

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, ‘This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.’ Jesus replied, ‘There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.’ But they answered, ‘All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.’ ‘Bring them here to me,’ he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The Mystery of Faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...
All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...
R. Amen.
P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Wis 16:20
You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

JESUS NURTURES US

Have you ever experienced a time when you needed to rest, restore yourself and, perhaps, even reflect on the direction in which your life is moving? Today’s Gospel can speak to this experience. Jesus, accompanied by his disciples, steps ashore from a boat and discovers a troubled crowd in need of healing. It is evening, a *lonely* (literally, ‘a desert’) place and the crowd needs to eat. Figuratively, this crowd represents how we might feel at times, in need of care, comfort, healing and sustenance.

The disciples have the solution. They want *him* to send the people off to purchase food from the local villages. But Jesus surprises the disciples with another solution: *they* are to find the food that is necessary. The Greek text can also be interpreted, ‘You give them *yourselves* to eat!’ This gets to the heart of the issue. The disciples retort that they don’t have what is needed (either physically or personally?) to satisfy the hungry crowd, only five loaves and two fish, representative of the average food allowance for one household in the ancient world.

Jesus gets the crowd to sit down (literally, ‘recline’—the dining posture in the Greco-Roman world) on the ‘grass’ (but isn’t this a desert?) takes the meagre offering of the disciples, prays a eucharistic blessing over the loaves and fish, then gets the disciples to distribute to the crowd. They eat, are satisfied, and there remains enough leftovers, twelve baskets full, for the future. Our deepest need for spiritual restoration and nurture is met in today’s celebration of Word and Eucharist. Jesus nurtures us.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 779. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

2 AUGUST 2026

‘GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT YOURSELVES.’ With the five loaves and two fish that Jesus had blessed, the disciples fed a vast crowd. Our acts of service and love towards others may often seem small but, blessed by Jesus, they too can have a great impact. We need Jesus to bless our work, and Jesus needs us to feed the hungry and comfort the lonely of our world. Together, we can do great things.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 69:2, 6
O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory; / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you

as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 55:1-3
A reading from the prophet Isaiah Hasten and eat.
Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 144:8-9, 15-18. R. v. 16
R. The hand of the Lord feeds us, he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, / slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you / and you give them their food in due time. / You open wide your hand, / grant the desires of all who live. **R.**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call him, / call on him from their hearts. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 8:35, 37-39
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.
Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or



being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

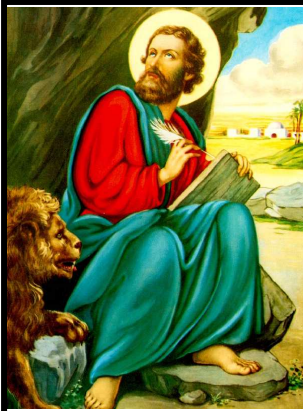
For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:4
Alleluia, alleluia! / No one lives on bread alone, / but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 14:13-21
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist’s death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.



St. Mark's Parish, Fawkner

St. Mark's Parish is committed to the safety, well being and dignity of all children, people and vulnerable adults.

Parish Priest: Fr. Colin J. Xavier
Assistant Priest: Fr. Benneth Osuagwu
9 Lee Street, Fawkner, 3060
Phone: 9359 3111
Email: fawkner@cam.org.au

Website: <https://www.melbatholic.org/fawkner>

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am to 4:30pm

"I will not forget you... I have carved you on the palm of my Hand" (Is 49:15-16)

Principal: Peter Wilson
St. Mark's Parish School
118 Argyle St, Fawkner, 3060.
Phone: 8335 4100
Email: principal@smfawkner.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.smfawkner.catholic.edu.au

Weekday Mass Times:

Monday to Saturday: 9:00am.

Weekend Mass Times:

6:00pm: Saturday Vigil Mass.

10:00am: Sunday Morning Mass.

6:00pm: Sunday Evening Mass.

First Sunday of the Month:

Renewal of Marriage Vows.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 9:30am and 5:15pm.

Or feel free to phone Fr. Colin.

Every Thursday of the Month:

5:30 - 7:00pm: Hope Café (Free Dinner).

First Wednesday of the Month:

7:00pm: Baptism Preparation Meeting.

First Saturday of the Month:

10:00 - 11:30am: Working Bee.

Parish Advisory and Safeguarding

Committee: Fr. C. Xavier, Fr. B. Osuagwu, P. Wilson, A. George, L. Rahme, L. Grech, D. Abela, E. Bathan.

ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH, MASS TIMES

Tuesday - Friday: 9:30am. Saturday: 5:30pm.
Sunday: 9:00am and 10:30am (Italian).



Are you planning a Marriage in the near future?

If so, in order to avoid disappointment, it is most important to first make an appointment with the Parish Priest prior to making any other bookings.



Do not leave your mobiles, purses, wallets, handbags unattended - others may think it is an answer to their prayers...

BEQUEATHING

Would you like to remember the Parish in your Will? Property, Money, Artwork, Plants...

There are many ways you can be remembered.

Do contact the Parish Office (03) 9359 3111 for further information. May God bless you!

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC PARISH

A warm welcome to new parishioners.

Please let us know that you have joined our community and if there is anything we can do for you.



New to our Parish? ☐

Changing address? ☐

Need Thanksgiving Envelopes? ☐

Please Complete the details below and place in the collection plate at Mass or send to the Parish office.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

PARISH PRAYER

God our Father, bless this parish so that we may love you more.

Help parents to be good examples to their children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

Encircle our families with your loving care.

To the sick and the weak grant health, to the aged bring serenity, and to those in sorrow, joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living.

Amen.

