



THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

2 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;

though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,

and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,

your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good

things to eat

and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;

listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant

out of the favours promised to David.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:8-9, 15-18. R. v. 16

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us,

he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. **R.**

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you / and
you give them their food in due time. / You
open wide your hand, / grant the desires of all
who live. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / call on him from their hearts. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of
Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or
being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or
being threatened or even attacked. These are
the trials through which we triumph, by the
power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor
life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists,
nothing still to come, not any power, or height
or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come
between us and the love of God made visible in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia! / No one lives on bread
alone, / but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God. / Alleluia!



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South
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📮 P.O.Box 664, Elsternwick 3185 🌐 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: \$996.90 Presbytery: \$1011.90
Special Collection: \$1077.85 (Vinnies)

Thanksgiving



Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

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

Counters: No Counting

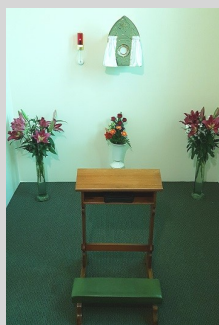
Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 3 Aug: St Dominic
Tue 4 Aug: St John Vianney
Thu 6 Aug: The Transfiguration of the Lord
Sat 8 Aug: St Mary of the Cross
Sun 9 Aug: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 69:2, 6)

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 6:35)

I am the bread of life, says the Lord; whoever comes to me will not hunger and whoever believes in me will not thirst.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Joan Donohoe

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary/Remembrance Ricky Thurgood, Doris Thurgood

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>

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 Joseph's & Holy Cross will be held 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.

Please let the Parish Office know of your interest, so that registration can be done ASAP.

Please pray for the success of the Synod.



RCIA Starting on 6th August

Those seeking renewal of faith or desiring to become Catholics, please contact our parish office to learn more about the RCIA. The sessions which will take place on Thursdays, 6:30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, 71 Orrong Rd, Elsternwick.



Novena to St Joseph

Novena to St Joseph every 1st Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm at St Joseph's Church, Elsternwick. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Adoration, Novena and Divine Mercy Chaplet. All welcome.

Archbishop's Campaign 9 – 23 August

"Courage! ... do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)

In these words, Jesus invites us to move forward with confidence, knowing that He walks with us. By supporting this campaign, you help sustain ministries that accompany those in need, strengthen our parish communities, and bring Christ's love to others. Thank you for answering this call with courage and generosity. *Most Rev*

Peter A Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne, said

More than 600 Catholic communities across the Archdiocese of Melbourne are being invited to support the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign.

The annual campaign unifies the Archdiocese's fundraising efforts into a single appeal supporting:

Tax Deductible gifts

Archbishop's Charitable Fund

Priests Retirement Foundation

Corpus Christi College Building Fund

CatholicCare Victoria-Chaplaincy Program

Melbourne Overseas Missions

John Pierce Centre

University of Divinity for the Catholic

Theological College

Annual grants to Catholic community agencies and community service organisations

Non-deductible gifts

Religious Projects Fund

Archbishop's evangelisation initiatives

Seminarian education

Congratulations to the Children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred on 27 children from St Joseph's school last Wednesday, 29th July by Episcopal Vicar Very Rev. Fr Andrzej Madry CR

While congratulating the children we also thank St Joseph's School staff and the families for their role in preparing the children for the Sacrament.

Please be assured of our continued prayers and best wishes!

Shape the Future:

Be Counted as Catholic this Census

Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026.

Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion.

In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics.

Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia.

By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.



God The Father

Mother Eugenia Ravasio (1907-1990, Italy) in 1932 received a message from God the Father, entirely in Latin (a language she did not know) The Message "The Father speaks to His children" is the only revelation made personally by God the Father and recognised by the Church as authentic after ten years of rigorous examinations.

Mother Eugenia describes God the Father, "Having assumed the appearance of an ordinary man, and by placing His crown and His glory at His feet, He took the globe of the world and held it to His Heart, supporting it with his left Hand. He then sat next to me. I can say but a few words about His arrival and about His appearance, He deigned to assume, and about His love. In my ignorance I do not have words to express what He revealed to me."

God the Father says, I am coming to banish excessive fear that My creatures have of Me, and to show them that My joy lies in being known and loved by My children, that is, by all mankind, present and future.



"In the Eucharist I live among you as a father with his family. I wished my Son to institute the Eucharist so as to make every Tabernacle the vessel of my favours". The Holy Spirit work of the third Person, of my Divinity is carried out silently and often people are not aware of it"

"The real object of this special feast of God the Father becomes plain, to honour and to thank him, to praise him for having given us his Son."

God the Father says " I desire that one day, or at least a Sunday, be dedicated to honouring Me in a special way under the title of Father of all Mankind. For this feast, I would like a special Mass and Office. It is not difficult to find the texts in the Holy Scriptures.

If you prefer to offer Me this special devotion on Sunday, I choose the first Sunday of August. If you prefer a weekday, I would like it to be always the 7th of August.

Until the three Persons are honoured by a special devotion in the Church and the whole mankind, there will be something lacking in this society. I have already made some souls aware of this lack, but most of them too timid, have not responded to My call. Others have had the courage to speak about it to the appropriate people, but, in the face of their failure, they have not persisted.

Church Sign: "How will you spend eternity?
Smoking or Non-smoking?"

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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

JESUS NURTURES US

Have you ever experienced a time when you needed to rest, restore yourself and, perhaps, even reflect on the direction in which your life is moving? Today's Gospel can speak to this experience. Jesus, accompanied by his disciples, steps ashore from a boat and discovers a troubled crowd in need of healing. It is evening, a *lonely* (literally, 'a desert') place and the crowd needs to eat. Figuratively, this crowd represents how we might feel at times, in need of care, comfort, healing and sustenance.

The disciples have the solution. They want *him* to send the people off to purchase food from the local villages. But Jesus surprises the disciples with another solution: *they* are to find the food that is necessary. The Greek text can also be interpreted, 'You give them *yourselves* to eat!' This gets to the heart of the issue. The disciples retort that they don't have what is needed (either physically or personally?) to satisfy the hungry crowd, only five loaves and two fish, representative of the average food allowance for one household in the ancient world.

Jesus gets the crowd to sit down (literally, 'recline'—the dining posture in the Greco-Roman world) on the 'grass' (but isn't this a desert?) takes the meagre offering of the disciples, prays a eucharistic blessing over the loaves and fish, then gets the disciples to distribute to the crowd. They eat, are satisfied, and there remains enough leftovers, twelve baskets full, for the future. Our deepest need for spiritual restoration and nurture is met in today's celebration of Word and Eucharist. Jesus nurtures us.

Fr Michael Trainor