

# THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

10 MAY 2026

## FIRST READING

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

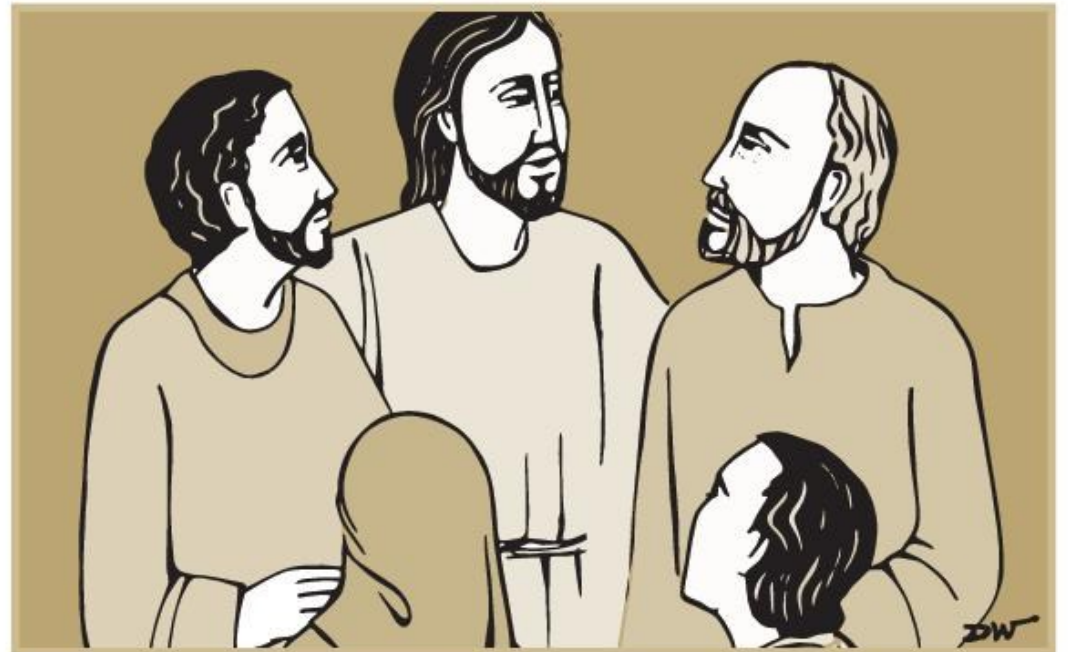
Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. cf. v. 2

**R.** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (*or* Alleluia!)

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, / O sing to the glory of his name. / O render him glorious praise. / Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R.**

2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; / shall sing to you, sing to your name!' / Come and see the works of God, / tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**

3. He turned the sea into dry land, / they passed through the river dry-shod. / Let our joy then be in him; / he rules for ever by his might. **R.**



4. Come and hear, all who fear God. / I will tell what he did for my soul: / Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer / nor withhold his love for me. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Pet 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

*In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.*

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will  
come to them.

Alleluia!



**The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South**  
Parish Office: 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162 ☎ 95238407 ✉ [elsternwick@cam.org.au](mailto:elsternwick@cam.org.au)  
📮 P.O.Box 664, Elsternwick 3185 🌐 [www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross](http://www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross)

### 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 J Lam  
Sunday 9:00am D Duffy 10:30am A De Silva

**Counters:** No Counting

### Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Thu 14 May: St Matthias  
Sun 17 May: The Ascension of the Lord

Thanksgiving



### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Isa 48:20)

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 14:15-16)

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Those who are ill\*:** Paul Donohoe, Virginia Poloie

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

### Recently Deceased: -

**Death Anniversary:** Jim Boland, Laz Gracias, Irene Mackey

### 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](http://www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com)*



### 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](mailto:elsternwick@cam.org.au)

### Trivia Lunch - 13th May 2026

Join us at the Holy Cross Parish Hall every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12-noon.

Bring your own lunch and enjoy the Trivia session and a catchup. All are welcome.

### Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Our Chapel offers a quiet, sacred space to pray and to spend time with Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 with a security tag. To apply, contact the Parish Office. A refundable deposit will be required. Concessions available.



### 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.

## Happy Mother's Day!

*Mother's day is a special day to honour mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers and all who care for others with love, faith and kindness.*

*We pray for those who are no longer with us but live forever in our memory.*

*We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty or conflict. May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes away every tear.*

*We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.*



## Mass Count during May

Our parish will be undertaking its annual Mass Count during the next few weekends of May.

The National Count is a simple but powerful way for parishes to contribute to a national picture of Catholic life in Australia

These statistics are for the purposes of pastoral planning activities and allows for comparisons to be made across the years for our Archdiocese.

## Pause, Pray & Connect - World Mission Rosary

Created in 1951 by the Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, the World Mission Rosary is a unique tradition and powerful reminder that we all belong to a global Church, building community and hope through global mission.

