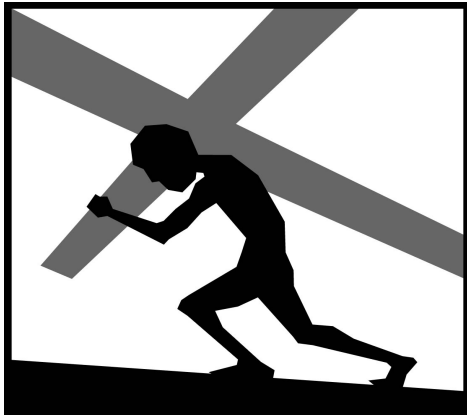




Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is the first of three predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew's gospel (see also Mark and Luke). Despite Peter's confession of faith that immediately precedes this passage (see last week's gospel), the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. One can almost hear Peter saying, 'Look, Jesus, you've got a good thing going here, don't spoil it by talking about dying!' However, Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom.

The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' – to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be selfless, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus – to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life.

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ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Catholic Parish

Avondale Heights

Today's Celebration is on pages:

Old Missal: 327 New Missal: 447



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

30 August 2026

First Reading Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you,

O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great

is the hope

to which we are called.

Alleluia!

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

www.melbocatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tru

Secretaries: Lee Tran: Wednesday - Friday

Charles Meneze: Tuesday

Office Hours: Closed Monday

10am - 3pm Tuesday - Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm

Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

Phone: 9337 6016

E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10.00am

Saturday 5:30pm

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey

Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano

Maria Aloe

Phone: 9331 9000

E-mail:

principal@smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court,

Avondale Heights

Phone: 9337 4595

E-mail: sisaugustinian@gmail.com

Website: www.asjmoz.org

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick:

Vlad; George Pinpin; Kimberly Damanik; Kay; Jan; Miecia, Zyguh; Mellisa; Janice Murray; Rossini Burns; Nancy Green; Mark; Franca; Nazzi & Teresa Demaio; Monica Marland; Zac; Emily & Grace; Susie.

Recently Deceased:

Tito Mandozzi; Vincent Vu Huu Chien; Pietro Torcasio; Leonardo Martelli; Paulo Raimondo; Giuseppe Marino; Peter Falzon; Joseph Borg; Giovanna Borg; Lolita Couacaud; Vincenza La Spina; Robert Barnes; Giuse (Joseph); Anna Grimaldi.

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Saverio Rizzi; Concetta Petricca; Rade Mejak; John Alderuccio; Pasquale Canturi; Dominic Cumbo; Bernarda & Francis Grima; Teresa, Emmanuel, Tonina, Phillip Sammut; Emmanuel & Nazarena Farrugia; Adam Hood; Rita & Carmelo De Bono; Joseph Consiglia.

Parish Support Programme:

Pays Wages, Electricity, Cleaning, Insurance,
Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$2,051
Loose: \$913

Presbytery: Supports Parish Priest,
Retired Priests & Cathedral. \$1,601

NAIDOC Mass: 9.30am Sunday 6 Sep

The theme for NAIDOC week 2026:

50 Years of Deadly.

We are celebrating NAIDOC to acknowledge and pay respect to Australia's First People. There will be a third collection for Opening the Doors Foundation to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in schools across Victoria.



BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND

We congratulate and pray for:
Dion Connor Limperakis.



CELEBRATION THIS WEEKEND

First Eucharist Children

The children of St Martin's school as well as RE class students Derrick, Allegra & Aston receive the sacrament this weekend.

PRAYER SERVICE of LAMENT

15 September 2026

St Patrick's Cathedral Grounds

East Melbourne: 4pm

Dear Fathers, Deacons, and Parish Communities,

The Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows invites us to stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross. There we see a mother who remains close to her Son in His suffering, steadfast in faith and open to the hope that God alone can bring. In Mary, the Church learns not to turn away from suffering, but to remain present with compassion, humility and prayer.

In 2026, on this memorial we will gather as the Church in Melbourne for our annual Service of Lament for survivors of abuse.

I invite you, your parish leaders, and representatives of your parish community to join me on **Tuesday 15 September** at 4 pm in the grounds of **St Patrick's Cathedral** as we come before the Lord in prayer and lament.

This Service is an occasion to humbly stand alongside those who have suffered abuse, and all who continue to carry its lasting effects. It is for us, as the Body of Christ, to acknowledge and lament sincerely and with humility the failures that have caused such profound harm, and to place before the Lord our prayer for healing, justice and the ongoing conversion of His Church.

Survivors and their loved ones remain at the heart of this gathering. Through the proclamation of God's Word, silence, music and symbolic ritual, we will commend to the Lord all who have been harmed by abuse, asking that His healing mercy bring light where there has been darkness, hope where there has been despair, and renewed trust where trust has been broken.

Mindful that this gathering is first and foremost a place of prayer for survivors and their families, and wishing to preserve a quiet and respectful atmosphere, I ask each Parish to nominate a few representatives to attend on behalf of the parish community. The Service will also be livestreamed, enabling many others to join us in prayer from across the Archdiocese.

As we stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross, may we allow the Lord to deepen within us hearts that listen with compassion, seek the truth with humility, and remain steadfast in the ongoing work of healing and reconciliation. May this shared act of lament become another step in our ongoing journey of conversion, as together we entrust ourselves and our Church to the mercy of Christ.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,
Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

Memorial 29 August

Saint John the Baptist,
you were given a holy mission
and sanctified in the womb of your mother
in preparation for that mission.

You never deviated from your calling
and always pointed the way to Christ,
the Savior of all.

Please pray for me,
that I will have the same courage you had
and the resolve to fulfil my duties,
no matter the cost.

Saint John the Baptist,
pray for me.

Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen

Source: My Catholic Life.



JESUS YOUTH VICTORIA
a lay Catholic movement

INVITES YOU TO CALLED
Friday 11th September 6 - 8:30PM

St Peter Apostle Mission Parish
38 Guinane Avenue, Hoppers Crossing

Join us for a fun night of games,
music, testimonies, inspiring talks,
and fellowship. Register with QR

