



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Ezek 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24:4-9. R. v. 6

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / Do not remember the sins of my youth. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

3. The Lord is good and upright / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one



thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.

But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

■ The word of the Lord.



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 M Ellis

Sunday 9:00am D Sarah 10:30am E Zheng

Counters: M Beaumont & B Leong

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Tue 29 Sep: Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

Wed 30 Sep: St Jerome

Thu 1 Oct: St Therese of the Child Jesus

Fri 2 Oct: The Holy Guardian Angels

Sun 4 Oct: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thanksgiving



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (Dan 3:31, 29, 30, 43, 42)

All that you have done to us O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 118:49-50)

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: Vincenzo Bettoni

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass: 26 September

We thank the Youth & Young Adults' Group of our Parish for hosting the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass at St Joseph's this weekend. Mass was preceded by Adoration and Confession at 5:30pm.

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.

This month, our young people will have a taste of Catholic Apologetics to explore the logic, history, and beauty behind what we believe.



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.

Catholic Theological College Events

- 'Engaging Your Faith' online presentations in October 2026. Fees start from \$25 per session. ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith
- 2026 Knox Public Lecture on "Synodality: Global and Local". Thursday 22 October at 7:00pm. Presented by Most Rev Patrick O'Regan DD Archbishop of Adelaide. Booking: Scan the QR code.



Welcome back Fr Leenus

We welcome back Fr Leenus and thank everyone who helped out during Fr Leenus' absence.



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.

March for the Babies



Come and show your support and march for the babies at 1.00pm Saturday, 10th October at the Treasury Gardens, Corner Spring Street & Wellington Parade, Melbourne. Wear pink and blue for the babies! marchforthebabies.com



The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady

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

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

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.

World Day for Migrants and Refugees

This Sunday, 27 September 2026 is World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Pope Leo chose this year's theme as 'Even Just One of These Children'.

Every defenseless and vulnerable child matters to God, and we are called to remember their needs.

He reminds us that "Minors are the most vulnerable group within the global movements of migration". Their traumas include being forced to leave their homeland, losing family members to violence, being separated from family members, trafficking, exploitation and other atrocities.

As a Christian community, we can encourage each other by the way we choose to live. Children are often the best examples. They have a natural humility, and call out the best in others.

"Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead." We can inspire each other to have this attitude of Jesus, who offers himself without pride.

A Concert of Sacred Franciscan Music

Come and celebrate the Year of St Francis through the rich musical heritage of the Franciscan tradition, with sacred music spanning the centuries: from the ancient melodies of Gregorian Chant, through compositions of the thirteenth century, to works of our own day. Entry is free. Donations welcome to support the Capuchin Friars and their ministry.

Friday, 2nd October from 7-8pm at St Anthony's Capuchin Friary and Church, 182 Power Street, Hawthorn.

Pray with Pope Leo XIV: 1-7 October

Aid to the Church in Need invites you to join Pope Leo for the One Million Children Praying the Rosary campaign for peace and unity in the world. To register, scan the QR code or visit:

www.acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying

"When one million children pray the Rosary, the world will change." ~ Saint Padre Pio



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

Have you noticed how Jesus does a lot of his teaching through stories, the Gospel calls them parables. We had one last Sunday, about the workers in the master's vineyard.



They seem harmless enough and catch you in to the story, but they have a hook that links you into the wider situation. That situation, noticed by Jesus was the dislike of the authorities toward John the Baptist's ministry to prostitutes and tax collectors. They kept aloof from such people, considered evil and damned, and saw themselves as specially chosen by God. But it was John who converted them, turned their lives around.

In Jesus' parables there is a marked absence of the supernatural: Jesus baptizes the ordinary and tells us that it is in the theatre of the ordinary that the drama of the kingdom is lived out.

By evoking everyday experience, the parables tell us that we are saved where we are. In the parables we are invited to make a judgement and to come to a decision; they invite us to pay attention, come alive and face things.

