

GOSPEL
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.

Command me to come to you over the water.
Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. ‘It is a ghost’ they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, ‘Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.’ It was Peter who answered. ‘Lord’, he said ‘if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.’ ‘Come’ said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. ‘Lord! Save me!’ he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. ‘Man of little faith,’ he said ‘why did you doubt?’ And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God.’

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. Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of your Church, for in your mercy you have given them to be offered and by your power you transform them into the mystery of our salvation. 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: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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 Ps 147:12, 14
O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P. May the communion in your Sacrament that we have consumed, save us, O Lord, and confirm us in the light of your truth. 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
TOWARDS UNKNOWN SHORES
There are times when we struggle, as though we are personally battling against a strong headwind and can’t move out of our physical or spiritual slump. Today’s Gospel reflects something of this experience. Jesus makes his disciples get into a boat (a symbol of Matthew’s Gospel household) to sail to the ‘other side’. This ‘side’ is unfamiliar and frightening. Jesus spends time on the land praying while the boat, in the meantime, is battling heavy seas and a strong headwind.

All this is a powerful image of the community of Jesus’ disciples and, at times, like us or our experience of Church: battling, trying to move forward as we feel alone. At this point in the story, Matthew draws on imagery used of God from the First Testament to describe Jesus walking on the water, coming towards a boat filled with terrified disciples. When they see Jesus, their terror heightens thinking he is a ghost. Jesus reassures them. Peter, the leader and spokesperson, then asks to come out to be with Jesus on the water. While Peter’s focus is on Jesus all is safe as he steps from the boat on to the water. But when he becomes distracted by the wind and waves and takes his gaze off Jesus, he begins to sink. Jesus responds immediately to his plea for rescue and the scene concludes with the disciples worshipping Jesus as God’s saving agent. This story speaks forcefully to our community of struggling believers. Jesus seeks to be with us in this ‘boat’ called ‘Church’ as we sail together, in that synodal spirit, towards unknown and frightening shores while subject to fearful and unsettling conditions.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR
A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS
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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A 9 AUGUST 2026

JESUS WENT UP INTO THE HILLS TO PRAY. The prophet Elijah and Jesus both went up a mountain to pray. Many people have experienced the presence of God in the wonder and solitude of a mountain top. But God is also to be found at sea level, in the ups and downs of our daily lives. When we are swamped by troubles and cry out, ‘Lord, save me,’ we allow God to reach out and hold us.

INTRODUCTORY RITES
ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 73:20, 19, 22, 23
Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

GREETING
P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
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.
All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.
V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
V. Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.

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



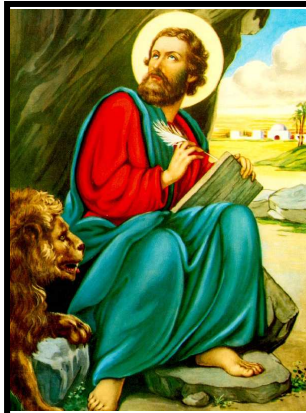
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**
3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 9:1-5
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Ps 129:5
Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!



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. Bennett Osuagwu
9 Lee Street, Fawkner, 3060
Phone: 9359 3111
Email: fawkner@cam.org.au
Website: <https://www.melbcatholic.org/fawkner>
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10:00am to 4:30pm

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

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

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:

15th Aug (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: J. Degran.

Extraordinary Minister:

16th Aug (Sun):

10.00am: Reader: P. Betham & T. Betham.

Extraordinary Minister: M. O'Gorman & N. D'Souza.

6.00pm: Reader: B. Leeds.

Church Cleaning:

13th Aug (Thu) Team 3

I. Laskowski, R. Caruana & S. Markus.

Counters:

11th Aug: L. Grech.

22nd Aug: J. Degran, E. & A. Bathan.

Thanksgiving: \$414(Env) \$607 (Loose). Presbytery: \$217 (Env) \$651 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.

Pilgrim Virgin: 6th August - Lucera Family. 20th August - Genobile Family.

Recently Deceased: Joan Ellul. Death Anniversary: John Quai Hoi.

