

St Cecilia's Catholic Church
37 Hillside Parade
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Parish Priest:
Fr Kevin McGovern



Sunday Masses:
Sun. 10 a.m.
Sun. 5:30 p.m.
Weekday Masses:
Mon. 9:15 a.m.
Wed. 9:15 a.m.
Fri. 9:15 a.m.
Confessions:
By arrangement

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27 September 2026

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Lina (Pasqualina) Gecchelin (d'ced 10 September 2026)

ANNIVERSARIES: Frances Joyce Bartlett, Dorothy Mary Bowen, Maurice Hoare, Frances Elizabeth Jordan, George Lea, Jack (John Charles) Murray, Beryl Shiel, Fr Nicholas Stafford, Helen Trew, Bill (William Thomas) Young

112th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: Every year, the Catholic Church around the world celebrates a World Day of Migrants and Refugees. It takes place each year on the last Sunday in September, which is today. Note that this has been going on for a long time: this is the 112th annual World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Each year, the Pope issues a message for this World Day. In his message for this year, Pope Leo announced that the theme for this year is ***Even Just One of These Children***. As he wrote, “‘Even just one of these children’ draws our attention to the minors directly involved in the experience of migration and flight, to the care owed to them, and to the Lord’s promise that ‘whoever receives one such child in my name receives me’ (Mk 9:37).”

Pope Leo’s message reminds us that “every year, millions of children and adolescents are forced to leave their homeland because of war, poverty, violence, environmental disasters and other tragedies. Sadly, their number continues to grow.”

He continued, “Every child, every human being, possesses an infinite dignity. Each is created in the image and likeness of God (cf. *Gen 1:26*); each is a presence of the Lord. Before every migrant child, we are called to make an act of humanity and faith, for we are able to welcome and encounter the Lord... We cannot remain indifferent, nor can we become accustomed to such suffering.”

Pope Leo’s message then sets out what this call from God means to each of us as individuals; what it means in the life of the church; what it means as different religions cooperate together; and what it means in civil society for governments and charitable organisations.

Speaking to each one of us as individuals, Pope Leo wrote, “Even just one of these children calls each one of us... to open our eyes and heart to a profound listening to his or her story, fears and dreams, overcoming... detachment... to safeguard his or her fundamental rights.”

Speaking to the church, Pope Leo called us “to transform welcoming from an abstract concept into a stable pastoral practice.”

Speaking to the different religions, Pope Leo called us to “cooperate in weaving networks of protection.”

Finally, speaking to governments and civil society, Pope Leo stated that “the focus of the debate must shift from the mere management of migration to the full and immediate protection of human rights.”

Pope Leo’s full message is available online at <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/migration/documents/20260811-world-migrants-day-2026.html>. What can we do as individuals and as a parish to welcome migrants and refugees, and especially to welcome children?

WEEKDAY MASSES: We have weekday Masses at St Cecilia’s this week at **9:15 am on Monday 28th September, Wednesday 30th September, and Friday 2nd October**. At St Michael’s in Ashburton, there is a Liturgy of the Word with Communion at **10 am on Tuesday 29th September, and Thursday 1st October**.