



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

26 JULY 2026

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this', the Lord said, 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130. R. v. 97

R. Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, / is to obey your word. / The law from your mouth means more to me / than silver and gold. **R.**

2. Let your love be ready to console me / by your promise to your servant. / Let your love come to me and I shall live / for your law is my delight. **R.**

3. That is why I love your commands / more than finest gold. / That is why I rule my life by your precepts: / I hate false ways. **R.**

4. Your will is wonderful indeed; / therefore I obey it. / The unfolding of your word gives light / and teaches the simple. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

■ 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 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off



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

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm E Ambrose
Sunday 9:00am D Sarah 10:30am E Zheng

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 29 Jul: Sts Martha and Lazarus
Fri 31 Jul: St Ignatius Loyola
Sat 1 Aug: St Alphonsus Liguori
Sun 2 Aug: 18th 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 (cf. Ps 67:6-7, 36)

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Mt 5:7-8)

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Joan Donohoe

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: Giovanni Martello, Amelia Raffaele, Giuseppe Marguglio, Giovanna Quadara

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass - 25th July

Thank you to the Youth & Young Adults' Group for hosting the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass this weekend.

Special thanks also to our guest speaker, Claire from Benedetta Women, for taking the time to join us with her presentation - **'Finding God Online'**, which invites everyday technology users to reflect on how faith can shape the way we engage in the digital world. In her 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.



Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Meeting

Summary of PPC Meeting held on 23rd July 2026:

- Presbytery Renovations:** Discussed quotes provided with main decision factors of price, service and builder-managed vs individual contractors. Decision made to self-manage with lower cost option.
- Community Space and Surroundings:** Discussion on preferred architect and budget. Exit clauses to be added to the contract. To consult with PFC and Archdiocese for funding approval.
- Small Group Discipleship:** 12 participants across both parishes completed the online meetings and training. Commitment at St Joseph's to start a boys' group.
- Pastoral Council (PPC) & Finance Committee (PFC):** Nominations are still open to all. A prospective PPC member attended and nomination is being considered. It would be good for the Young Adults Group to nominate a representative to the PPC. Applications will be vetted by the our ex-officio and current members.
- Parish Offertory Program:** Campaign has now been completed. Existing and recurring givers have been added to our Parish database. Slight increase in online and cash thanksgiving noted. New EFTPOS terminals and QR codes to follow.
- Parish Calendar:** Our Parish Calendar will be compiled and made available both online and in print.
- Revisiting the Pillars:** Discussion was an emphasis on the importance, and a reiteration that there is a need to revisit them. It will be the main agenda item for the next meeting.
- Synod:** 2 representatives to attend the Synod on behalf of our parish. Details of how all parishioners can give input will be detailed in the news bulletin. The actual Synod is in December.



Change of Start Date: 6th August

Apologies for any inconvenience due to the later start of our RCIA sessions.

Those seeking renewal of faith or desiring to become Catholics, please contact our parish office to learn more about the RCIA sessions which will take place on Thursdays, 6:30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, Elsternwick.

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:

1. Scan the QR code
2. Visit: <https://melbcath.org/synod-formation>
3. Drop your reflections in boxes provided in Church
4. Attend our Parish level sessions



Parish Level Sessions at St Anthony's Church

1. Tuesday, 28 July (7:00 to 8:30pm)
 2. Saturday, 1 August (10:30am to 12:00pm)
 3. Sunday, 16 August (12:15pm to 1:15pm)
- Clipboards are located in the church foyer for registration.
St Joseph's & Holy Cross will hold sessions in September.

Synod Representative - Expression of Interest

Every Parish is to send two representatives to the Regional level consultation, on Saturday, 8 August 2026, from 9am at Dandenong Club, 1579 Heatherton Road, Dandenong. Our PPC committee member, Paul White will attend. EOI is sought for the 2nd representative. It would also be advisable that the representatives be able to attend our Parish level consultations listed above. Please let the Parish Office know of your interest, so that registration can be done ASAP.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The True Treasure

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We all do shopping now and then. There are times when we come across some new items in the shops. Some of those items may not attract us, so we by pass them. But some other items might attract us and we would like to take a closer look at them. We might even think of buying them. Then we find ourselves asking a few questions; like, "Is this item useful for me or do I really need it? How much does it cost? Can I afford to pay the price?" Then we make calculations and find that, only if I forgo something else that I would be able to buy that item. Then we ask yet another question. "Is it worth the cost?" If so, we might end up buying the item, even if we have to forgo everything else in our shopping list.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is advising us to keep asking similar questions and accordingly decide to achieve those things that are of greater importance. We might even need to forgo things of lesser importance.

Today's first of the three parables tells us of a man who stumbled upon a buried treasure. It was by mere chance, that he came across the treasure. In the second parable, the merchant was constantly on a search for pearls of great value.

We should be always looking for things of great value, matters of eternal importance; we cannot wait for our luck or chance. Matters concerning our soul, for an example, cannot be left to chance. We have to do anything and everything in our power in order to make sure that we do find the most important treasure or pearl for our souls.

Whether we stumbled upon Jesus, like the treasure in the field, or found him after a long search, no matter whether we were born into Catholic families or struggled with our faith, somehow if we have Jesus, we must see that we do not lose him for anyone or anything of lesser importance. This may mean that we will have to forgo a lot other things.

Having Jesus and following him would surely come at a cost. It will place demands on our hearts, our minds, our souls and our bodily desires. The big question is not how much it will cost us, but rather how much we will gain. What Jesus offers us is worth any price, the Kingdom of Heaven.

For us, Jesus is our True Treasure! But for Jesus, we are his true treasure. Jesus bought us back at a great price on the Cross. Something never to forget.

Fr Leenus

Why should you always knock on a refrigerator door before opening it?
In case there's a salad dressing.

God the Father, Father of all Mankind



The Combined Societies of Mary warmly invite all to come and show your love for God the Father, Father of all mankind on 2nd August at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick.

1:30pm Adoration, Prayers
3:00pm Time of Mercy, Holy Mass

Free 'God The Father' booklets and images

www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com Enquiries: Joy Hunt 95092207



Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our parishes are committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All children and young people who come to our parish have a right to feel and be safe. All volunteers are reminded maintain a current Working With Children Check and complete the Safeguarding online training.

happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

COMMUNION WITH GOD

Today we continue to hear from the central chapter in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' parable teaching about the kin-dom of God. Over the past Sundays we have been hearing parables concerned with sowed seed (15th Sunday) and the mystery of the darnel sown among the wheat (last Sunday). Today we hear that the kin-dom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, a common banking technique by peasant farmers to protect their most valuable possessions. Someone discovers this treasure; hides it again and then sells every possession to buy the field and claim the treasure. Between the discovery and the purchase, the finder goes off "happy". The overwhelming joy of the discovery leads the merchant to sell everything to buy the field. This is an image of the disciple, of us, in discovering that the true encounter with God, the experience of the kin-dom, is most precious. Nothing can substitute it.

The second parable that concludes today's Gospel is like the first. It is about a merchant's search for valuable pearls and, in finding one, sells everything to have the pearl. In the ancient world, in the time of Jesus and Matthew, the pearl represented purity, beauty, power, wealth, even divinity. The discovery of the pearl by the parable's merchant leads, as in the first parable, to the selling of everything possessed to gain the pearl.

Both parables speak into our desire for ultimate and intimate communion with the God revealed through Jesus. When we experience such communion, we realise how valuable it is; nothing can compare to it. Intimate communion with God cannot be bought nor can anything else in human existence substitute for it. This communion is deepened in every celebration of the Eucharist.

Fr Michael Trainor