



THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

9 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!



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: -

Thanksgiving



Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm R Rodrigues
Sunday 9:00am D Duffy 10:30am A De Silva

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 10 Aug: St Lawrence
Tue 11 Aug: St Clare
Fri 14 Aug: St Maximillian Mary Kolbe
Sat 15 Aug: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sun 16 Aug: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Masses for this Holy Day of Obligation as follows:

St Joseph's: Friday, 14 Aug Vigil Mass at 7:00pm

Holy Cross: Saturday, 15 Aug Mass at 10:00am

St Anthony's: Friday, 14 Aug Vigil Mass at 7:00pm
Saturday, 15 Aug Mass at 9:15am



Clergy Conference: Monday 10 - Friday 14 August

There is no change to any scheduled Masses. Please pray for the success of the Conference.

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 fully refundable security deposit will be required.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 73:20, 19, 22,23)

Look to your covenant O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps 147:12, 14)

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Virginia Poloie Tu'i

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

Recently Deceased: Virgil Harding Gill, Robert Teina

Death Anniversary: Brian Schaefer

The Assumption And The Queenship Of Our Lady

The Assumption of Our Lady reminds us of all that God did regarding Our Lady during Her life on earth. The Queenship of Our Lady reminds us of what God continues to do through Mary after She was assumed into Heaven.



Come and be part of this unique tribute to honour Our Lady, who is the Queen of Heaven and Earth and the Queen of our hearts.

Sunday, 9 August - Holy Cross Church, Caulfield South

1:30pm Adoration, Prayers, Inspirational Talk, Divine Mercy, Holy Mass.

First Class Relics of St Padre Pio & St Rita of Cascia

Padre Pio is a wonderful modern saint renowned for his miracles. The relic is the blood from his stigmatised hand. Come and be blessed!

St Rita of Cascia is one of our most powerful saints. This is why she is known as the Saint of the Impossible. Do you have a difficult or impossible situation? Then do come on this special day and ask St Rita's intercession.



The Combined Societies of Mary.
www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com
Enquiries: Joy Hunt 9509 2207

Trivia Lunch - 12th August

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.



Synod 2026 Archdiocese of Melbourne

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, please read the relevant "Theme Papers" which are displayed on the Church noticeboard, ring the parish office for a copy or visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/series/melbourne-synod-2026>

Options to provide your feedback:

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 Parish House on Sunday, 16 August (12:15pm to 1:15pm). Clipboards are provided in Church to register your attendance.

Parish level sessions at St Joseph's & Holy Cross, will be in September (details to be announced).

Our parish representatives Paul White & Joshua La Bonne will attend the Regional Consultation Sessions on Saturday 8 August.

Please pray for the success of the Synod.

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.

National Vocations Awareness Week: 2-9 August

Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured.



We pray for all families in our parish, for those preparing for marriage and that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

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. <https://give.melbournecatholic.org/donate>
Thank you for answering this call with courage and generosity. The annual campaign unifies the Archdiocese's fundraising efforts into a single appeal:

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.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today's Gospel passage describes a twofold miracle by Jesus. It speaks about "Jesus walking on water" as well as "Jesus calming the storm." We know that Jesus performed very many miracles, but none of them was a miracle for miracle's sake. So too, these two miracles were performed for good reasons.

First of all, in this way Jesus was rescuing the disciples from the deadly storm; secondly by this Jesus was conveying an important message that "He is the Lord" the one who has complete power and authority over nature! The disciples of Jesus had not known their master to be "the Lord". Though they were with him for so long, had seen his many miracles, heard his teachings, yet they were not convinced that Jesus is in fact the Lord.

To recognise him as the Lord, would have meant accepting him as the one who has full authority over them and over the whole of creation. By walking on the surface of the water, Jesus proves to his disciples and to us that he indeed is the one spoken of by the prophets. It was foretold that the Lord would be walking on the surface of the water.

Now, the disciples recognise and accept Jesus as the fulfilment of the promises in the Scriptures. That is why at the end of these miracles the disciples bow to Jesus and adore him. The Lord's authority is further proved by his ordering the rough sea to calm down and, no wonder, it obeyed. Then we hear Peter crying out as he was sinking, "Lord save me". That cry of Peter, was a powerful prayer because he called out to Jesus, addressing him as "the Lord".

We too use the title "the Lord" in many of our prayers, but probably most of the time without really meaning what it means. If only we could call out to Jesus as the Lord with our whole heart and mind, our prayers would be more powerful.

In every one of our lives storms come raging. They come in many forms. At such trying times, like the disciples, we too feel helpless and tossed about. At such times it would do us good to call out to Jesus, addressing him as the Lord. In doing so, we are in fact submitting ourselves to his authority.

Thus we admit that Jesus is to us more than a mere friend, more than a master or a teacher, more than a wonder worker, more than a shepherd. We admit that our hope is not in ourselves, nor in others but in the Lord himself. Jesus alone can take us across the sea of life.

Fr Leenus

Q: What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary?

A: A thesaurus.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

TOWARDS UNKNOWN SHORES

There are times when we struggle, as though we are personally battling against a strong headwind and can't move out of our physical or spiritual slump. Today's Gospel reflects something of this experience. Jesus makes his disciples get into a boat (a symbol of Matthew's Gospel household) to sail to the 'other side'. This 'side' is unfamiliar and frightening. Jesus spends time on the land praying while the boat, in the meantime, is battling heavy seas and a strong headwind.

All this is a powerful image of the community of Jesus' disciples and, at times, like us or our experience of Church: battling, trying to move forward as we feel alone. At this point in the story, Matthew draws on imagery used of God from the First Testament to describe Jesus walking on the water, coming towards a boat filled with terrified disciples. When they see Jesus, their terror heightens thinking he is a ghost. Jesus reassures them.

Peter, the leader and spokesperson, then asks to come out to be with Jesus on the water. While Peter's focus is on Jesus all is safe as he steps from the boat on to the water. But when he becomes distracted by the wind and waves and takes his gaze off Jesus, he begins to sink. Jesus responds immediately to his plea for rescue and the scene concludes with the disciples worshipping Jesus as God's saving agent. This story speaks forcefully to our community of struggling believers. Jesus seeks to be with us in this 'boat' called 'Church' as we sail together, in that synodal spirit, towards unknown and frightening shores while subject to fearful and unsettling conditions.

Fr Michael Trainor