



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 JANUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 8:23–9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing
the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

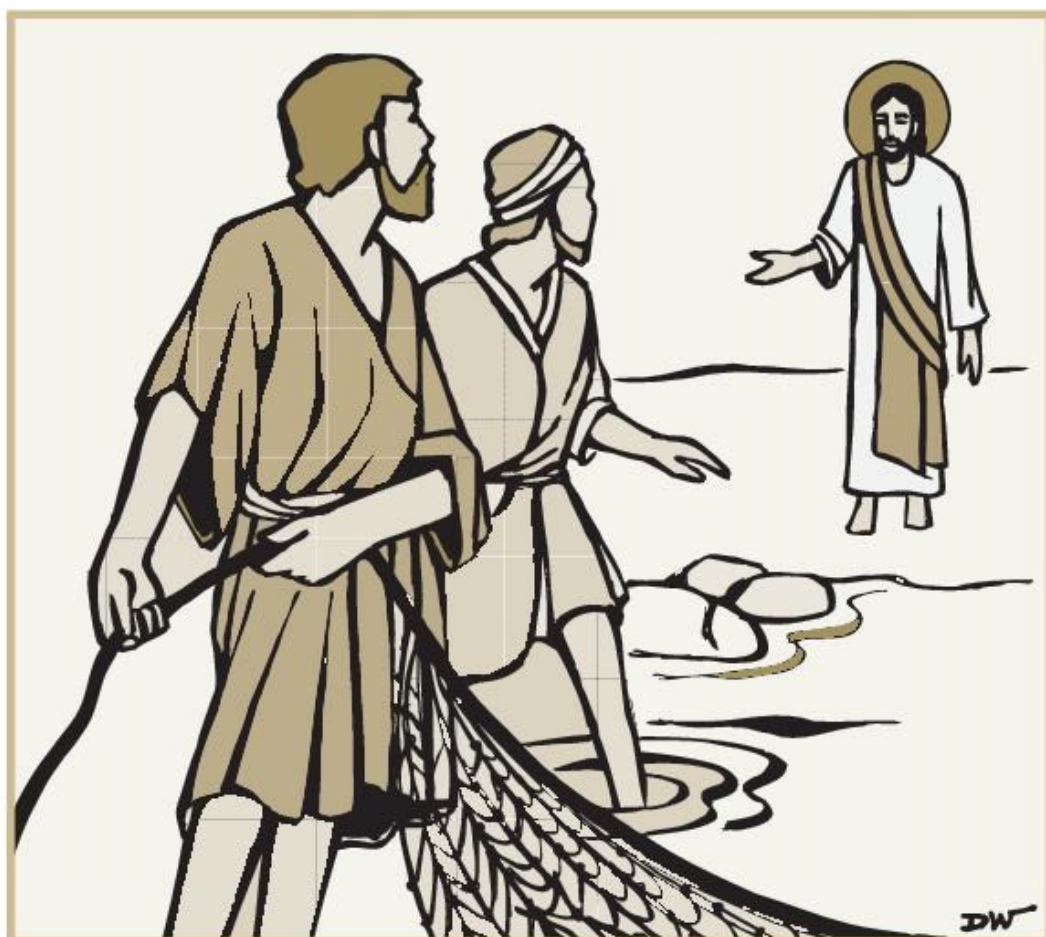
Ps 26:1, 4, 13–14. R.v.1

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; /
whom shall I fear? / The Lord is the
stronghold of my life; / before whom shall I
shrink? **R.**

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, /
for this I long, / to live in the house of the
Lord, / all the days of my life, / to savour
the sweetness of the Lord, / to behold his
temple. **R.**

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness /
in the land of the living. / Hope in him, hold
firm and take heart. / Hope in the Lord! **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:10–13, 17

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

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

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

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

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-mins before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA
Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm J Lam

Sunday 9:00am D Sarah 10:30am E Zheng

Counters: M Beaumont & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

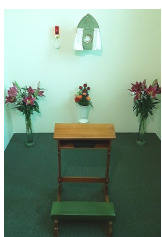
Mon 26 Jan: Australia Day

Wed 28 Jan: St Thomas Aquinas

Sat 31 Jan: St John Bosco

Sun 1 Feb: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thanksgiving



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel was built in 2018 to commemorate the Centenary Celebration of St Joseph's Church. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 using a security tag. Contact the Parish Office to apply for one.



We welcome back all the staff and students of St Joseph's and St Anthony's Schools. A big welcome also to the new comers. We wish you all the best for 2026.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The sessions are held on Thursdays, at 6.30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 95:1, 6)

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (1 Jn 4:16)

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Thanh Ninh,

**Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

Recently Deceased: -Alice Lew (Requiem Mass, Friday 30th January. At 1.30pm at Holy Cross Church)

Death Anniversary: -

Fr Pat's 90th Birthday Celebration

We, the sister Parishes of St Anthony's & St Aloysius and St Joseph's and Holy Cross will jointly celebrate the occasion on **Sunday, 1st February** at St Anthony's. Mass at 11am followed by a Lunch at the Parish Hall.

Special Collection this weekend

To meet the expenses of Fr Pat's 90th Birthday celebration, there will be a special collection at all the Masses at our 3 churches

Please find, located at the Church foyer:

1. RSVP: For catering purposes, please RSVP using the clipboards, latest by this Sunday, 25th January.
2. Birthday Card for Fr Pat: You are welcome to sign the card for Fr Pat.

