

‘But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

‘You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Shorter form 13:1–9.

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. Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant that, when consumed by those who believe, they may bring ever greater holiness. 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: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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 cf. Ps 83:4-5
The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P. Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that, by our participation in this mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow. 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
ABUNDANT BLESSINGS
For the next several Sundays we will be in the very heart, the centre, of Matthew’s Jewish-oriented Gospel. Jesus absorbed Jewish wisdom and sayings and taught them to his followers He wanted to teach them about God’s ‘kin-dom’. Today’s Gospel has Jesus surrounded by a large crowd. He gets into a boat, sits down in the posture of a rabbinic teacher and instructs the crowd on the lakeside.

The parable that he offers is the most important in the whole Gospel. The principal agent is a sower scattering seed in typical fashion of the time. The farmer is oblivious to where the seed falls but intent that a harvest comes. The seed falls in places characteristic of the Galilean countryside: on the edge of paths and eaten by birds, on rocks, amongst thorns and in places with little depth of soil. But the seed also falls in rich soil and produces an extraordinarily abundant harvest. To a Galilean farmer, a twelve-fold harvest would be a wonderful gift. It would offer food for the coming year and pay off the taxes imposed by Rome and the Jewish religious authorities for the support of the Temple. The production is not twelve-fold, but a *hundred-fold, sixty or thirty!* This would be like a farmer winning the mega-lottery!
And this, says Jesus, is what the Kin-dom is about. Despite apparent signs of frustration and even death, God’s reign will be spectacularly rich and abundant. Jesus’ parable teaching is an invitation to the Gospel audience and to us to believe in the ongoing abundant blessings of God’s presence despite what appears to the contrary.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL
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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A 12 JULY 2026

LISTEN, ANYONE WHO HAS EARS. Do we really listen when the Word of God is proclaimed at Mass? Do we allow it to take root in our hearts and yield a rich harvest? If we try to listen at Mass, we will learn to listen also to the many voices that cry out to us in the midst of our busy lives – the voices of our children, of our parents, of our spouse, of those who need us to hear them.

INTRODUCTORY RITES
ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 16:15
As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; / I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.
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. Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to the Father and to one another:
Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
You heal the wounds of our sin and division:
Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
You intercede for us with the Father:
Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
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 Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT
P. O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD
FIRST READING Isa 55:10-11
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The rain makes the earth give growth.
Thus says the Lord: ‘As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.’

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.
RESP PSALM Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8
R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.
1. You care for the earth, give it water, / you fill it with riches. / Your river in heaven brims over / to provide its grain. **R.**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; / you drench its furrows, / you level it, soften it with showers, / you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. / Abundance flows in your steps, / in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**
4. The hills are girded with joy, / the meadows covered with flocks, / the valleys are decked with wheat. / They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

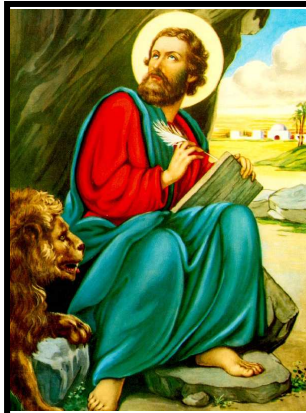
SECOND READING Rom 8:18-23
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.
I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia! / The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; / all who come to him will live for ever. / Alleluia!



GOSPEL Mt 13:1-23
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.
A sower went out to sow.
Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.
He said, ‘Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, ‘Why do you talk to them in parables?’ ‘Because’ he replied ‘the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but for anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:
You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.



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:

18th July (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: L. Peters.

Extraordinary Minister:

19th July (Sun):

10.00am: Reader: A. George & R. George.

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

6.00pm: Reader: M. G. Gibilisca.

Church Cleaning:

16th July (Thu) Team 3

I. Laskowski, R. Caruana, Irfan & Gladys.

Counters:

18th July: J. Degran, E. & A. Bathan.

21st July: L. Grech.

Thanksgiving: \$498(Env) \$526 (Loose). Presbytery: \$217 (Env) \$424 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.



all that's missing is U!



Pilgrim Virgin: 9th July - Morabito Family. 23rd July - Casaccio Family.

16th July (Thu): Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel will begin 10 minutes before the Mass until Wednesday 15th July.

This Weekend: Marriage and Family Sunday.

"COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, RECOGNIZE GOD'S LOVE EVERYWHERE, AND GIVE THANKS FOR EACH NEW DAY."

