



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Sir 27:30–28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

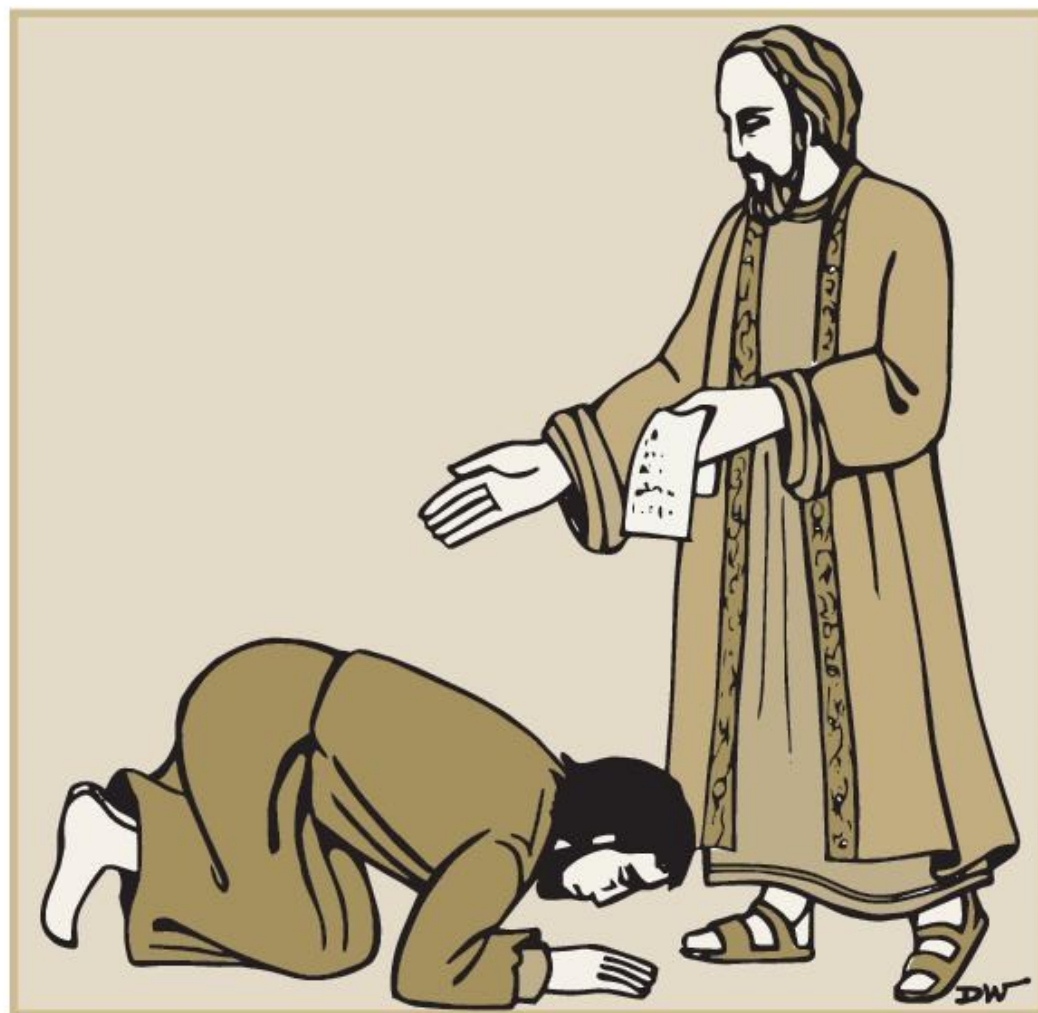
R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. His wrath will come to an end; / he will not be angry for ever. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. / As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 14: 7-9

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

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, alleluia! / I give you a new commandment: / love one another as I have loved you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 18: 21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'



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

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 14 Sep: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Tue 15 Sep: Our Lady of Sorrows
Wed 16 Sep: Sts Cornelius and Cyprian
Sun 20 Sep: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thanksgiving



Communion Service in September

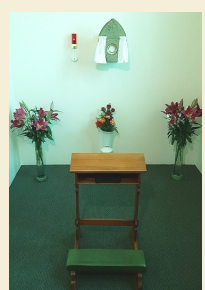
With both Fr Leenus and Fr Eugene currently away, we will have Communion Service on the following weekdays:

Holy Cross: 10am - Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

RCIA has resumed

Those seeking renewal of faith or know someone desiring to become Catholic, 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.



