



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

4 OCTOBER 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,
and planted choice vines in it.
In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.
He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.
What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done?
I expected it to yield grapes.
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?
Very well, I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.
I will command the clouds
to rain no rain on it.
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the House of Israel,
and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20. R. Isa 5:7

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; / to plant it you drove out the nations. / It stretched out its branches to the sea, / to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**



2. Then why have you broken down its walls? / It is plucked by all who pass by. / It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, / devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**

3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine and protect it, / the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

4. And we shall never forsake you again: / give us life that we may call upon your name. / God of hosts, bring us back; / let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

■ The word of the Lord.



The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South

Parish Office: 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162 ☎ 95285988 ✉ elsternwick@cam.org.au

✉ 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

In Residence: Fr Zsolt Kiss

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 J Lam

Sunday 9:00am S McMillan 10:30am La Bonne family

Counters: M Beaumont & B Leong

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 7 Oct: Our Lady of the Rosary

Sun 11 Oct: 28th 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.

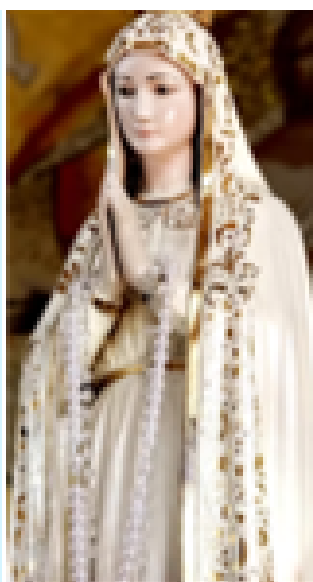
The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady

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 5:00pm on Saturday 10th October before the 6:00pm Vigil Mass.

A schedule with the daily program are available at the church foyer.

All parishioners, especially youth, are welcome!



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Esth 4:17)

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Lam 3:25)

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

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: -

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.

Welcome Fr Zsolt

We welcome Fr Zsolt Kiss, to our Parish Communities, as he resides at Elsternwick Presbytery from 1st October 2026, sharing the facility with Fr Eugene San SAC.

Fr Zsolt Kiss is a Chaplain to the Hungarian Catholic Community, Melbourne.

Divine Playhouse Petition

There is an anti-Catholic 'art' exhibition in the Museum of Modern Art and brave Archbishop Fisher is pushing back at the NSW government for funding it and he seeks support: If you would like to sign a letter to the NSW Minister for the Arts, requesting that no government funding be allocated to the ridicule of religious belief please click on the link below. <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/divine-playhouse-petition/>

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

Rosary by Young People at St Anthony's Church

During October, the month of the Rosary, you are invited to come to join the youth in praying the Rosary every Friday at 7pm in the Church, followed by light refreshments.

Friday 2nd October: Simple Rosary

Friday 9th October: Adoration and Rosary

Friday 6th October: Rosary followed by a talk by Sister Herlin, SSpS on the WYD theme "Take Courage"

Friday 23rd October: Adoration and Rosary

Friday 30th October: To be advised.

International Pallottine Family Feast Day

Day of Retreat, Reflection and Renewal

Saturday, 24th October 2026

St Anthony's Church

Prayer, Input from Fr Eugene San SAC, Reflection, Sharing Time, Input from Mary Whiting, Lunch, Act of Apostolic Commitment, Reflection, Holy Mass. Finish by 3pm.

All members of the Pallottine Family are expected to annually Renew their Act of Apostolic Commitment at this time.

Kindly email pfn@uacpallottines.au to RSVP for catering purposes by 22/10/2026.



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.



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

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.

Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver

The Annual Mission Fair will be held on Saturday 17th October, 9:00am – 2:30pm at 154 Cotham Road, Kew.

Proceeds go to the Franciscan Sisters of St Joseph, Kisumu for water tanks.

27th Ordinary Sunday Year A

The Cornerstone

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As a little boy when I first heard of Jesus as the Cornerstone, I did not appreciate the idea. I thought to myself, how could Jesus ever be compared to a stone? And if at all, why is he in a corner? Jesus who is God himself is far greater than any stone! and so he should be treated as being right in the centre! It was not long later that I learned the significance of cornerstones of buildings and knew the reason why Jesus could rightly be called the Cornerstone, in fact Jesus should become the Cornerstone of everyone of our lives.

In Biblical times, a cornerstone was used as the foundation and standard upon which a building was constructed. Once in place, the rest of the building would conform to the angles and size of the cornerstone. In addition, if removed, the entire structure could collapse. In the Bible, messianic prophecies spoke of the Messiah as the Cornerstone. Isaiah 28:16 says, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation."

Psalms 118:22 speaks of the Messiah, stating, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Matthew, Mark, and Luke record Jesus referring to this passage as finding its fulfillment in Him (Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17).

Each Gospel indicates this teaching of Jesus occurred between Monday and Wednesday of the Passover week, while Jesus was in Jerusalem during the time between His triumphal entry (called Palm Sunday) and His Crucifixion.

In Acts 4:11 "This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone"

In 1 Peter 2:6, "For it stands written in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'"

In 1 Peter 2:7, "So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.'"

In Ephesians 2:19-20, Apostle Paul references the idea of Jesus as Cornerstone, teaching, "You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone".

Fr Leenus.

Son: I want a car.

Dad: Get a haircut.

Son: Jesus had long hair.

Dad: Jesus walked everywhere.

Plant Sale at St Anthony's

Proceeds help Tony's Café keep up the good work. Donations of potting mix welcome. We are also accepting donations of books and clean re-useable items for Trash and Treasure. There will also be a cake stall on the day!

Plants can be delivered to St Anthony's Parish House on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm.

Date Night: SmartLoving Online Session

When did you last spend time really investing in your relationship? This is a six-week relationship enrichment program that combines five self-paced sessions with six intentional date nights, helping couples connect, learn, and grow together. 7 October - 11 November: 8:30–9:30pm

<https://app.tickets.org.au/eb/6DateNightsSmartLoving>

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia! / I call you friends, says the Lord, / because I have made known to you / everything I have learnt from my Father. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

A RICH ALLEGORY

Jesus continues from last Sunday to question the attitudes of religious leaders of his day and, by inference, those who assume religious leadership and authority in Matthew's day.

Jesus' teaching looks like a parable, but it is an allegory, where each element of the story represents historical events or figures. Its focus is another landowner (God) who plants a vineyard (the image of Israel), cares for it and leases it to tenants. At vintage time his servants (the prophets) go to collect the produce. But the tenants maltreat all those sent to collect the produce, even to the point of finally killing the son of the viticulturalist (Jesus), the last emissary sent.

The parable is an allegory of salvation history, the story of Israel, the action of God to cultivate Israel's goodness with the eventual rejection of God's final emissary, Jesus. The allegory is not anti-Jewish. Matthew writes for a Jewish audience. The evangelist reflects on the mystery of Israel's history and the failure of the Jewish leaders' intent to do away with God's final prophet and emissary, Jesus.

To repeat, Jesus' death was the action of the religious leaders of his day and not the deed of the Jewish people. What happened to Jesus finds its parallel in the way the prophets of the Old Testament were treated. The key point of the story comes at the end: the Kingdom of God will be 'given to a people who will produce its fruits.' That people is us.

Fr Michael Trainor