POPE ON AI: IT IS IMPORTANT TO DIALOGUE WITH EVERYONE TO PROMOTE THE COMMON GOOD



In a message signed by Cardinal Pietro Parolin for the "AI for Good Global Summit," Pope Leo highlights how "Magnifica humanitas" was born out of listening to many people on artificial intelligence and also of the negative impacts of this technological development. As you are convening to reflect upon AI, which raises some of the major questions of our time regarding the future of humanity, the Holy Father would like to assure you of the Holy See's presence and openness to dialogue, especially in this epochal turning point.

The Pope expressed his desire to engage in dialogue with all kinds of people in order "to identify new paths for the common good and for promoting a dignified life for all." "Magnifica humanitas was born from his listening to scientists and engineers who work with sincere enthusiasm on technologies capable of alleviating immense suffering; to political leaders and public officials who have perseveringly sought just rules; to parents and teachers who are deeply concerned for the future of younger generations." However, the encyclical was also driven by the negative impacts that AI has had on humans and society. The Holy Father willingly assures you of his prayers in your efforts 'to serve humanity.'

TODAY'S REFLECTION.....There are several different ways to receive the Word of God. We may do so like a path, where birds immediately come and eat the seeds. This would be distraction, a great danger of our time. Beset by lots of small talk, by many ideologies, by continuous opportunities for distraction inside and outside the home, we can lose our zest for silence, for reflection, for dialogue with the Lord, to the point that we risk losing our faith, not receiving the Word of God, as we are seeing everything, distracted by everything, by worldly things.

Marriages and families are a treasure of society and the whole Church. The family home is also the place where faith is nurtured and passed on. The home is where we see and learn how to love, pray and serve. It is the place where we learn to grow in virtue and to learn the way of Jesus by love for one another, as well as the words and actions towards others. What happens within the homes of families is indispensable to the mission and life of the Church and the wider community. In today's world, more than ever the family is called to be a centre of outreach, love and faith

EUCCHARISTIC JESUS



Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ. Amen.

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

We are happy to accompany you through your journey of faith. Please contact the Parish Office.

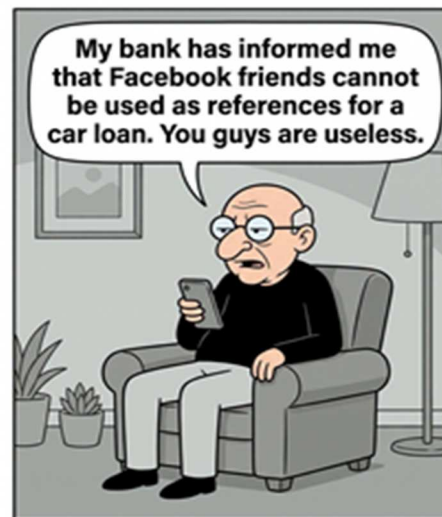


PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION ON 16 AUG, 2026

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. We would like to have few volunteers to help us. Please contact the Parish office.

"I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God." Colossians 1:25. We are all called to evangelize - to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel. Our faith is more attractive to others by our actions than by our words alone. We may not be called to evangelize like St. Paul, but we should look for opportunities to share our faith through our actions and words, especially with those closest to us, like our family, friends, and neighbors. Pray for the courage to joyfully express your faith the next time the opportunity arises.

Parish Positions: Pastoral Worker - Our Lady of Pentecost Parish - Balwyn, Camberwell, Deepdene, Surrey Hills and Wattle Park. **Parish Secretary** - St. Patrick's and St. Kevin's Parishes, Ormond & Murrumbidgee. **Catholic Development Fund (CDF)**- Integration Engineer, East Melbourne . Please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources at hradmin@cam.org.au



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

66. In what sense do we understand man and woman as created "in the image of God"

The human person is created in the image of God in the sense that he or she is capable of knowing and of loving their Creator in freedom. Human beings are the only creatures on earth that God has willed for their own sake and has called to share, through knowledge and love, in his own divine life. All human beings, in as much as they are created in the image of God, have the dignity of a person. A person is not something but someone, capable of self-knowledge and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with God and with other persons.



Thank You to all our parishioners and visitors for your generous contribution towards Peter's Pence. We collected \$697.

17. Synodality requires humility

Walking together means recognizing that no one has all the answers. Synodality invites humility from leaders and from communities so that the Spirit can guide us beyond our limitations.

