



THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

14 JUNE 2026

FIRST READING

Ex 19: 2-6

A reading from the book of Exodus.

You will be a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99: 2-3, 5. R. v. 3

R. We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. / Serve the Lord with gladness. / Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**

2. Know that he, the Lord, is God. / He made us, we belong to him, / we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, / eternal his merciful love. / He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

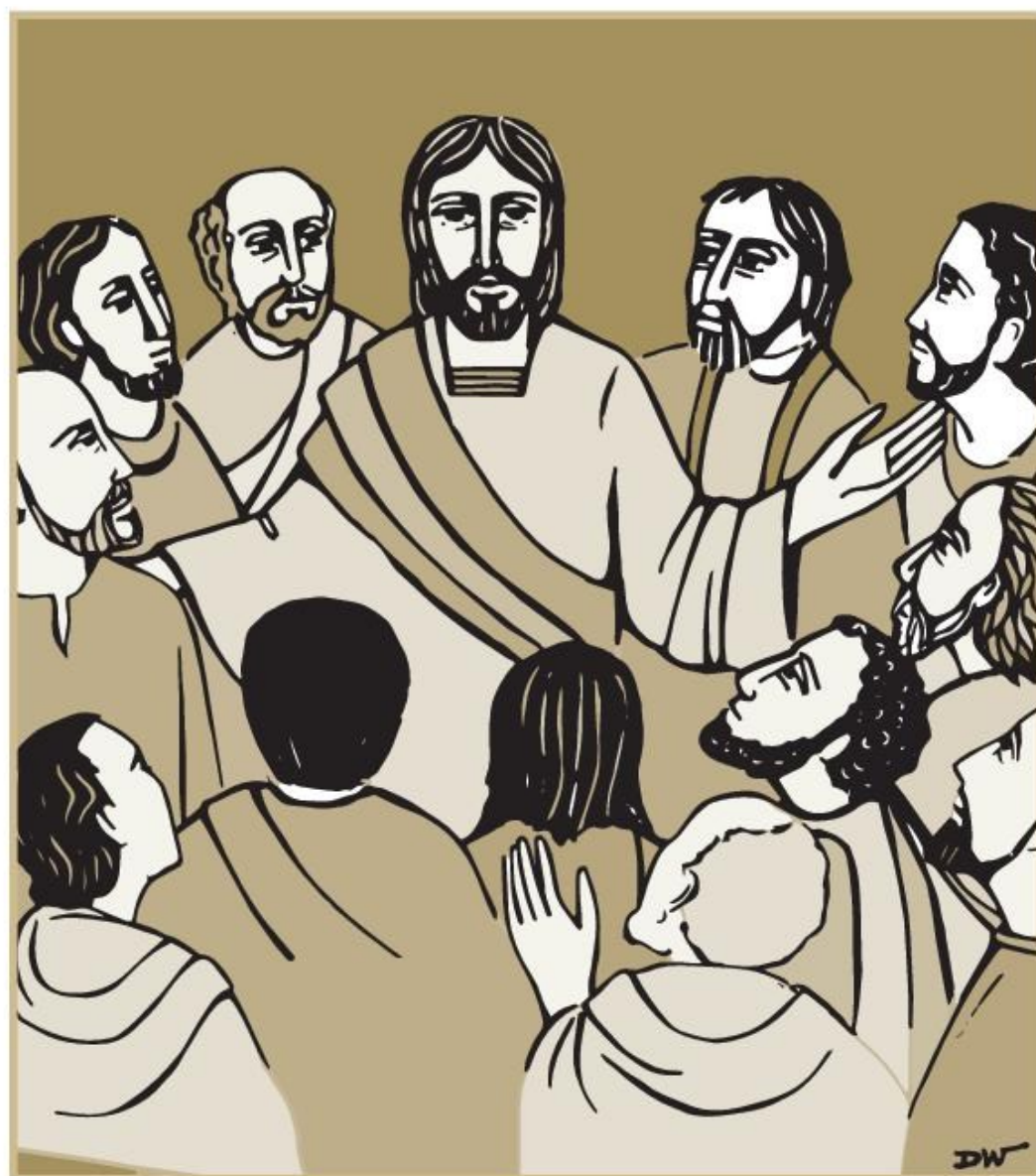
SECOND READING

Rom 5: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

We have been reconciled to God through the death of his Son; we are saved by his life.

