



THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 JULY 2026

FIRST READING

Wis 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, / to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. / Your justice has its source in strength, / your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. / You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned / and you expose the insolence of those who know it; / but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, / you govern us with great lenience, / for you have only to will, and your power is there. / By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people / how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, / and you have given your sons the good hope / that after sin you will grant repentance.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. R. v. 5

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, / full of love to all who call. / Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer / and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**

2. All the nations shall come to adore you / and glorify your name, O Lord: / for you are great and do marvellous deeds, / you who alone are God. **R.**

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, / slow to anger, O Lord, / abounding in love and truth, / turn and take pity on me. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our



hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this," he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."'

He put another parable before them, 'The



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: \$1128.50 Presbytery: \$891.50
Special Collection: \$527.60 (Peter's Pence)

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm Young Adults
Sunday 9:00am A Powell 10:30am E Galero

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 22 Jul: St Mary Magdalene
Sat 25 Jul: St James
Sun 26 Jul: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thanksgiving



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.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Ps 53:6, 8)

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Rev 3:20)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Joan Donohoe

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH

The Camden Hotel - 414 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South on Wednesday July 22nd at 12:00pm

All welcome to come together over a meal for conversation, fun, and friendship.

RSVP: Denise 0410311326 by Monday July 20th.

Pallottine Cenacle Prayer - 22 July

Stay at home and pray with us via Zoom on Wednesday 22nd July 7:30pm.

Leader: Anne Dowling.

<https://zoom.us/join>

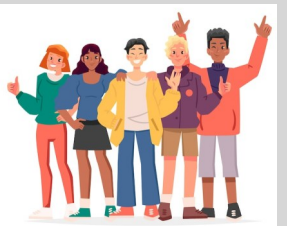
Meeting ID: 81365964190. Passcode: 336324.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants: 25th July

Holy Mass in Reparation for and Healing from Abortion at 9am **every 4th Saturday** at St Patrick's Cathedral. Confessions from 8:30am. Rosary Procession after Mass. Join us in prayer to the edge of the 150m Abortion Prayer Exclusion Zone, Wellington Pde, East Melbourne (Opposite Jolimont Station Ramp Exit). For info, contact 0407-090367.

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 25th July

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. Mass will be preceded by **Adoration and Confessions** starting at 5:30pm at St Joseph's, Elsternwick.



Light supper and fellowship after Mass at St Joseph's Presbytery. For July, there will be a talk by our guest speaker, Claire, from Benedetta Women.

'Finding God Online' invites everyday technology users to reflect on how faith can shape the way we engage in the digital world. In this presentation, Claire shares her own personal journey, weaving together her experiences in gaming, social media and digital creativity through the lens of Catholic teaching and scripture with strong reference to Pope Leo's newest encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas.

Plant Sale October 25th

Proceeds helps Tony's Café keep up the good work. Vegetables, herbs, bulbs, perennials: all sorts of plants can be offered for sale. Please try to have your plants ready by the beginning of October to allow time for pricing and ensuring a good range of plants. Many thanks.

**PLANT
SALE**



Those seeking renewal of faith or desiring to become Catholics, please contact our parish office to learn more about the RCIA sessions starting 30th July at 6:30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, Elsternwick.

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (now often referred to as OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). It is the step-by-step process used by the Catholic Church to welcome and prepare adults who wish to enter the Catholic faith.

If you would like to be a member of the team, please also contact the parish office.



Towards Synod 2026 Archdiocese of Melbourne

This process involves prayer, dialogue and consultation. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

has invited the community to focus on three key themes:

- Young Discipleship
- Missionary Leadership
- Formation and Participation

To facilitate conversation on the above topics “Theme Papers” are displayed on our Church notice board or visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/series/melbourne-synod-2026>

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Where is the Holy Spirit leading our Archdiocese at this time?
2. Whom are we being called to accompany in faith more intentionally?
3. How might we reflect the face of Christ more clearly in our local Church?
4. Where do we sense the Holy Spirit speaking?
5. Where is the Spirit calling us to dream boldly?

Young Discipleship

1. Where are we creating opportunities for young people to encounter Christ in our parishes and organisations?
2. How could our community create environments that foster the journey in faith of our young people?
3. Looking ahead five years, what three hopes do you have for young people in relation to faith, belonging, engagement and living as missionary disciples?
4. What could the Archdiocese do to realise these hopes?

Missionary Leadership

1. How do people in my community demonstrate missionary leadership?
2. What prevents people from becoming engaged in missionary leadership?
3. What three priorities to support missionary leadership could the Archdiocese pursue over the next five years?

Formation and Participation.

1. Where do people in my community experience growth in faith and discipleship?
2. What prevents people from participating more fully in the life and mission of the Church?
3. Which groups might be needing further formation?
4. What forms of formation are most needed today?
5. What three priorities could the Archdiocese seek to implement to strengthen formation and participation over the next five years?