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. Ecclus 36:18)

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 35:8)

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Virginia Poloie Tu'i, Paula Person, Sister Miriam-Elizabeth Cusack, Bernadette Duffy, Ian & Sue Besomo

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

Recently Deceased: Noel Thurgood, Manuelle Poloie Tu'i

Death Anniversary: Antonio Grasso

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass: 26 September

The Youth & Young Adults' Group of our Parish will host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.

Mass is preceded by **Adoration and Confessions** starting at 5:30pm.

The group will then gather for a light supper and fellowship after Mass at St Joseph's Presbytery.

Details to follow for September's programme - stay tuned!



Prayer Service of Lament

On Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 4pm, Archbishop Peter Comensoli will be holding a Prayer Service of Lament for survivors of abuse.

The service will also be livestreamed, enabling others to join in prayer from across the Archdiocese.

Archbishop Comensoli's letter regarding this service has been placed on our Parish notice board.

Safeguarding Sunday - 13 September 2026

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday (formerly Child Protection Sunday) on the second Sunday of September each year.

The 2026 theme "Love Protects" recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love.

When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel. "Love Protects' reminds us that genuine love is demonstrated through action," said chair of the Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and Safeguarding, Bishop Greg Bennet. "Safeguarding is an essential part of our mission and ministry.

It calls each of us to be attentive, accountable and committed to ensuring that every person can participate in the life of the Church safely and with confidence."

Safeguarding Sunday also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the work of clergy, staff, volunteers and safeguarding leaders who work to foster cultures of safety and trust throughout church communities.

"Together, we can build communities where every person is valued, respected and safe."

Pope prays for dead and missing in Nepal

Pope Leo XIV expressed his sadness by the devastation wrought by a glacial collapse in the Nepal-China border, causing a deadly wave of floods and mudslides that killed 168 people with hundreds more feared dead.

Prayer for the Victims of the Nepal Floods

Loving God, we pray for all those affected by the devastating floods in Nepal. Bring comfort to those who have lost loved ones, strength to those who have lost their homes, and hope to those facing uncertainty. We pray for those still searching for loved ones in this great tragedy. Bless the rescuers and all emergency service personnel who are helping those in need. May Your loving presence bring peace, healing and courage to the people of Nepal.

Mannix Library Book Sale

Mannix Library receives many generous donations of books. We also regularly remove books from our collection if we have more than two copies, or if the item is no longer relevant for the collection. We sell our books at very low prices. This year the Spring Book Sale runs till September 21. Prices: Hardcover \$5, Paperback \$2. Location: 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne 3002.

Online Info Session on the Permanent Diaconate

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Tuesday, 22 September 2026, 7-8pm via ZOOM

Attendance will be by invitation. Email Deacon Kevin Pattison to express your interest - Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

Online Trivia Night - Friday 9 October

The St Mary's Hampton Online Trivia Night in support of the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project is back!

We aim to provide a fun night for you and your friends and raise money for a good cause, and we'd love your support. To take part, sign up as a team host, and get your team together for a light-hearted night of trivia and conviviality. Suggested minimum donation of \$30 per team member.

When: Friday 9 October, 7:30pm to 9:40pm

Where: Your place! Invite a group of friends to your home, up to 10 people - small groups are welcome. If you prefer you can form a distributed team in several locations and use our online breakout rooms to talk over your answers.

How: You don't need to be a tech wizard. You need a smartphone, tablet (iPad, Android) or a computer with sound (a webcam would be nice but not essential). You'll get a link for the Zoom online chat service and use your web browser to answer the trivia questions.

For booking and more information: cohdig.au/trivia

Engaging Your Faith

Catholic Theological College invites you to their 'Engaging Your Faith' online presentations in October 2026. Fees start from \$25 per session.

For more info: ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith



Helpers of God's Precious Infants: 26 September

Feast of Sts Cosmas and Damian. 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). Contact 0407-090367.



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Sunday's Gospel speaks about forgiveness, which is at the heart of Jesus' message. Forgiveness is essential to our relationship with God and with one another.



