now be displayed without fear. Crucifixion was also abolished out of reverence for Christ. Once a tool of humiliation and death, the Cross gradually became the universal symbol of Christian faith, a paradoxical sign of suffering and salvation.

The readings of the feast focus not on crucifixion itself, but on being 'lifted up,' pointing towards the Cross's transformative power and to the mystery of death and new life.

The dialogue in the Gospel of John between Jesus and Nicodemus used for this feast, centres around transformation, and it is saturated with symbolic meaning. Nicodemus, a Pharisee and teacher of the Mosaic Law, comes to Jesus by

night—a gesture reflecting both secrecy and the spiritual searching of one who is still in darkness.

But Nicodemus is drawn towards the light he sees in this 'Human One'. He is genuinely curious and cannot ignore 'the signs' (so important in this Gospel), that Jesus performs: 'No one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God'. Jesus challenges Nicodemus' worldview with the radical invitation to be 'born from above' (or 'born again').

Nicodemus interprets this literally and is bewildered: 'How can these things be?' Jesus answers, perhaps with a tinge of irony: 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

The Law and its reduction to external observance is here in tension with the transformation brought by the Spirit. Jesus is not offering a refinement of the Law, or a more exacting adherence to it, but a life transformed by grace — an entirely new birth. This was announced in the Prologue: 'The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ'.

Written by: **Ford, Pina.** "The Exaltation of the Holy Cross - 14 September 2025." Pastoral Liturgy 55, no. 3 (2024): 84-89.

#### **DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES**

We pray for those who have died recently  
and for those whose anniversaries  
occur at this time.  
May they rest in peace.

**First Reading:** Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here: we are sick of this unsatisfying food.' At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

**The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 77:1-2, 34-38. R. v. 7

**(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!**

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching;  
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable  
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **(R.)**
2. When he slew them then they would seek him,  
return and seek him in earnest.  
They would remember that God was their rock,  
God the Most High their redeemer. **(R.)**
3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery;  
they lied to him with their lips.  
For their hearts were not truly with him;  
they were not faithful to his covenant. **(R.)**
4. Yet he who is full of compassion  
forgave their sin and spared them.  
So often he held back his anger  
when he might have stirred up his rage. **(R.)**

**Second Reading:** Philippians 2: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The state of Jesus Christ was divine,  
yet he did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,

death on a cross.

But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings

in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** We adore you, O Christ, and we  
praise you, because by your cross you have  
redeemed the world. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** John 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who  
came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in  
heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as  
Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that  
everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.  
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his  
only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may  
not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his  
Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so  
that through him the world might be saved.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven, *(All bow)*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Communion Antiphon:** John 12:32

When I am lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: RCIA**

At St Augustine's, Corpus Christi and Annunciation we welcome people who are searching for spiritual meaning in their lives or for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. The RCIA is a process of discernment and learning for those who are not baptised and wanting to find out more about Catholic faith and for those already baptised in another Christian tradition who now desire to further their faith journey with the Catholic Church. A new group will begin early September, if you would like further information about joining us please contact Fr Werner or the Parish Office at [yarraville@cam.org.au](mailto:yarraville@cam.org.au) (03) 9314 7710. **Parishioners you can help!** Perhaps you know someone who is asking questions about faith or about becoming Catholic, you might like to invite them to contact Fr Werner and accompany them in finding out a bit more about what Catholics believe, how we celebrate our faith and live our lives.

**PERMANENT DIACONATE**

The permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years. Online information session Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 7.00 – 8.00pm via ZOOM. Attendance will be by invitation. To express your interest, email Deacon Kevin Pattison, [Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au](mailto:Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au). A link will be sent during the week before the session.

**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY: 14 September 2025**

Theme: "We are a safe, hope-filled, and welcoming Church". Safeguarding Sunday acknowledges past harm from abuse and promotes the creation of safe environments through new practices and protocols. This day is observed within National Child Protection Week.

**MASSES DURING SEPTEMBER**

While Fr. Werner is away on annual leave there will be no weekday Masses at Yarraville or Kingsville for the month of September.

**This weekend, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September**

Fr Trevor Tibbetsma will celebrate

5.00pm Mass at St. Augustine's

8.00am Mass at Annunciation,

9.30am Mass at St. Augustine's

11.00am Mass at Corpus Christi.