QR CODE AND ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR THE THANKSGIVING PLEDGE



To make a thanksgiving payment, parishioners simply scan your MelbCatholic QR code with your mobile phone camera and follow a few easy steps. This QR code is unique to St. Mark's Church. Alternatively please make a direct transfer to our Parish Account.

Account Name: St. Mark's Church
BSB: 083-347

Account No: 825284554

Account Name: St. Mark's Presbytery
BSB: 083-347

Account No: 673272043

We thank you for your continuous support and help!



Next Weekends Rosters:

8th Aug (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: L. Peters.

Extraordinary Minister:

9th Aug (Sun):

10.00am: Reader: J. Mansour & T. Betham.

Extraordinary Minister: R. Mirabile, F. Cortara & G. Canfailla.

6.00pm: Reader: D. Borg.

Church Cleaning:

6th Aug (Thu) Team 2

A. Campana & V. Mandundu.

Counters:

4th Aug: M. & N. D'Souza .

11th Aug: L. Grech.

Thanksgiving: \$516(Env) \$580 (Loose). Presbytery: \$244 (Env) \$428 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.



all that's missing is U!

Pilgrim Virgin: 23rd July - Casaccio Family. 6th August - Lucera Family.

Death Anniversaries: Kevin O'Gorman & Luigi Masciantonio.

3rd Aug (Mon): Memorial of St. Dominic.

4th Aug (Tue): Memorial of St. John Vianney.

6th Aug (Thu): Feast of The Transfiguration of the Lord.

8th Aug (Sat): Solemnity of St. Mary of the Cross.

Those who are celebrating their Birthday and Wedding Anniversary this month - We wish you the most beautiful time with family and friends.



"BE FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS BECAUSE IT IS IN THEM THAT YOUR STRENGTH LIES."



POPE'S AUGUST PRAYER INTENTION: FOR MUTUAL COEXISTENCE

The Pope invites us to pray "that societies avoid internal conflicts due to ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons" and encouraging us to "seek paths of dialogue" and "respond to conflict with gestures of fraternity."

He recalls that we stand in Jesus' presence, in need of His peace. We live in times of fear and division. Sometimes we act as if we were alone, building walls that separate us from one another, forgetting that we are brothers and sisters. He calls on Jesus to send the Holy Spirit "to rekindle within us the desire to understand one another, to listen, to live together with respect and compassion."

The Holy Father prays to the Lord for the courage to seek paths of dialogue, to respond to conflict with gestures of fraternity, to open our hearts to others without fear of difference, to make us builders of bridges, able to overcome borders and ideologies, able to see others through the eyes of the heart, recognizing in every person an inviolable dignity. Help us to create spaces where hope can flourish, where diversity is not a threat but a richness that makes us more human."

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord is a celebration of the life and glory of God, which shone out in Jesus like a brilliant light. If we obey the Father's Mountain message from the cloud and listen to Jesus, we will choose the way of life and peace, not violence and death. **WE MUST ACCEPT THE STORY IN THE SAME SPIRIT THAT THE EVANGELIST INTENDED: SOMETHING OF WHAT HAPPENED ON MT. TABOR CAN - AND SHOULD - OCCUR IN OUR LIVES AS WELL.**



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS. CATHERINE MCAULEY... She always remembered that if there were ten thousand rules to be observed, the greatest of these is **CHARITY**. Catherine's spirituality was centred on the mercy of God...prayer in action... action in prayer.



Census 2026 - Shape the Future: Be Counted as Catholic this Census

Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion. **Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services - guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia.**

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

69. How do the soul and body form a unity in the human being?

The human person is a being at once corporeal and spiritual. In man spirit and matter form one nature. This unity is so profound that, thanks to the spiritual principle which is the soul, the body which is material, becomes a living human body and participates in the dignity of the image of God.



FEAST OF GOD THE FATHER

Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are (1Jn.3:1).

The Heart of a Father

Unconditional Love: He loves you just as you are, without needing you to earn it.

Safe Shelter: In hard times, His arms are open to hold and protect you.

Daily Provision: He knows what you need before you ask and watches over your life.



As imperfect beings, we may stumble and fall in this role. But God's grace is abundant, providing us with the strength and wisdom we need. God is the ultimate Father who guides and equips us to fulfill our role with love and grace. May our lives exemplify God's love, compassion, and provision, leaving a lasting legacy of faith and love for generations to come.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK - 2 AUGUST

Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. Let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION ON 23rd AUG



Our celebrations will begin with Mass at 10:00am followed by a Get-Together in the Parish hall to share our diversity and culture with food, music, and family activities.

2026 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

CALLS FAITHFUL TO BE STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH'S MISSION

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway. It will run over three weekends this August. **There will be Special collections on 15-16 Aug and 22-23 Aug to support the Campaign.** Parishioners will be able to make a recurring monthly donation or a once off donation to a tax deductible or non-tax-deductible fund. **Tax deductible donations** will go to the Archbishop's Charitable Fund which supports tax-deductible recipient entities such as Corpus Christi College Building Fund, Priests Retirement Foundation, University of Divinity Building Fund, John Pierce Centre and the Melbourne Overseas Mission. **Non-tax-deductible donations** will go to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Religious Projects Fund which supports seminarian formation and Archbishop Peter's evangelisation initiatives, such as the Australian Catholic Youth Festival and World Youth Day. **Please find Brochures with more information in the Foyer.**

Hope Cafe is in need of: cooking oil, pasta, passata, canned tuna, canned goods, long-life milk and Jams and spreads to help support the meals and care we provide to our community. Thank you!



Thank You to all our parishioners and visitors for your generous contribution towards the Catholic Mission - Propagation of the Faith. We collected \$898 towards the appeal.