Every relationship comes with times of friction, misunderstandings, disagreements etc. So, we know, no relationship can last without forgiveness.

Every married couple, for an example, knows that. The same applies to any relationship, especially between two friends, siblings, co-workers etc. But that does not mean that Forgiveness can stand in the way of 'fraternal correction', which was last Sunday's Gospel message. Forgiveness does not mean putting up with abusive situations, especially when they involve those who are defenseless. Forgiving those who have hurt us is not easy. The bigger the hurt the more difficult it is to forgive. But how do we forgive? There is only one way: "the Cross". We have to take our anger, our injuries, our hurts to the Cross of Christ. The Cross brings healing because when we stand before the Cross, we recognize and acknowledge our guilt. Just know that if you or I were the only person who ever sinned, Jesus would have still died on the Cross to bring us forgiveness.

It was our sins that placed Jesus on the Cross. It also means that the forgiveness Jesus brought about through the Cross is so much greater than our sins. Another thought that should help us to forgive is to remember that Jesus died to save the other person just as he died to save you and me. Try to visualize that person beneath Jesus on the Cross. Can you see Jesus dying for that person as well? Then why don't we? Asking for forgiveness is important too. It makes us humble. It's important to be humble enough to admit that 'mistake was mine' please forgive me; rather than 'mistake was yours, but I am good enough to forgive you'.

It is very hard to give forgiveness, but it's even harder to ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness is part and parcel of true love!

Q: What's a church's favourite type of music?

A: Soul music!

Formation for Lay Ministers of Holy Communion

Those who distribute Holy Communion exercise a deeply significant ministry within the Church's liturgical life.

To help our volunteers serve with confidence, reverence, and pastoral sensitivity, our parish is organising a Formation Course for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.



This training serves as a mandatory refresher for our current, experienced volunteers and acts as the foundational training for anyone interested in joining this special ministry.

Upon completion of the course, new ministers will be formally commissioned to assist our Clergy. Responsibilities include distributing Holy Communion at Sunday Masses, as well as providing Communion Services at local hospitals, aged-care facilities, and to our homebound parishioners.

Core Focus Areas & What You Will Learn

Theology of the Eucharist: Deepen your spiritual understanding of the Sacrament and the Communion Rite.

Liturgical Foundations: Explore the structure of the Mass and the unique nature of lay ecclesial ministry.

Practical Ministry: Gain step-by-step, practical guidance for distributing Holy Communion with the utmost reverence.

How to Register

If you feel called to serve in this important ministry, please register with the Parish Office or speak directly with one of our Clergy after Mass.

Breaking Open the Word

‘And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master’s feet. “Give me time,” he said, “and I will pay the whole sum.” And the servant’s master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. “Pay what you owe me,” he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, “Give me time and I will pay you.” But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?” And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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FORGIVE FROM THE HEART

Have you ever been hurt by another? How do you act? Can you forgive? Hurts, misunderstanding and at times serious ruptures can occur amongst Jesus’ members. The question which Peter asks Jesus is relevant: ‘How often should one forgive another? Seven times?’ Jesus replies, ‘Seventy times seven,’ meaning forgiveness is beyond calculation.

Jesus then offers a parable to highlight the essential truth about forgiving others ‘from the heart’. The story involves two servants. One owes his king 1000 talents. In Matthew’s day a talent was worth a year’s wage. The servant owes the king 1000 years’ wages! An impossible debt to honour, even though the servant promises to pay it in time. The king, out of compassion, cancels the debt. Whew! Leaving the judgement hall, that same servant comes across a fellow servant who owes 100 denarii. A denarius is a day’s wage, so the debt is a hundred days’ wages, a paltry sum by comparison. But in this second scenario, compassion and debt cancellation are absent. The king gets to hear of this and imprisons the first servant for his lack of forgiveness.

Meanness of spirit and forgiveness of heart will have their divine repercussions, the point of the final words of today’s Gospel. Matthew’s Jesus invites us to reflect upon our own forgiving and compassionate spirit towards those who have hurt or wronged us. As we pray in the Lord’s Prayer, ‘...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.’ The measure of our forgiveness is ultimately not God but our own hearts.

Fr Michael Trainor