



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 31 January—1 February, 2026

RED MASS

(extracted from Melbourne Catholic Magazine)

At this year's Red Mass to mark the opening of the legal year, members of Melbourne's legal community were invited to pause and remember the sacred character of their vocation. In his homily, Cardinal Mykola Bychok CSSR drew upon the wisdom of the Beatitudes, and urged those in the law to pursue justice with humility, compassion, and integrity. In a time of social tension and uncertainty, he called on the profession to be a steadying presence—upholding truth, protecting the vulnerable, and strengthening the bonds that hold society together.

Hundreds of judges, magistrates, barristers, solicitors and parliamentarians gathered in the golden morning light at St Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday 27 January for the annual Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit. This year, as is customary in a Red Mass, the gifts of the spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel and fortitude—were invoked with the stirring reminder that 'justice, at its best, is an act of love.'

His Eminence Cardinal Mykola Bychok told the assembled members of the judiciary and legal profession that their pursuit of justice is a 'sacred task, one that touches the dignity of every person and shapes the moral character of our nation.'

Drawing from the day's Scripture readings, Cardinal Bychok framed the legal vocation through the lens of compassion and moral character. The prophet Isaiah's description of a servant who 'does not break the bruised reed or extinguish the wavering flame,' spoke deeply to the legal profession, he said. 'Every day you encounter people whose lives are fragile, whose hopes are dim, whose stories are marked by suffering.'

'The law gives structure and order, but it is your humanity that gives it life. Justice, in the biblical sense, is never harsh or indifferent. It is firm, but it is also compassionate. It seeks what is right while remembering the human person standing before it.'

The Gospel reading of the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:1-12 formed the core of his message. Cardinal Bychok argued that these principles offer a vital guide for contemporary legal practice, especially in contemporary Australia.

'Australia faces significant challenges—growing social fragmentation, polarisation in public debate, pressures on families and communities, and a loss of trust in institutions,' he said. 'In such a climate, the work of the legal profession becomes even more vital. You help hold together the fragile bonds of our society.'

He directly linked the Beatitudes to the attributes needed in law and public life: the 'poor in spirit,' who remain humble and aware of their own limitations; 'those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,' who refuse to become cynical, who continue to seek truth even when it is difficult or costly.

'Blessed are the merciful—those who recognise that every person is more than their mistakes. Blessed are the peacemakers—those who work to heal divisions, resolve conflicts, and build harmony in society.'

'Our society needs voices that speak with clarity but also with charity,' Cardinal Bychok continued. 'It needs people who can disagree without demeaning, who can uphold principles without hostility, who can seek justice without losing sight of mercy. You, in your daily work, have the opportunity to model this balance. You can show that justice and compassion are not opposites but partners.'

The Red Mass is a tradition dating back to medieval Europe, invoking divine guidance for those who administer justice. Similar services were held across Melbourne on Tuesday by other denominations to mark the opening of the legal year.

Parliamentarians from the Commonwealth and Victorian governments in attendance included Federal MP Mark Dreyfus KC, Senator Raff Ciccone, the Victorian opposition leader Jess Wilson MP, and several state government ministers.

The first reading from Isaiah 42:1-3 was delivered by Christopher Beale KC, and prayers of intercession included a plea for justice in Australia and Ukraine by Her Honour Judge Barbara Myers.

Cardinal Bychok encouraged all present to 'let the spirit of the servant in Isaiah and the wisdom of the Beatitudes shape your work and your relationships.' He prayed that the Holy Spirit would grant them wisdom, integrity, courage and compassion in all their dealings.

'May your work this year strengthen the bonds of our society,' he concluded, 'and help build a nation marked by fairness, respect and hope.'

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

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 58:7-10

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break the yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; When you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The word of the Lord

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

When I came to you, brothers and sister, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words of wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible works of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest on human wisdom but on the power of God. The word of the Lord

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord, whoever follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Psalm

Light rises in the darkness for the upright, gracious, merciful and righteous. It is well with the person who deals generously and lends who conducts their affairs with justice.

For the righteous person will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. Unafraid of evil tidings, their heart is firm, secure in the Lord.

That person's heart is steady and will not be afraid. One who has distributed freely, who has given to the poor, their righteous endures forever; their name is exalted in honour.

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before human beings, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. This is the Gospel, the Good News of the Lord.

Reflection

"Jesus calls the poor in spirit, the gentle, and the merciful 'blessed'—values that often contradict the world's definition of success. Which of the Beatitudes is most challenging for me to live out this week, and how can I trust God enough to embrace it?"

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



FATHER. VINH'S THANKSGIVING MASS

Father Vinh was in our parish for few months during his deaconate period was ordained in early December 2025. Coming back from Vietnam, Father Vinh will have his thanksgiving Mass here on **SUNDAY, 8 February 2026 at 11am Mass**. This will be followed by a gathering in the Annexe. Please bring a plate to share

ASH WEDNESDAY

This year, ASH WEDNESDAY is on 18 FEBRUARY 2026 There will be Mass in the **MORNING at 9am** and **EVENING at 7pm**. If you have palm leaves from last year, you may bring them to the church by Sunday 15 February, so that we can prepare them to make this year ashes.

PARISH BINGO

Our parish bingo has started well with last month. Thank you to those who joined, It will come back in March. Will keep you posted of the date.

2026 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

This program is designed for all children who have been baptised in Catholic Church.

Reconciliation:

(child must be at least in grade 4)

Registration form must be in by Wednesday, 11 February 2026

First Family night: Tuesday 17 February at 7pm

(Follow by 3 classes at parish schools or ASRE)

Last Family night : Tuesday 10 March at 7pm

Service : Tuesday 17 March at 7pm

(depending on the number, maybe 2 sessions)

First Communion

(child must be at least in grade 4 and has received Sacrament of reconciliation)

Registration form must be in by Wednesday, 1st April, 2026

First Family Night: Tuesday 5 May at 7pm

(Follow by 5 classes at parish schools or ASRE)

Last family night: Tuesday 16 June at 7pm

First Communion Masses: Saturday 20 June (maybe 2 Masses)

Confirmation

(child must be at least in grade 6 and has received Sacrament of reconciliation and First Communion)

Please note that the registration for this sacrament is required to be in **EARLY IN THE YEAR**

Registration form must be in by Wednesday, 1st April, 2026

First Family night: Tuesday 15 September at 7pm

(Follow by 4 classes at parish Schools or ASRE)

Last Family Night: Tuesday 17 November at 7pm

Session with Bishop: To be advised

Confirmation Masses: Saturday 21 November at 12pm (maybe also at 2pm)

**** Donation for is \$25 per child, per sacrament ****

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our Children's liturgy has now resumed.

This ministry provides a liturgy for children age up to 12 years old. This will allow our children to hear the readings and reflection in their own special language. We hold this ministry on almost every Sunday during school term at 11am Mass. Leaders and helpers are volunteers from our parish who are complied to safeguarding rule.

For those children who are 4 years and under and wishes to join in, we ask one of the parent to stay with them all the time (older siblings are not allowed to care for their younger siblings)

At this stage we are looking for more volunteers to join in to lead or help to keep this ministry going. If you are interested, please come to the parish office and will guide you to get you complied to the safeguarding rule.

PARISH PLAYGROUP

Our parish playgroup runs every THURSDAY during school term from 10am to 11.30am in the TIM O'TOOLE ANNEXE (our church annexe hall)

Anyone is welcome to join in. If you wish to volunteer, please let the current leaders or the parish office know

Readings:

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Matthew 5:1-12a

www.universalis.com

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Isaiah 58:7-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Matthew 5:13-16

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

John Kelly, Doug McGuinness, Marian Meade-Salzer, Pedro Llerena, Anne McCallister, Giuseppina Materia, Neville Akom, Terry Gough, Tyrone 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

Mareta Dunlop, Jacinta Martyn, Kamal Markos, Fr. Paul Mercieca CP, Salvino Mifsud, Adrian Dal Lago, Cheryl Anthony, Fr Michael Shadbolt, Stephanie Kinson, Mario Clemente, **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

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	Dominque Maclou Sai Dilingier 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 Dominque Maclou Lauren Rafferty Stephen Herbert Santhanamary	Brendan Keating 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

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

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

