

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day / and praise
your name for ever. / The Lord is great,
highly to be praised, / his greatness cannot be
measured. **R.**

2. 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.**

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

SECOND READING

Phil 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by
my life or by my death. Life to me, of course,
is Christ, but then death would bring me
something more; but then again, if living in this
body means doing work which is having good
results – I do not know what I should choose.



I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone
and be with Christ, which would be very much
the better, but for me to stay alive in this body
is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that
would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! / Open our hearts,
O Lord, / to listen to the words of your
Son. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of
heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak
to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an
agreement with the workers for one denarius a
day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out
at about the third hour he saw others standing
idle in the market place and said to them, "You
go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair
wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour
and again at about the ninth hour, he went out



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 Youth & Young Adults
Sunday 9:00am A Powell 10:30am E Galero

Counters: M Beaumont & B Leong

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 21 Sep: St Matthew
Wed 23 Sep: St Pius of Pietrelcina
Sun 27 Sep: 26th 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 fully refundable security deposit will be required.

Thank You Fr Joseph Lee SDB

Thank you Fr Joseph Lee for celebrating the 9:00am Mass at Holy Cross and also the 10:30am Mass at St Joseph's with us this weekend.

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



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Ps. 118:4-5)

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Virginia Poloie Tu'l, Sister Miriam-Elizabeth Cusack, Bernadette Duffy, Sue Besomo, Dolores Conte

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

Recently Deceased: Ian Besomo, Paula Person, Ivan Bilianskyi

Death Anniversary: Cristina Cameron

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.



September's Program: Catholic Apologetics!

The very word "apologetics" is derived from the ancient Greek word 'apologia', meaning a formal defense of one's position. Catholic or Christian apologetics defend the faith using logic, sacred scripture, and also sacred tradition.

Join us for our upcoming Catholic Apologetics session to explore the logic, history, and beauty behind what we believe. Bring your toughest questions and an open mind.

RCIA has resumed

Those seeking renewal of faith or desiring to become Catholics, please contact our parish offices or come to our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) sessions on Thursdays at St Joseph's Presbytery, 71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick at 6.30pm.

Plant Sale October 25th at St Anthony's Church

Proceeds help Tony's Café keep up the good work. Donations of potting mix welcome, no matter how small.

March for the Babies

Come and show your support and march for the babies at 1.00pm Saturday, 10th October - Treasury Gardens, Cnr Spring St and Wellington Pde, Melbourne. Wear pink and blue for the Babies! www.marchforthebabies.com

This is the 17th annual 'March for the Babies', and every year since 2009, thousands of Victorians have gathered peacefully with grief and hope to remember the ever-increasing number of babies killed by abortion in this state.

Formation for Lay Ministers of Holy Communion



Those commissioned to 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.

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

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.



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Today's Gospel is a parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard. In it Jesus explains the two aspects of the Kingdom of God:



1) God calls everyone to work for his Kingdom;
2) God wants to give everyone the same reward, namely eternal life. The owner of the vineyard who represents God, goes out at dawn and hires a group of workers, agreeing with them to pay a fair wage. He goes out five times on that day and hires more and more workers. At the end of the day, the landowner orders that an equal wage be paid to everyone, even to those who had worked only for an hour. Naturally, the laborers who worked the whole day long complained, because they felt unfairly treated. The landowner however, reminds them about what had been agreed.

No injustice was done to anyone. In fact Jesus' topic is not 'employment or a fair wage', but 'the Kingdom of God'! And this is the message: there are no unemployed people in the Kingdom of God. Everyone is called to do their part; and there will be a reward from divine justice for everyone in the end. The reward will be the salvation that Jesus Christ acquired for us with his death and Resurrection, a salvation which is not deserved, but offered. With this parable, Jesus wants to open our hearts to the logic of the Father's love which is free and generous. It is about allowing oneself to be astonished and fascinated by the "thoughts" and the "ways" of God which, as the Prophet Isaiah recalls, are not our thoughts and not our ways (Is.55:8).

Human thoughts are often marked by selfishness and personal advantage, and our own narrow mindedness. But God's thoughts and ways are far beyond ours. He uses mercy, he forgives broadly, is filled with generosity and kindness which he pours forth on each of us. He opens for everyone the boundless territory of his love and his grace, which alone can give the human heart the fullness of joy.

Jesus wants to make us contemplate the gaze of that landowner: the gaze with which he looks upon each of the labourer's searching for work and calls them to go to his vineyard. It is a gaze which is filled with attention, kindness. It is a gaze which calls, invites each one to get up and begin a journey because God wants life for each of us; he wants a fully, committed life, safe from emptiness and inertia.

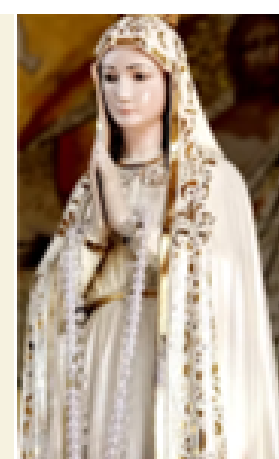
God excludes no one and wants each of us to achieve his or her fullness. This is the love of our God, a God who is our Father.

Q: Where is medicine mentioned in the Bible?
A: When God gave Moses two tablets.

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady will be at St Anthony's Church from Friday 2 to Saturday 10 October.

There will be a procession and rosary at 5pm on Saturday 10 October before the 6pm Mass. All parishioners, especially youth, are welcome!



Breaking Open the Word

BE GENEROUS

Greed often dominates our world, interactions between global leaders and, sometimes, our own relationships. Today's Gospel offers a different value system. Generosity is the Gospel standard that should dominate relationships.

This teaching comes in the form of another parable from Jesus. The context would be familiar to Matthew's audience, in a society dominated by injustice, hierarchy and poverty. In this world, unemployment was rife, as it is today. Workers in Jesus' day would go to the village or town square to seek employment. In this setting, the landowner comes to the square to hire labourers for his vineyard with a promised day's wage. The owner repeats the hiring practice at different hours of the day, even into the late afternoon. When it comes time to pay the wages of the labourers, the landowner begins with the last hired and pays them the full day's wage though they have worked less hours. Those hired first complain that they should have been paid more. The landowner's response summarises the main teaching point of the parable: 'Why be envious because I am generous?'

Generosity rather than greed characterises this landowner. It is also a mirror of Jesus' essential teaching. God is generous, not restrictive or calculating. This challenges a world governed by exactness and tit-for-tat thinking. God and God's kingdom are characterised by generosity. God is generous toward us – and invites us to be generous toward others.

and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Fr Michael Trainor