All this can be seen in today's Gospel where Jesus confronts the chief priests and elders of the people. He confronts them with a story, a parable which criticises them for being "yes men" whose easy promises are not matched by their performance. Fiction is used to face this problem of religious deception. The story is told of a father who has two sons and who asks them to work in the vineyard. The first son refuses bluntly, "I will not go", but afterwards regrets his decision and changes his mind. The second son agrees politely and readily, "Certainly sir", but his instant consent is not matched by his behaviour: he doesn't turn up. Jesus' question, "Which of them did the father's will?", only allows one answer. Only one son did anything.

Jesus' own reply identifies the two sons. The son who refused but repented stands for the tax collectors and prostitutes who complied with God's requests set forth in the Baptist's preaching. The other son stands for the priests and scribes who maintain outward appearances of piety but without any real devotion to the will of God. They did not trust the Baptist, even when they saw the testimony of the changed lives of the tax collectors and prostitutes. Their outward piety, unsupported by obedience to God, is criticized earlier in the Gospel, when Jesus says: "It is not those who say to me "Lord, Lord", who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven" (7:21).

Fr Pat Jackson.

Q: Why didn't Noah do much fishing while on the ark?

A: He only had two worms.

GOD & BEER

HOW CHRISTIANS CAN SUCCEED IN THE WORLD TODAY

GREG SHERIDAN

6.30pm TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

Godandbeer.com.au

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia! / My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; / I know them, and they follow me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

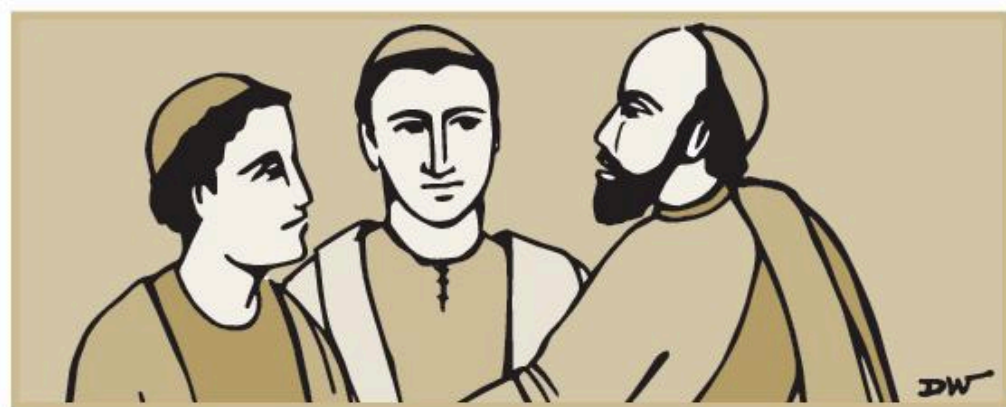
Mt 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

Remaining in the agricultural world from last Sunday and the hiring practice of a landowner, we are now inside the landowner's family and its two sons. The landowner requests both sons to go to work in the vineyard. Such a request would have been unnecessary, given that there would have been hired labourers in the vineyard – information learnt from last Sunday's Gospel.

A deeper intent lies behind the owner's request: Are the sons' committed to the family's enterprise? Perhaps, too, this reflects what is occurring with the Gospel household, the inner relationship and ethical practice of its members. The main issue concerns integrity of word and openness of heart. The first son is asked to work in the vineyard but refuses the request. Later, he thinks about it, changes his mind and goes. The second promises to go to the vineyard but doesn't. There is no further comment about the request or change of heart. Jesus asks the religious leaders, 'Which of the two did the father's will?' They respond, 'The first.' This son, at first resistant, changes his mind and responds to the father's request.

The parable is obviously directed to Jesus' audience and religious leaders, to recognise their need to change attitudes that exclude certain types of people. Surprisingly, those judged as social reprobates, the 'tax collectors and prostitutes', are given preferential acceptance into God's Kin-dom. The parable overturns conventional expectations in Matthew's day and in ours!

Fr Michael Trainor