

pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.’ But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. ