



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Fifth Sunday of Easter, 2-3 May, 2026

Keep Church door open, don't be an obstacle

(Pope message to Priest, written by Junno Arocho Esteves in OSV News)

Priests are called each day to leave the doors of the Church open to a 'suffering humanity' in need and not 'be an obstacle to those who wish to enter', Pope Leo XIV told ten deacons just before ordaining them to the priesthood.

The vocation to priestly ministry is a call to reflect Christ's 'patience and tenderness' and 'to keep the threshold open and direct others to it, without using too many words, the Pope said on 26 April during his homily at the ordination Mass in St Peter's Basilica.

'Today more than ever, especially when statistics seem to indicate a divide between people and the Church, keep the door open! Let people in, and be prepared to go out. This is another secret for your life: You are a channel, not a filter,' he said.

Of the ten priests ordained by Pope Leo, eight were ordained for the Diocese of Rome, including six Italians, a Cameroonian and a Colombian. Four studied at Rome's major seminary, and four were prepared for the priesthood at the Neocatechumenal Way's Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Rome.

Two priests were ordained for other dioceses or congregations. Mexican Fr Armando Roa Nuñez was ordained for the Diocese of Miao, India, while Fr Selwyn Pinto Loyce was ordained as a member of the Idente Missionaries.

According to Vatican News, an estimated 5,000 people, comprised of family and friends of the ordinands, were present at the ordination Mass, which coincided with the celebration of the World Day of Vocations.

After greeting those present at the Mass, Pope Leo began his homily by exclaiming, 'This Sunday is full of life!' He said that 'although death surrounds us,' Jesus' promise in the gospel reading—that he came so we 'might have life and have it more abundantly'—was fulfilled.

'We see great generosity and enthusiasm in the willingness of these young men whom the Church calls today to be ordained as priests,' the Pope said. 'As a numerous and diverse community gathered around the one Master, we feel a presence that renews us. It is the Holy Spirit who unites people and vocations in freedom, so that no one lives for themselves any longer.' Reflecting on the priestly vocation, the Pope reminded

the candidates that the deeper their bond with Christ, 'the more radical your belonging to all of humanity,' thus binding their hearts to 'an indissoluble love'.

Like the love of spouses, he explains, 'the love that inspires celibacy for the Kingdom of God must also be guarded and constantly renewed, for every true affection matures and becomes fruitful over time.'

'You are called to a specific, delicate and difficult way of loving and, even more so, of allowing yourselves to be loved in freedom,' the Pope said. 'This will make you not only good priests, but also honest, helpful citizens, builders of peace and social friendship.'

Recalling the gospel reading, the Pope noted that Jesus' reference to 'aggressive figures and actions', such as thieves, robbers and strangers who 'disregard boundaries', shows that Christ knows 'the cruelty of the world, where he walks with us'

This, however, does not 'deter him from giving up his life', the Pope said.

'Denunciation does not become renunciation; danger does not lead to flight. This is another secret for the life of the priest: We must not be frightened by reality. It is the Lord of life who calls us. May the ministry entrusted to you, dear brothers, convey the peace of those who know that they are safe, even amid dangers,' he said.

Pope Leo noted that the need for security in today's world 'makes people aggressive, causes communities to close in on themselves and leads people to seek out enemies and scapegoats.'

Nevertheless, despite the presence of fear, the Pope encouraged the new priests to find their security not in 'the role you hold but in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, as well as in your participation, along with your people, in the story of salvation.

'This salvation is already at work in the many good deeds that are quietly carried out by people of goodwill in the parishes and settings where you will join them as fellow travellers. What you proclaim and celebrate will protect you, even in difficult times,' he said.

Pope Leo said that Jesus' reminder that he is the gate means that 'he does not stifle our freedom', while noting the existence of 'communities that suffocate—some groups are easy to enter but are impossible to leave.'

PTO

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

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

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

The Lord's Church and the community of disciples are not like this, he said.

'We all seek shelter, rest and care,' the Pope explained. 'The Church's doors are open, but not to cut us off from life. Life does not end in a parish, in an association, in a movement, in a group. Whoever is saved can "go out and find pasture,"' he said.

The Pope invited the new priests to 'go out and discover culture, peo-

ple and life' and to marvel 'at the things that God makes grow without our having sown them'.

'The people you will serve as priests—lay faithful and families, young and old, children and the sick—inhabit pastures that you must come to know,' he said. 'At times it will seem to you that you lack the necessary maps. But the Good Shepherd has them; listen to his very familiar voice.'

Readings for **NEXT WEEK** **Sixth Sunday of Easter, 2026**

First Reader: *Acts 8:5-8. 14-17*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them.

The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit
This is the Word of God

Psalm

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise.
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."
Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds
among the children of Adam.

He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
There we rejoiced in him,
who rules by his might forever,

Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.
Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me

Second Reader

1 Peter 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Beloved

In your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,
This is the Word of God

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me keep my word
and my Father love them, and we will come to them
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: *John 14:15-21*

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. The one who has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Good news of the Lord

Reflection

We are bound to each other, perhaps not by chains or silken ribbons, but true love is stronger than chains

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



SACRAMENT PROGRAM—FIRST COMMUNION

Our next program for this year is the Sacrament of the First Communion. Please note of the following important dates:

- First Family Night is on **TUESDAY, 5 May** at 7pm in the Church
- This will be followed by 4 session either at school (those attending our parish schools) or at ASRE (for those attending non parish schools)
- Last Family Night is on **TUESDAY 16 June** at 7pm in the Church

CHILDRENS LITURGY

As we are all aware, the running of the parish relies heavily on the generosity of parishioners who volunteer their time to run many of our Church activities and programs. One such program, our Children's Liturgy group is growing in attendance and is in great need of additional leaders. Children's Liturgy is held on Sunday 11am Mass, during the school term. It commences at the beginning of the Mass and ends at offering time (during the second collection). Each time, there must be at least 2 volunteers to run it, under the safeguarding policy. If you have time and are willing to assist this group, please contact the Parish Office and we will give you more information. Please consider to help this group.

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF)

Last month we had a visit from the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) which is a financial Institution assisting to fund projects across Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese organisations, including parishes (one of them being our parish), hospital wings and classrooms as well as charity groups (such as St. Vincent de Paul). These funds are generated from maintaining the accounts which are entrusted to CDF.

While the account holder gains interest from their savings or any other investment form, CDF is able to help fund charities, churches and other Catholic organisations with their needs.

For more information, you can either use the QR code provided, call 1800 134 135, or use this link

www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund

PROJECT COMPASSION!!

If you have Project Compassion box/es at home, it is now the time to bring them back to the Church so that we can bank in the money to the Caritas.

BINGO

Our next parish Bingo will be on **FRIDAY, 15 May, 2026** at 7.30pm in the Annexe. You can come on your own or as a group. For more information please contact Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441. Please note that this activity is strictly adults only (18 years or over). Unfortunately, there is a strict policy which states that anyone under this age is not permitted inside the hall during Bingo

BREAD RUN

Bread Run is one of Vinnies (St Vincent de Paul's) programs. The bread comes from a local bakery and is distributed to those who are in need. At this stage, the group needs some extra hands to help them with distributing the bread. They run on Thursday at 7pm from the room under the Church building.

If you think you can help this group, please contact Vianney on 0438 700 675 she will provide you with additional information



CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August).

CatholicCare Victoria is the Church's mission in action - empowering communities and building strength and resilience, to enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full. Your kindness and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community.

Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515.

COME AWAY

Come Away Retreats are conducted at the Holy Cross Centre on a monthly basis. A time for both sharing and quiet time in the beautiful garden setting of Holy Cross; guided meditation, silence, Mass and Anointing, opportunity for individual guidance. Session times: 9.30am. (start with a cuppa) to 3.00pm. (BYO lunch)

Our next session is **Wednesday, June 24th, 2026**

This long-standing Passionist Ministry at Holy Cross is valued by many. We invite you to support it financially according to your means. Suggested Donation \$20 – \$25

Readings:

Fifth Sunday of Easter Yr A

Acts 6:1-7

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

www.universalis.com

Sixth Sunday of Easter Yr A

Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

1 Peter 3:15-18

John 14:15-21

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Irma Dias, Eduardo Dias, Fr Chris Mithen CP, Kerryn Carney, Mary Antoun, Anne McCallister, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Tyronne Walles, Cecile Potier, Fr. Michael Willemsen, Sebastian Nowakowski, Maria Terezia Szabo, Mavis David, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, 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

Giuseppina Materia, Barbara Anne Tobin, Sintia Nugraha, Milica Kosi, Kuntjoro Setyo, Raffaella Di Gennaro, Ronald Harris, Amato Ganino, Betty Scanlan, Monica Mary Sleeman, Robert Stellato, Mareka (Mareta) Dunlop, Jacinta Martyn, Cheryl Anthony, Joyce Madeira, Rita Barber, Sidney Platcher, Jenny Dirckze, Reginald Foulrize **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2026

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Janina Gorski	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio William Roncon
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Alvita Dias Rinku Arora	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Anne Astin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu

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 Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe Jennifer Cunningham	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Stephen Herbert Binitha Mathew Patricia D'Souza	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Anabela Costa Aloma Pereira David Goh Rinku Arora	Dominique 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 Rosa Mitchell Jennifer Cunningham Sig Romano	Vianney Clark Antionette Gargano Binitha Mathew Patricia De Souza Marie Claire Maillard	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Michelle Boissezon Rohan Wickramasinghe David Goh Daphne Goh	Naomi Falo Dominique 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 Daphne Goh	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Vianney Clark Patricia De 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