To provide your feedback please scan the QR code or visit: <https://melbcath.org/synod-formation> or drop your reflections in boxes provided in Church.



There will also be opportunities at our parish level to come together and share your thoughts and give your feedback. Next week, clipboards will be provided to register your interest in attending our Parish Level Sessions, which are being planned. Stay tuned for further details.

Timeline:

- July-August: Parish Level Sessions (to be confirmed)
8 August: Regional Session at Dandenong
21 August: Deadline for submission of conversations
In October: Opportunity to provide more feedback.
4 to 6 December: The actual Synod.

We pray that the Melbourne Synod in it's preparations will be marked by wisdom in decision-making, courage in leadership, and humility in listening to one another. May the Spirit guide our every conversation and action.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Seed & The Weed (*Not to be confused with last Sunday's "The Sower and the Seed" parable*)

There are good people and bad people in the world; at least that is how we label them! Today Jesus is warning us that in doing so we might be making a serious error. In the parable of the Seeds and the Weeds we heard it said, leave the weeds there, because in trying to pluck them out, one might even pluck the good ones out.

We humans are prone to err. We all know that Abraham Lincoln was a very good person. But there were people who wrongly judged him to be bad. He had in his party a man called Edwin Stanton. Edwin hated Lincoln, treated him with contempt and called him a gorilla. Lincoln could have taken revenge and eliminated Edwin. He had the power and influence. But instead Lincoln let him be. He even made Edwin his minister. Lincoln was truly following the Words of Our Lord. This does not mean that people should be allowed to do anything as they please. It only means that rash judgements and treating them accordingly is not right.

Even if one has been convicted after a long trial and after studying the case thoroughly, still it's God alone who can make a good judgement. God alone knows all the reasons that made up the situation in which the person committed the wrong actions: his family background, mental make-up, circumstances, ignorance, knowledge, intentions, all these no human being can ever take into consideration before passing a judgement.

We may misunderstand others but God cannot misunderstand—can He? Therefore, it is not ours to judge or eliminate people. What we should try to eliminate is the bad in ourselves. There is no person who is 100% bad or good. In the sight of God no one is a weed. God sees the opportunities that are hidden in the so-called bad people. God sees us in totality. God gives everyone his grace to change for the better.

Although we cannot expect weeds to turn out to be good plants producing good seeds, bad people can turn out to be good people, with the amazing grace of God. We are called to facilitate it in ourselves and help others to do the same. That is what happened in the case of Edwin Stanton. Lincoln let him be and gave him a chance. Lincoln loved him in return for hate and there was a great change in Edwin. Later when Lincoln was dying it was Edwin who commented “Here lies the greatest ruler of men”. As he said it, there were tears in his eyes. Remember, earlier it was the same Edwin who had called Lincoln a gorilla.

Let us therefore try to grow in the grace of God and let others grow as well.

Fr Leenus.

A Priest gave a homily about people belonging to the army of God. After mass, standing outside the church door he asked John, “why don't you join the army of God?”

John whispered in the priests ear: “Father, I'm already in the army. I'm in the secret service.”

Safeguarding

All volunteers are reminded to ensure they 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: The Parish of St Joseph's and Holy Cross
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 664, Elsternwick 3185

Complete the Safeguarding Essentials training and sign the Code of Conduct here: <https://cam-parish.tribalhabits.com/accounts/register> Please email your certificate to the Parish Office so that we can maintain updated records. Thank you.

kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

GOOD AND EVIL

Why do bad things happen to good people? It is a question often expressed in different ways. Bad people seem to get away easily with their bad deeds. Today's Gospel teaching speaks into this perspective. Jesus' parable teaching from last Sunday with his focus on seed continues today. Grain was an important agricultural commodity in the ancient world. It was the source of food and the means of addressing stressing taxation demands. Like last Sunday, the parable is about the Kin-dom of God. In the parable, the farmer sows good seed but, unbeknown, a nighttime enemy sows darnel in the same field. Both seeds sprout and produce. The workers query the farmer about the reason for the presence of the darnel. It is the classic query of life: why is there evil in a world that is essentially good? Why darnel among the wheat when only wheat was sown?

The solution offered by the farmer recognises the presence of 'an enemy' and the need to allow both seeds to grow until the harvest when the wheat could be gathered into the barn and darnel destroyed. Jesus' wisdom in this parable is salient. We live in a world and faith communities where good and bad co-exist. The coexistence of 'darnel' and 'wheat' should not surprise us—but it is not forever. There is the harvest time when justice will be meted out. This awareness of a definitive act of divine justice at time's end, one for which we pray in every celebration of the Eucharist for the coming of Jesus at the end of time, allows us to live in this in-between time as we seek to do good but, at times, experience the presence of evil and the agency of the 'enemy'. Nevertheless, God's kin-dom will be ultimately fruitful.

Fr Michael Trainor