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of



course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 1: 15

Alleluia, alleluia! / The kingdom of God is near; / repent and believe the Good News! / Alleluia!



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: \$1104.70 Presbytery: \$1124.70
Special Collection: -

Thanksgiving



Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm J Lam
Sunday 9:00am D Duffy 10:30am A De Silva

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 21 Jun: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 26:7, 9)

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help.
Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 26:4)

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to
live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Tamara Bryan, Kevin Bryan, David
Milne, Bernd Neubauer, Lila Wati, Lolita Maria Tomaselli

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -



Parish Offertory Giving Program

Last week, we were asked to pray and reflect as we
commenced our Offertory Giving Program in our
parish community.

Over the next four weeks, let us enter into a time of
discernment. Our offering is a powerful witness and
a personal prayer. You are encouraged to engage
prayerfully with the content presented over this time.

We look forward to growing and going deeper in our
relationship with Christ through this process.

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 27th June



The Youth & Young Adults' Group will host
the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th
Saturday of every month at St Joseph's
Church, followed by a light supper &
fellowship for the young people at St
Joseph's Presbytery.

Mass is preceded by Eucharistic Adoration starting 5:30pm.
This month, we have a special guest speaker from
Benedetta - a Catholic women's group based in Victoria.
Stay tuned for more details!

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.

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.

2026 Weekend Mass Count Figures

MAY	St Joseph's						Holy Cross					TOTAL		
	6:30pm			10:30am			9:00am							
Sat 9	38			-			-					177		
Sun 10	-			95			44							
Sat 16	25			-			-					177		
Sun 17	-			100			52							
Sat 23	Male: 24 Female: 34			-			-					223		
Sun 24	-			Male: 53 Female: 59			Male: 19 Female: 34							
Sat 30	0-17: 10	18-29: 3	30-49: 6	50-69: 15	70+: 17	-			-					186
Sun 31	-			0-17: 16	18-29: 12	30-49: 25	50-69: 5	70+: 25	0-17: 3	18-29: 2	30-49: 15	50-69: 11	70+: 21	

St Anthony & St Aloysius Feast Day Celebrations



The Feast of St Anthony of Padua together with the Feast of St Aloysius Gonzaga will be celebrated at St Anthony's Church at all Masses of 13 and 14 June.

The main celebration will be the 11am Sunday Mass, which

will be followed by a social function in the Padua Pavilion. If possible, please bring a plate of food to share! Light refreshments will be served at the church after the other Masses. All welcome.



Corpus Christi Procession



More than 5,000 Catholics gathered in Melbourne for the Corpus Christi procession, the annual public witness to faith that marks the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Worshippers thronged the city streets in prayer, song and adoration, as the Eucharist was carried from St Patrick's Cathedral to Federation Square as a sign of Christ's presence among his people.

Inside St Patrick's Cathedral, the celebration began with exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The liturgy featured hymns including St Thomas Aquinas' 'O Salutaris Hostia' and 'Pange Lingua Gloriosi'. The great Catholic thinker and poet was commissioned by Pope Urban IV in the 13th century to write the liturgy for the feast day, and St Thomas Aquinas is credited with providing the language of devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

Come, let us witness publicly to the hope that brings healing and life. In his homily, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reflected on the Eucharist as the heart of Christian belief and the source of mission. 'At this moment, we pause before the great mystery at the centre of our faith, the gift of the Blessed Eucharist,' he said. 'Here, the Body and Blood of Christ, his flesh, is given to us for the life of the world'.

He said the procession was a way to carry Christ into places marked by struggle and need. 'We carry the Blessed Eucharist through the streets, because Christ desires to enter every heart and every place, especially those marked by anxiety, suffering and the wounds that we carry,' he said. He also urged the faithful to see the procession as a public act of hope: 'Come, let us witness publicly to the hope that brings healing and life.'

Safeguarding Training: New Platform

As of 12 June, our Safeguarding Essentials Training will move to a new platform called "Tribal Habits".

Nothing changes... If you have done your training before 12 June there's nothing you need to do.