Sessions will run Monday to Friday during May from 2-3pm. Join via Teams at: [tinyurl.com/RosaryPrayer26](https://tinyurl.com/RosaryPrayer26)

## 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.



## 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.

## 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 lead you on the path of authentic, Christ-centered living.

Open to all men 18yrs and above.

Registration: Fr Terrence 0426-897764

## Revisiting the 5 Pillar System of the Parish

On 21 April 2026, a meeting was led by Jacqui Giuliano from the Archdiocese, and included representatives from the PPC of St Joseph's and Holy Cross Parish.

Jacqui helped the group to revisit the "5 pillar system" to enable the growth of a vibrant parish with a view to opportunities next year.

Recommended path:

- Try and Apply,
- Reflect and review;
- Plan and improve – with clear goals for parish reflection.

This was a valuable meeting with Jacqui, enabling us to evaluate the current 'Pillars' and focus on our future goals for a vibrant Parish community.

## St Anthony's Church Open on Fridays

St Anthony's Church is open every Friday from 8:30am-5pm. You are invited to use this time for individual prayer, quiet time, meditation or simply spending time with the Lord. All Welcome!

## 6th Sunday of Easter

*Dear brothers and sisters in the Risen Lord*

Seven year old Tom was participating in a speech competition his school was conducting. The topic was Jesus' sayings about himself. Tom started off saying, 'Jesus said I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; Jesus said 'I am the Good Shepherd' etc. Then half way through the speech Tom forgot his lines. His mother was in the front row trying to help him by prompting. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips. But it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the line, "I am the light of the world." At this, little Tom was overjoyed and with a great feeling and a loud and clear voice continued, "My mother is the light of the world."

Like little Tom, each of us could say that our mothers are light of the world. Mothers' Day is an opportunity given to us to acknowledge all that our mothers are to us; to appreciate them for being a guiding light in our lives; to thank them for all the trouble they take, for all the sacrifices they make and for all the pain they endure. Without our mothers we would not have become who we are today.

Today we acknowledge that it is not easy to be a good and exemplary mother. Mary the mother of Jesus is the best of examples of a Good Mother. Mary gave new meaning to the role of a mother. She was always there for her Son. When everyone else gave him up, she was there beneath the Cross. She spiritually united herself with the redemptive works of her Son. We can see motherhood at its best in the motherhood of Mary. Through her, motherhood of any woman is glorified and sanctified.

Today as we are celebrating Mothers' Day, we don't have to pretend with God that there aren't any troubles in our families, or that we're managing very well. God knows what family life is like. He knows our heartaches and conflicts, joys and sorrows. He knows that loving makes us vulnerable. God is so well able to comfort us within our real family situations, and enable us to cope with the troubles of life without being overwhelmed by them. God gives us countless gifts. He has given us also the gift of our own dear mothers and grandmothers and great grandmothers. Above all God loves us with a maternal love. May the same God answer all the tears and prayers of all the mothers.

May Mary our Mother intercede with God for all of us!

*Fr Leenus.*

### Mother's Day Special

The teacher asked her students to write something about their Mothers.

- \* Mums pray for us even when we forget to pray.
- \* Mums can spot mischief even during silent prayer
- \* Mum's prayers travel faster than text messages
- \* Mum's love never goes offline

## 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>



A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate  
to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth  
whom the world can never receive  
since it neither sees nor knows him;  
but you know him,  
because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer  
see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father  
and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments  
and keeps them

will be one who loves me

and anybody who loves me will be loved by  
my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited.

Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS  
PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135.

Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: [sales@stpauls.com.au](mailto:sales@stpauls.com.au) Scripture  
readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder &

Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from **The Psalms,**  
**A New Translation**, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New

translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010,  
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation.

All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout,  
commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026.

No 2142. Website: [www.stpauls.com.au](http://www.stpauls.com.au)

# Breaking Open the Word

## THE SPIRIT IS WITH US

Last week it was worry. Today it is about loneliness. We know loneliness. We know what it feels like, for example, when someone close to us dies. Grief, sadness and loneliness can be palpable. In today's Gospel, John invites us again to draw closer to Jesus who addresses the loneliness which the disciples (and, at times, ourselves) can experience. When we feel God's apparent silence or absence, when we deal with death or tragedy, Jesus promises 'another Advocate'. This is the promise of his very Spirit that will remain with the disciples when he physically leaves them.

By the time John writes, this is already a reality and Jesus' spirit, the Advocate, the 'Spirit of Truth', is with them and 'forever'. They will not be left orphaned as the Spirit accompanies them in every generation to experience his eternal and real, though non-physical, presence. But there is a second promise that Jesus makes. He will return as he offers an eschatological vision, an insight into the final days, in which the disciples will experience their communion and intimacy with God restored. They will discover a love that is eternal and carry them through those days of loneliness.

This is the promise that we need to hear, especially as we grapple with our experiences of loneliness brought on by grief of our beloved dead or the persistent loneliness of life that surrounds us. Jesus' Advocate, his Spirit, is with us.

Fr Michael Trainor