



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

3 MAY 2026

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (*or* Alleluia!)

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; / for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. / Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, / with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful / and all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves justice and right / and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, / on those who hope in his love, / to rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; / no one comes to the Father, except through me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am



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

Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Eugene San SAC
Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

Mass

Wednesday and Friday 10:00am
Saturday 6:30pm, Sun 10:30am

Reconciliation

After weekday Mass and Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am
Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

After weekday 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 and Saturday 9:45am - 10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$973.85 Presbytery: \$1023.85
Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm M Ellis
Sunday 9:00am S McMillan 10:30am La Bonne family

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 10 May: 6th Sunday of Easter

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 with a security tag.

Contact the Parish Office to apply. A refundable deposit will be required. Concessions available on application.

Save for a Greater Reward

Help fund projects across Catholic organisations including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account. With competitive interest rates, it's a greater reward than money alone.

5.35%* p.a. for a 12-month Term Investment.

***Rate subject to change. Interest paid at maturity.**



For more info call CDF on 1800 134 135 or visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 97:1-2)

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Jn 15:1, 5)

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Paul Donohoe, Virginia Poloie

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

Recently Deceased: Piuti Lesoa

Death Anniversary: Vincenza Pugliese

CatholicCare Victoria Appeal this Sunday



CatholicCare Victoria works with those facing homelessness, mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers, and those experiencing grief and trauma.

This year, the Appeal aims to give hope and support to people experiencing homelessness. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those most in need. Your compassion ensures individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish or donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515.



St Joseph's Feast Day

Celebrations for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker which was on 1st May is extended to this weekend at our regular Masses:

2nd May, Saturday 6:30pm

3rd May, Sunday 9:00am and 10:30am

After the 10:30am Mass on Sunday, all are welcome to join us for refreshments.

Mother's Day Book

Our Mother's Day Book is placed on the altar-rail or table in front of Our Lady's statue in the church.

Please write the names of mothers for whom you would like prayers to be offered on Mother's Day.

There will be a special blessing for all mothers at the weekend Masses on 9 and 10 May.

Small Group Discipleship

Training is being offered by Everett Fritz of Andrew Ministries, who has developed a program for mentoring to young people in small group sessions.

If interested in learning more, please follow the link below to watch a video in which he gives a short introduction to the program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn8AUkT4UmY>
Online training sessions will be offered through the parish on four consecutive Saturdays from 11am – 12 noon, starting on 9th May. To register, please email: elsternwick@cam.org.au

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

1:30pm Sunday, 10th May 2026 at Holy Cross Church.

Adoration, Prayers, Procession and Holy Mass.

'Your Mother Needs Your Prayers'

The relics of St Jacinta & St Francesco Marto will be present on the day.



The Combined Societies of Mary.
Enquiries: Joy Hunt 9509 2207
www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com



Help Needed at Tony's Café

1. Thursday mornings during May 9am – 12noon, to travel in the parish van to collect from Foodbank.
Must be able to lift and load. Working with children and safeguarding documents required. Help available to complete these. Please email Gwen via the parish email.
2. We would also be grateful for empty egg cartons and large rubber bands to seal the cartons.

Pope's May Prayer Intention

Pope Leo XIV has urged Catholics across the globe to join him this May in praying that everyone might have food.

He released the monthly "Pray with the Pope" video on Thursday, which is prepared by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.

In his prayer, the Pope recognized with sorrow that millions of brothers and sisters continue to suffer from hunger.

Lamenting that so many goods are wasted at our tables, Pope Leo prayed that the Lord may "awaken in us a new awareness: that we learn to give thanks for every food, to consume simply, to share with joy, and to care for the fruits of the earth as a gift from You, destined for all, not just a few." He prayed that Jesus makes us capable of "transforming the logic of selfish consumption into a culture of solidarity," through our communities by promoting concrete gestures, including awareness campaigns, food banks, and a sober and responsible lifestyle.

"You who sent us Your beloved Son Jesus, broken bread for the life of the world," Pope Leo prayed, "give us a new heart, hungry for justice and thirsty for fraternity."

Pope Leo concluded by praying, "may no one be excluded from the common table, and may Your Spirit teach us to see bread not as an object of consumption but as a sign of communion and care. Amen."

Fr. Cristóbal Fones, international director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, said the intention is very significant.

"This intention," he said, "comes from the Pope's heart. It pains him deeply that so many people in the world cannot access something as essential and human as food. This is why he is asking everyone not to remain indifferent but to take decisive action, first with prayer, then with concrete gestures of solidarity."

Altar Server Training for Adults

On Monday 11 May at 7pm in St Anthony's Church, we will be conducting training for adults who are interested in serving as Altar Servers during Mass.

Training for those under 18-years will be held later.

Rosary by Youth

Our Young People will lead the Rosary to celebrate the month of May, the month of Mary.

7pm every Friday during the month of May commencing 1st May at St Anthony's Church. Everyone is welcome.



5th Sunday of Easter - Jesus the Way!

Dear brothers and sisters in the Risen Lord

One might find it difficult to accept that there is 'grace of God outside the Catholic Church or outside Christianity; a kind of monopolizing Jesus. The attitude of "Jesus for all" should be our attitude. We are taught that, belief in Jesus and being Baptised are essential for salvation, for He is the only Saviour. The only Truth, the only Way.



It is true, yet we should be broad minded to pray that Jesus may save them too, somehow. Nothing is impossible with God. He is the Father of everyone, all are His children. All are precious to Him. May He works miracles in everyone irrespective of their religion.

We gladly say that God is everywhere, in every flower, every bird and so on. But at times we are reluctant to say God is in those who profess another faith. It does not mean that all religions are equal. Or that, it does not matter as to which religion or denomination one belongs to. Faith in Jesus has a big role in one's salvation. Our Catholic faith must remain very dear to us. For we believe that the safest means to get to heaven is to belong to the Catholic Church, be nourished by the Sacraments and lead good Christian lives.

According to Vatican II we are duty bound to proclaim our faith. Yet we cannot be religious fanatics or narrow minded. The word 'Catholic' means Universal. We are to be inclusive in our attitudes towards those belonging to other religions and denominations. Let us pray that, everyone may believe in Jesus as the only Saviour, that soon enough there may be one flock and one shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Pray also that those who do not believe in Jesus may also be saved through Him who died for all. The whole world does not know of anyone else other than Jesus, who has paid for our debts. Then how can anyone say that there are other ways than this One Way, whom we call, Jesus? There are many ways; all these ways have to merge with the One Way leading up to heaven. God bless!

Fr Leenus.

Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?
When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Young Men of God Movement Conference 2026

17-19 July at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre.

A men's weekend away to deepen your faith, strengthen brotherhood and grow in leadership. Inspiring speakers, fellowship and food.

Give God permission to led you on the path of authentic, Christ-centered living.

Open to all men 18yrs and above.

Registration: Fr Terrence 0426-897764

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All volunteers are reminded to ensure they:

1. Have a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) card. When completing or updating your details online, please register only **ONE** organization for our amalgamated Parish, using the following details:

Organisation: St Joseph's & Holy Cross Parish

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185

2. All parish volunteers over the age of 18 are required by the Archdiocese to undertake the Safeguarding online training every 3 years. Complete the training using the link <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org>



Breaking Open the Word

you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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TRUST IN GOD

We all worry from time to time. Worry is one of the great social concerns that surround us. We worry about so much: our families and loved ones, our health, what is going on in the world, finances...and the list is endless. It is into this situation that Jesus speaks to us today. 'Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust in me.' These words get to the heart of our lives. Jesus invites us to trust in him and his God, despite all that surrounds us. While such an invitation flies in the face of much that distracts us, the Gospel invites us into a space, 'a place', where we can rest with God. Jesus assures John's audience, and us, that he has already prepared this place. It awaits us—and we don't have to wait until death to enjoy it—we can allow ourselves to draw close to Jesus and be with him now.

This is the sense behind Jesus' reassurance to Thomas who questions Jesus about where he is going and how to be where he is. The response is clear: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' These words are clearly important for us to enjoy and relish as our celebration of Easter continues. Jesus offers us companionship ('the Way'), leads us into ultimate communion with God ('the Truth') and brings us into a sense of complete wholeness ('the Life').

The final part of today's Gospel reaffirms Jesus' communion with his Father and that our communion and trust in Jesus leads us into ultimate communion with God. Everything in this Gospel invites us to trust Jesus' words and let go, perhaps just a little, of our worries.

Fr Michael Trainor