



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>



Twenty fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 12-13 September, 2026

BEFORE ALL ELSE, WE ARE HUMAN

At the start of his meeting with migrants in Spain on June 11, 2026, Pope Leo made a profound gesture. "Dear migrants," he said, "before saying anything else to you, I want to bow before your dignity."

In other words, before we are any ethnicity, nationality, religion, economic or social class, we are first of all humans. As Elias Chacour, the Melkite Archbishop of Galilee, said many years ago on a visit to Sydney, "I was not born a Christian, or an Israeli, or a Palestinian. I was born a baby!" We are, first of all, human. Only after that do we take on family, social, ethnic, linguistic, educational, economic, national, and religious identities. Our basic humanity confers on us an infinite dignity. We are made in the "image and likeness of God". No one, no authority, no other belonging, no other conferral of identity, nothing done to us, nothing we do, neither achievement nor even any major sin we may have committed, can rob us of that fundamental human dignity. We are forever God's beloved.

From June 14 to 20, 2026, Australia observed Refugee Week. This year's celebration marked a significant milestone. Counting the first intake of 4,000 refugees from Europe after World War II, nearly one million refugees have settled in Australia over the last eighty years. In fact, apart from the indigenous peoples who have inhabited this land for more than 65,000 years, all of us are recent migrants or refugees and their descendants. We, our parents, our grandparents, and perhaps a handful of generations beyond that who dreamt of a better future for themselves and their children, arrived on these shores only over the last 240 years. Migrants and refugees built this country as we know it today — the farms, the factories, the roads, the railways, the cities. They brought their cultures, faiths, foods, and traditions. They created a rich, diverse, multicultural, multi-religious society.

By and large, our diversity is enriching, strong, resilient, respectful, and tolerant. It is not perfect:

there is racism, prejudice, and division. We have yet to acknowledge and reconcile fully with the indigenous peoples of this land. In recent years, there has been a surge in antisemitism, Islamophobia and white supremacy, but apart from these fringe extremists, overall, Australian society works reasonably well.

This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the UN Refugee Convention. Globally, there are an estimated 42 to 43 million refugees, one and a half times the population of Australia. In addition, there are some 9 million asylum seekers and nearly 70 million internally displaced people. This sea of suffering humanity deserves respect, welcome, hospitality, and protection so that they too can live their lives to the full and raise their families in peace and security.

In the 2024 General Assembly, Columbans named migrants and refugees as a missionary priority. This commitment is grounded in the Gospel: to show mercy to our neighbour, particularly those who are suffering, like the traveller beaten, robbed, and left at the side of the road in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This concern has been honed by first-hand experience. Just like the ancient Irish missionary monks whose motto was *exilii pro Christo* (exiles for Christ), we Columbans have also been exiles. We have lived in other countries. We have known the pain of loneliness, isolation, and not understanding or being understood. We have learned new languages, new cultures, new ways of relating, and through this paschal process, our lives have been enriched. That is why Columbans stand in solidarity with migrants and refugees, and the religious and civic agencies that support them. All people of every ethnicity, nationality, and religion are entitled to live a life consonant with their inviolable human dignity as beloved children of God. Let us bow before their infinite dignity. Let us welcome them as our sisters and brothers, made, like us, in the image and likeness of God, one family, one nation, a magnificent diversity that enriches us all and is truly a blessing from God.

*(written by REV DR PATRICK MCINERNEY
In The Far East Magazine)*

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP
Fr Cao Van Tri CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding Officer)

St Paul Apostle North
Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

St Paul Apostle South
Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's
Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for **NEXT WEEK**
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 2026

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked person forsake their way, and the unrighteous person their thoughts; let that person return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PSALM

Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made

The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

SECOND Philippians 1:20-24. 27

Brothers and sisters:
Christ will be exalted now as always in my body,
whether by life or by death.
For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.
If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer.
I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.
Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia Alleluia
Open our hearts O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son
Alleluia

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:
“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’
So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same.
And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’
They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’
He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’
When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Reflection

Where do you find yourself measuring God's boundless grace with human scales of fairness, and how can you rejoice instead of begrudging His generosity to others?

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.
St Paul Apostle safeguarding policies can be found on our website at
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> or in hardcopy in the Sacristy



THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

There are still few of them in the gathering space. One of them maybe yours. Please try to find name of your street first, then find your name, as they are arranged alphabetically by **STREET NAME** (not your name). If you encounter any difficulties in finding them, please do not hesitate to approach a member of the parish team. If you are not part of the thanksgiving program yet, but wish to take part, please contact the parish office and we can give you all the necessary information (see back page the thanksgiving form, if you wish to sign up)

Another way you can contribute is to use the **QR code** at the bottom of this article. Simply scan it with your phone or tablet and follow the prompts to make a one off or ongoing contribution via Googlepay, Applepay or Credit/Debit card. You will also find these QR codes in the front and back foyers for your convenience



ENDEAVOUR HILLS PARISH
Parish Support - Endeavour Hills

PARISH BINGO

Please remember that our next Parish BINGO is on **FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER** from 7.30pm in the annexe. You can come on your own or in a group. For more information please contact Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441

PLAYGROUP is calling for help

Many of us may not be aware that we have a small playgroup which runs on Thursdays between 10am to 11.30am in the Annexe for children aged between 0 to 5 yrs old. The group is run by mothers & grandmothers who generally also bring their child/grandchild with them. The children who attend this group will be accompanied by a parent/ guardian. We are looking for volunteers to assist co-ordinate and run the sessions on a roster. You will not be required to run the session every week. However, you will be required to comply to the Archdiocese's safeguarding policy, we will help you to obtain all the necessary documents. If you think this is something that you are interested in taking part, please contact the parish office on 9700 3781 (Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm) and we will provide you with more information regarding this group.

