



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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



Twenty sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 26-27 September, 2026

FAITH THAT MAKES ROOM

(extracted from *Melbourne Catholic*)

As we celebrate Refugee Sunday, we hear a story from Gabrielle Fakhry who talks about her work with refugees and asylum seekers, she tells stories about people.

They are funny and sometimes chaotic. They are also moving, like the one about the traumatised refugee grandfather who sat vigilantly outside a childcare centre because he was terrified someone would take his grandchildren. Together, they reveal a confident woman without a shred of ego, whose Catholic faith is expressed through practical love.

Born in New Zealand to a Kiwi dad and Lebanese mum, Gabrielle came to Australia as a young woman with her Lebanese Maronite husband, Tony.

Her significant work with refugees was recognised this year in the King's Birthday awards, but began in 1981, when she supported Lebanese people arriving in Australia after the war in Lebanon.

While working for VICSEG—the Victorian Cooperative of Children's Services for Ethnic Groups—Gabrielle helped establish a bilingual childcare centre with the Maronite Antonine Sisters in Coburg, an initiative that required years of persistence. In those days, she says, people did not understand the importance of maintaining language and culture, and a bilingual childcare centre was not high on the list of anyone's priorities.

After much lobbying with Bob Hawke, who was then her local MP, the project received funding. The childcare centre was built on land purchased by the sisters and, decades later, is still operating. Gabrielle remained involved with the Antonine Sisters for many years as they developed schools, aged care services and other community facilities.

Amid all this, Gabrielle and Tony were raising their family—three sons. Their eldest lives with a number of disabilities, and Gabrielle spends a great deal of time advocating for him with service providers. She also helps care for her nonagenarian mother, the matriarch of a large, close-knit family.

As part of her work with VICSEG, she joined up with Darebin Council in 1999 to help asylum seekers leaving detention. 'They'd come out with no clothes, no food, no money from the government, and it was just absolutely shocking,' she says. This then led to the creation of the Thornbury Asylum Seekers Resource Centre. Volunteers offered classes, legal assistance, household goods and food.

'We ended up doing a community garden so people could grow their own vegetables,' Gabrielle says. 'We had English classes. I got funding and did a Saturday morning playgroup for traumatised children, with professional teachers coming and working with the children, which was amazing.'

The work was supported by churches, local organisations and people who simply wanted to help. Gabrielle remembers community lunches at which dozens of people might arrive, regardless of how little food seemed to be available.

Gabrielle sees these moments through the eyes of her Catholic faith. She is committed to both the Maronite and Roman rites. 'Faith is a big part of our lives,' she says. 'We never miss church. Never.'

She and her mother pray the Rosary together each morning. Gabrielle also prays a litany of saints: St Charbel, St Joseph, St Mary of the Cross, St Teresa of Calcutta, St Francis of Assisi, St Rafka and St Maron.

'I hope I made a difference,' Gabrielle says. 'People say I did. But it doesn't matter. Even if two or three people think that you've made a difference, it does. You're not going to stop what you do.'

That is Gabrielle Fakhry's life of service. She sees a need, finds people willing to help, prays about the matter and gets on with the work.

Her Order of Australia Medal recognises her service to migrants, refugees and multicultural communities. But Gabrielle is more comfortable talking about the people who cooked, interpreted, delivered furniture, donated food and stood beside her than about being honoured herself

(for full story you can visit this link [Gabrielle Fakhry OAM: a faith that makes room | Melbourne Catholic](#))

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



ENDEAVOUR HILLS PARISH
Parish Support - Endeavour Hills

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**
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 2026

First reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the book of Prophet Isaiah

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed,

and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon

it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah. are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord

Second reading

Philippians 4:6-9

Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia alleluia

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord.
to go and bear fruit that will last . Alleluia

Psalm

You brought a vine out of Egypt
you drove out the nations and planted it
It sent out its branches to the sea,
and its shoots to the River

Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?"
The boar from the forest ravages it
and all that move in the field feed on it

Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven, and see
have regard for this vine,
the stock that your right hand planted

Then we will never turn back from you
give us life, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts
let your face shine, that we may be saved

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:
"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, 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 said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom
The Good News of the Lord

Reflection

"In what specific area of my life am I saying 'yes' to God with my words,
but leaving the field empty with my actions?"

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



ADORATION GROUP is inviting everyone to join on **TUESDAY 29 September** between

6-7pm to attend our Church Chapel. Come along, bring your family and friends for an hour, even if you can make it for 30 minutes, let's pray together for families, children and elderly.

Further details please contact John Hendriks 0418308051 or Johnhendriks@gmail.com



PLAYGROUP is calling for help

Many of us may not be aware that we have a small play-group 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

How connection and belonging shapes children and young people's vulnerability online

eSafety presentations highlight online safety trends and issues for children and young people. This eSafety session aims to empower you with strategies to respond to emerging online risks and harms and support children and young people and their families to stay safer online.

Connection, identity, and belonging are powerful drivers for young people online, but they can also increase vulnerability. This webinar explores:

- the role of offline experiences in shaping vulnerability online

- why some young people are more at risk online
- strategies to support safer online engagement

about the presenter—eSafety Commissioner Team

Presented by a team member of the eSafety Commissioner, Australia's independent regulator for online safety. They educate Australians about online safety risks and help to remove harmful content such as cyberbullying of children, adult cyber abuse and intimate images or videos shared without consent.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Men's group is one of our long standing parish group. They meet 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



2026 Knox Public Lecture

Catholic Theological College together with University of Divinity is running a Public Lecture on "SYNODALITY: GLOBAL AND LOCAL"

This event will be held on **THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER** at 7:00 pm

Presented by Most Reverend Patrick O'Regan DD (Archbishop of Adelaide)

If you are interested to join this lecture please book using the QR code or go to 2026 Knox Lecture

Enquiries: by phone +613 9412 3333 or email to ctc.edu.au

RSVP by **THURSDAY 15 October, 2026**



This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Marie-Louise Harris, Christopher De Zilva, Ranjanee Jeganathan, 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

Geraldine Bernadette Meade, Edgar Tellis, Tonia Messina, Rekha (Rose) Arora, Danny Sugunasekera, Kerryne Carney, Denis Carlow, Stephen Chapman, Dunstan Gomesz, Ruth Gomesz, Colleen Lobo, Hartley Fernando, deceased member of Lobo & Baker Families, for the intention of the giver **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



Readings:

26 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Philippians 2: 1-11

Matthew 21:28-32

www.universalis.com

27 Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Isaiah 5:1-7

Philippians 4:6-9

Matthew 21:33-43

www.universalis.com

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD Present Envelope number (if known)

RETURN TO
St Paul Apostle Parish Office
5 William Howell 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: ____ / ____

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 Dilinger 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