10th Aug (Mon): Feast of St. Lawrence.

11th Aug (Tue): Memorial of St. Clare

14th Aug (Fri): Memorial of St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe.

15th Aug (Sat): Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady. 9:15am: Open air Mass at the mural.



"THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF GOING FORWARD, BUT ONLY ONE WAY OF STANDING STILL."

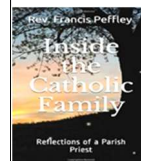
IN ASSISI, POPE ENCOURAGES YOUNG PEOPLE TO 'TOUCH THE SUFFERING FLESH OF OTHERS'



At Mass for the Franciscan Youth Meeting in Assisi, the Pope encourages young people to "overcome resignation and fear," and "write new pages of history." He encouraged his young listeners to go "to the margins" of society, "where the injustice and arrogance of a few deny the dignity and dreams of many." We are called to read the Scriptures with the Master, to interpret our times, and to make decisions as we walk in His footsteps. We are here to overcome resignation and fear, to untangle the doubts that hold us back just as they held back the apostles. Jesus calls us into a dialogue with His story so that we may write new pages of history.

He reminded his listeners that it was in Assisi that "the transfiguration of Francis, of Clare, and then of thousands of other young people" first began. The Church exists, he said, "to draw us into this dynamic of listening and deciding, helping us understand for whom to live and how to live." The Church is "the community where we learn to distinguish the voice of God," and to dare that obedience to the Holy Spirit that made bold and creative all those who agreed to follow Jesus."

INSIDE THE CATHOLIC FAMILY: REFLECTIONS OF A PARISH PRIEST



In the chaos of the modern world, the family has been attacked. The necessary foundations of faith and love are becoming distorted. So what must the world, and the families within it, do to counteract the growing threats? Deepen their understanding of faith and their roles within it. "Inside The Catholic Family" is a testament to that need. A book intertwined with poems and stories of faith, the message deepens the reader's understanding of the beauty and dexterity of the relationships within the family. (Order on Amazon)



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

70. Where does the soul come from?

The spiritual soul does not come from one's parents but is created immediately by God and is immortal. It does not perish at the moment when it is separated from the body in death and it will be once again reunited with the body at the moment of the final resurrection.

19. Synodality and joy

When people are invited to participate meaningfully, joy increases. A synodal Church is not weighed down by bureaucracy but energised by shared mission.



We don't need a Minister for Higher Education...

We need Higher Education for Ministers.



LIFE IS SHORT



You never know when it's the last time.

The last hug. The last laugh. The last night. Life is shorter than we ever admit, and it is not guaranteed. So, don't wait! Say the words, take the risk, be present for the people who matter. Live fully, love deeply, Forgive, let go, laugh, and love.

WHY 59 BEADS :The Rosary has 59 beads, not because of magic but because every bead has a purpose. At first, it may look like a circle of beads passing through your fingers. But it is actually an order of prayer. The whole Rosary was arranged as a path of prayer. You do not have to count everything in your head. You simply follow each bead. The main circle has 50 small beads. Because the Rosary has five decades. Each decade has ten Hail Marys.

But the Rosary does not begin with the 50 main beads. Before that there are 3 small opening beads. They prepare the heart for the prayer. And the 6 larger beads are the Our Father beads. One is at the beginning. The other 5 begin the 5 decades. So, the Rosary has 3 small opening beads. Six larger beads for the Our Father. And 50 small beads in the main circle. 3+6+50. That is why the Rosary has 59 beads. But the meaning of the Rosary is not found in counting. It gives Prayer order, rhythm and a way forward. Each bead leads the person praying through the mysteries. And the whole Rosary becomes a path that brings the heart back to Christ with Mary.



NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK - 9 AUGUST

National Vocations Awareness Week - **Please pray for our priests today in thanksgiving for their ministry and presence in our community.** Please pray for the religious who do so much in pastoral care, education, health care and many other ministries. Pray also that the saints may inspire many vocations to consecrated life and priesthood, especially from our community.



PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION HAS MOVED TO 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.

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.**

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.**