Young Adults & Youth Mass - 24 January 2026

Thank you to the Young Adults and Youth from our 3 churches for hosting this weekend's Vigil Mass.

This is an initiative from the Young Adults' Group to host the 6:30pm Saturday evening Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.



The Combined Society of Mary welcomes everyone to a beautiful celebration in honour of

Our Lady of Lourdes

On Sunday 8th February 2026
At Holy Cross Church,
707 Glen Huntly Rd,
Caulfield South.

1.30pm Adoration, Prayers,
Benediction
Followed by
Healing Mass and
Priestly blessing with
Lourdes Water.

Procession with first Class Relic
of St Bernadette.

Enquiries: Joy Hunt 95092207
www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com

ACYF success sets stage for global youth gatherings in 2027 and 2028

(An Excerpt from Melbourne Catholic)

The joy and energy of the recent Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Melbourne is set to continue with the next two major international youth events on the horizon.

At the conclusion of ACYF 2025, Archbishop of Sydney Anthony Fisher OP confirmed that the next Australian Catholic Youth Festival will be held in Sydney in 2028, and will form a crucial part of the International Eucharistic Congress.

The impact of such festivals cannot be underestimated, Archbishop Fisher said, as they directly address the hunger of many young people for more involvement in their faith, and the isolation many feel.

‘I think there is very significant evidence that having a spiritual life helps young people,’ he said. ‘For young people that are struggling with [this], we want them to have faith. We want them to know God, because there really is a God, but we also want them to have faith because we know that’s going to help them hugely through their life.’

Archbishop Fisher said preparations are already advanced for the 2028 Eucharistic Congress. He emphasised the event will have a strong youth focus.

The Archbishop also stressed the event’s importance for the broader region. ‘This will probably be the only IEC in the whole of Oceania in our lifetime,’ he said. ‘So we’ve got to make sure it’s also there for Pacific Islanders and Timorese people and so on.’

But before the International Eucharistic Congress, there will be World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea. It is already fast approaching, with not much more than a year and a half before the August 2027 event.

ACYF 2025 was a launching pad for the Korean event, at least for young Australians, with the World Youth Day Cross and Icon having travelled from Seoul to St Patrick’s Cathedral and then the ACYF venue, after a worshipful and adoring procession through Melbourne’s CBD and along the Yarra River.

With the success of ACYF 2025 still reverberating, young Australian Catholics are already well along the way in preparing for Seoul in 2027, before returning home to help host the world in Sydney in 2028.

COME, FOLLOW ME

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Jesus calls his disciples

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

The last three years of Jesus’ life on earth was spent in public ministry. The Gospels, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are vivid descriptions of Jesus active life among the public. After his Baptism and Triumph over the satan in the desert, Jesus comes out in the open to preach the Kingdom of God. Jesus wanted a selected few to be always accompanying him during his Public Ministry. We know them as the 12 Disciples of Jesus.

The first part of today’s Gospel places Jesus’ ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah. Matthew, through his writings wants to show us that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel. Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin his ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to his ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, and as a proof that Jesus is truly the Messiah, full of authority and power.

When Jesus called the fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John, to become his disciples, they without any questioning dropped their nets and followed Jesus immediately. The new disciples knew nothing about Jesus, nor did they clearly understand what they were being called to do. What an influential person Jesus must have been to invoke such a response?

This shows that Jesus has an absolute authority over people as well as over the whole of creation. Later on we would be hearing as to how Jesus would command the storm to calm down and it had to obey; he would command the sick and immediately a complete healing would take place; he would command the dead to rise up and they would come back to life; and to the evil spirit to come out of the possessed and they too had to obey.

Jesus still walks the earth, he is still ministering to the public without ceasing. How Jesus would like us to accompany him! He calls each of us to be his disciple, to learn from him and to be like him, and to preach the Good News that Jesus is truly the Messiah. Do we pay any attention to his voice calling us to be friends with him? *Fr Leenus*

Q: Who in the Bible knew the most people?
A: Abraham knew a Lot

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! / Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, / Galilee of the nations! / The people that lived in darkness / has seen a great light; / on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death / a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Shorter form: 4: 12-17

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Breaking Open the Word

REPENT

Last Sunday's Gospel from John, though critically important for our spiritual reflection, seemed unusual in this year of Matthew. So, today, we return to Matthew. In the past two Sundays, John the Baptist has been central in the Gospel selections. Today he is no longer with us, having been arrested. Our focus is squarely now on Jesus. He moves from his hometown of Nazareth to Capernaum. Both towns are on the fringe. The first, Nazareth, is the symbolic place of exile in Matthew. When Mary, Joseph and Jesus returned from Egypt they could not go back to their hometown of Bethlehem because of the vengeful ruling presence of Herod's son Archelaus. They go to live in Galilee, to Nazareth. They, like the Israelites several centuries earlier, are in exile. It is from here that the rest of Matthew unfolds.

Jesus next moves to Capernaum located geographically close to pagan and Gentile territories. It is a fishing village and a taxation collection centre at the crossroads of two major E-W and N-S highways. It is here that Jesus proclaims the great clarion cry in the Gospel: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand' (4:17). This cry 'to repent' (Greek *metanoia*) is an urge to have an openness of heart. It comes with a conviction that God is already present and active in the world ('the kingdom of heaven is close at hand').

Finally, after Jesus calls four fishermen to be his first disciples, our Gospel proclamation ends with a note about Jesus' teaching and healing ministry. The first-called disciples will model for Matthew's audience how to be repentant and live out the conviction of God's presence in their lives and world.

Fr Michael Trainor