**Please make Fr. Trevor Tibbetsma welcome.**

**Please Note: Change in Office Hours for September while Fr. Werner is away.**

**Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays:**

**9.30am – 2.30pm**

**CBC YARRAVILLE REUNION**

Our association commenced in 1964. Our annual reunion of students who attended Christian Brothers' College Yarraville will be held at the Yarraville Club in Stephen St Yarraville **from 12.30 on Saturday October 4th**. We subsidise the cost and also we make a donation to the primary school each year. The cost to attend is \$45, banking details can be obtained by email to

**Paul Baulch: [cbcyarravilleoldboys@gmail.com](mailto:cbcyarravilleoldboys@gmail.com)**

**ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

Please pray for **Deacons Joshua McDermid, Tuong Nguyen and Ian Vergel** who will be ordained to the priesthood and embark on their priestly ministry in the service of God in the Archdiocese on **Saturday 20 September, 10am-1pm**, at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

**NEWMAN COLLEGE CHOIR CONCERT**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 3pm – 5pm** at Newman College Chapel 887 Swanston Street Parkville. "Greensleeves" explores the way that the colour green has pervaded music over the centuries – Irish ballads, Beach Boys songs, three classical renditions of, The Lord is my Shepherd.

**HOSPITALITY SUNDAY**

Next weekend, **20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September** after the **5pm and 9.30 Masses** at St. Augustine's, all welcome to stop for a cuppa and chat after Mass. **We need volunteers** to prepare and serve tea and coffee after Mass. If you would like to bring a plate of food, it would be appreciated. If you can help, for catering purposes, please give your name to Kath Baker (5pm) or Phillip Marques (9.30am) after Mass this weekend.

## **PARISH PRIEST**

Rev Fr Werner Utri

Mobile No. 0401 158 113

## **PARISH SECRETARY**

Emilia Balkan

Parish Website:

[www.melbatholic.org/yarraville](http://www.melbatholic.org/yarraville)

## **Parish Safeguarding Officer**

Pat Mc Laughlin

[patmac766@gmail.com](mailto:patmac766@gmail.com)

## **PARISH CHURCHES**

### **ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

(03) 9314 7710

[yarraville@cam.org.au](mailto:yarraville@cam.org.au)

### **CORPUS CHRISTI**

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

### **ANNUNCIATION**

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

[kingsville@cam.org.au](mailto:kingsville@cam.org.au)

## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**



To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code.

## **LITURGY TIMES**

### **TUESDAY MASS**

No Mass this week

### **WEDNESDAY MASS**

No Mass this week

### **THURSDAY MASS**

No Mass this week

### **FRIDAY MASS**

No Mass this week

### **SATURDAY MASS**

No Mass this week

### **SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

### **SUNDAY MASS**

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

### **RECONCILIATION:**

#### **SATURDAYS**

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

### **NEXT ITALIAN MASS**

No Mass in September

## **COLLECTIONS**

### **THE FIRST COLLECTION**

is for the support of the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.

### **THE SECOND COLLECTON**

which includes the envelopes, is for the support of the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.

We encourage people to set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, using these account details.

#### **ST. AUGUSTINE'S YARRAVILLE**

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

#### **CORPUS CHRISTI KINGSVILLE &**

#### **ANNUNCIATION BROOKLYN**

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

### **QR Codes for one off donations.**



This QR code is unique to the Parish of St. Augustine's and gives you access to giving a donation via **Credit card**.



This QR code is unique to the Parish of Corpus Christi Kingsville

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate at Mass.

### **SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.  
[www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements](http://www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

## **ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK**

**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September**

### **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm .....John Ryan

9.30am ..... Agnes Hopmans

Anna Messina

**COUNTING**.....Les Vella

**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00am ..... Natasha Fernandes

Imelda Gibson

**MINISTERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Mary Vella

9.30am.....George Puckering

**MINISTER:** Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Val Taylor

## **ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK**

(20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> September)

### **25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm ..... Kath Baker

9.30am ..... Pat McLaughlin

Sam Polzella

**COUNTING**.....John Ryan

**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00am ..... Edith Fletcher

Val Taylor

**MINISTERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Joseph De Bono

9.30am.....Phillip Marques

**MINISTER:** Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Imelda Gibson

## **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

### **Mary Mackillop Spirituality Centre**

St. Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown

16 Esplanade Williamstown. 3016

(03) 9397 6012. [mmsm.org.au](http://mmsm.org.au)