SAFEGUARDING CORNER

2026 Theme is *'Every Conversation Matters, Shifting Conversation to Action'*

This year National Child Protection Week (6-12 September) is driving a stronger national focus on shifting conversations into meaningful action.

Conversations can spark new ideas and encourage reflection. But real change happens when those conversations translate into practical steps that create safer environments and stronger support for children and families. National Child Protection Week helps turn these conversations into action. Extending beyond the Week itself as a year-round national campaign, it brings people across Australia together to strengthen support systems, prevent harm and help children grow up safe and supported. By shifting conversation to action, we can build communities where every child not only feels heard but also experiences real safety, care and protection. Please visit <https://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw-theme/>

DANDENONG DEANERY DINNER

The Date for the next Deanery Dinner is **Wednesday 16th September 2026** at the Graduate's Restaurant, St John's Regional College (Caroline Street, Dandenong) at 5.30pm. Cost is \$48 per person for 3 course meal wine & Beer.

If you are interested in joining, RSVP is essential by Friday 11th Sept. 2026 Phone or Text Paddy 0422 296 961 or e-mail: dandenongdeanery@live.com.au

COME AWAY

The next Come Away Day for 2026 will be held at Holy Cross (207 Serpells Rd, Templestowe) on **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16th**. Begins at 9.30am in the Holy Cross. Concludes with celebration of the Eucharist. The suggested cost is \$30.00 (BYO Lunch) Just come as you are.

For any further details contact Sr Brigid cp on bridget.m64@gmail.com

TRIVIA NIGHT

Men's group is one of our long standing parish group. They meets once a month in the annexe. This year, they will be running a TRIVIA NIGHT on **FRIDAY, 16 OCTOBER, 2026** at 7pm for 7.30pm start. This event will be at the South School Hall. There will be Raffles and Silent Auctions.

Tickets are \$20per-person (BYO nibbles and drinks). You can come on your own or organise a table with your family/ friends. It is a fun night while you can also test your knowledge. For any inquiries and bookings, please contact Peter on 0418 345 576 or Rob on 0411 237 790



This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Christopher De Zilva, Ranjane Jeganathan, Edgar Tellis, Cecil Harper, Peter Shaw-Dennis, Pendry Jackson, Irma Dias, Fr Chris Mithen CP, Mary Antoun, Anne McCallister, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Cecile Potier, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Tonia Messina, Rekha (Rose) Arora, Danny Sugunasekera, Kerryn Carney, Denis Carlow, Stephen Chapman, Eduardo Dias, Sally D'Cruz, Yvonne Sherwin, Djuniati Hermawan, Joyce Rebeiro **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



Readings:

24 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

www.universalis.com

25 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Isaiah 55:6-9

Philippians 1:20-24. 27

Matthew 20:1-16

www.universalis.com

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD

Present Envelope number (if known) _____

RETURN TO
 St Paul Apostle Parish Office
 5 William Hovell Drive
 ENDEAVOUR HILLS
 VIC 3802

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ My age group is: ☐ under 30 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50-59 ☐ 60-69 ☐ 70+**Envelopes**

My Stewardship Pledge will be: \$ _____

every: ☐ week ☐ month ☐ quarter ☐ half year ☐ year**Or... Direct Debit from a nominated bank account**

(Forms available from the Parish Office)

My Stewardship Pledge will be: \$ _____

every: ☐ fortnight ☐ month ☐ quarter ☐ half year ☐ year**Or....Credit Card**

Please debit my Credit Card with the sum of: \$ _____

Every: ☐ month ☐ quarter ☐ half-year ☐ year

Name on Card: _____

Please
only
tick one

Expiry Date: ____ / ____

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I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AUTHORITY MAY BE CANCELLED IN WRITING AT MY OPTION

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Glenys Tran Rohan Wickramasinghe Jennifer Cunningham	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Stephen Herbert Binitha Mathews Patricia D'Souza	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Aloma Pereira Folole Faleafa Rinku Arora	Dominque Maclou Sai Dlinger Naomi Falo Stephen Nasalio Santhanamary	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Dalreen Fernandes Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Binitha Mathews Patricia D'Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe Kyle Hoad Emma Hoad	Naomi Falo Dominque Maclou Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Mignonne Meerwald Swineetha Disanayake Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Nila Fernando Rinku Arora Kyle or Emma Hoad	Binitha Mathews Stephen Herbert Vianney Clark Patricia D'Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Marg Keating Peng Chee Jenny Catania

 Please note that the above rosters are subject to the completion
 of the required SAFEGUARDING documents and training