However, after 12 June, anyone completing the online training will need to do so via the new platform. Once registered on Tribal Habits, the Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Essential Training will appear as separate modules to complete. You will receive a certificate on completion of each of these.

Please email the Parish Office with your certificates so that we can document and keep our records up to date. Once you have completed training on the new platform, automatic email reminders will be sent for future renewals.

Link to Tribal Habits platform can be found at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules/>

If you have any further questions or difficulties logging in, please contact the Parish Office.

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters

In the gospel we hear: "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd". This is the way in which humanity appears to Jesus as described in the Gospel of Matthew: harassed, dejected, burdened. His entire ministry is focused on addressing and remedying this situation. This is the "harvest" for which "labourers" are required.

Today's readings tell us that we are all asked to transform others with the "Good News" of God's love, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation.

Each of us has received grace and talents from God without charge, and so we have to give without charge through our simple, responsible, sharing of our lives. This is the calling of every Christian through his or her Baptism. Now, it is we who continue this ministry.

Jesus is active in our lives through the Sacraments. In addition, the Lord God gives us the Holy Spirit, the One Who teaches us, and reminds us of all that Jesus has said to us. We are invited to become one with God and Jesus, and to let the Holy Spirit work through us.

As Christians sharing Jesus' mission, we can bring healing and wholeness to people with whom we come in contact. Although we cannot raise the dead, we can help people to recover interest and a zest for living. People can be physically alive but dead in many other respects. "Cleansing the lepers" means rehabilitating and bringing people back fully into our communities all those who, for one reason or another, are marginalized, rejected, despised, or ostracized on the basis of race, nationality, marital status, financial condition, religion or gender. We have to help people, to free themselves of addictions and turn their lives to God.

Our call and mission must start from somewhere. We must start this mission with ourselves. It must begin in our homes, families, and communities. Charity begins at home. This is important because we must first become God's people before becoming God's disciples.

We ask God to keep us faithful to his call to be his people and disciples. God bless!

Fr Leenus.

George knocked on the door of his friend's house. When his friend's mother answered he asked, "Can Albert come out to play?"
"No," said the mother, "It's too cold."
"Well, then," said George, "can his football come out to play?"

Helpers of God's Precious Infants

Saturday 27th June - Holy Mass in Reparation for and Healing from Abortion. 9am every 4th Saturday at St Patrick's Cathedral. Confessions from 8:30am.

Celebrant: Fr Isaac Zakynthos.

Rosary Procession after Mass. Join us in prayer to the edge of the 150m Abortion Prayer Exclusion Zone, Wellington Parade, East Melbourne (Opposite Jolimont Station Ramp Exit).

Parking available off Lansdowne Street. Please vacate carpark by 11:30am.

For further details, contact 0407 090 367.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He summoned his twelve disciples, and sent them out.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

WRENCHED BY PITY

After the celebration of Easter and the Feasts that immediately follow, we now return to the Gospel of Matthew. We come to a scene set after Jesus' great teaching in the 'Sermon on the Mount'. In the Sermon he taught the essential qualities of discipleship ('the Beatitudes') and how to live these out daily. Now we come to Jesus' teaching in action. He sees the crowd surrounding him and Matthew says 'he felt sorry for them'. The Greek for 'felt sorry' (*splagnizomai*) means something more powerful. 'Pity' doesn't quite capture the meaning of Matthew's intent. The Greek root is linked to one's innards or 'guts'. Jesus' response to this group of harassed and dejected individuals is visceral. His innards are twisted because of what they are experiencing.

For this reason, the rest of the Gospel passage has Jesus sending his disciples on mission to respond to the tragic and forlorn experience of those who need to encounter the message of the 'kin-dom'. Twelve are especially selected. We are given their names and they enact Jesus' desire to renew the twelve tribes of Israel. Given the Jewish audience addressed by Matthew, they ratify this renewal through their proclamation of the 'kin-dom' and deeds of healing. Their focus is specifically to the 'lost' sheep of Israel. They are to care about those who are lost in spirit, need healing and are looking to be included in Jesus' household of disciples.

Today's Gospel lays the foundation for what will become the 'synodal' approach of our Church today. We are to walk with and identify the 'lost' in our communities and parishes. This is our missionary focus. This is the primary mission of the synodal Church.

Fr Michael Trainor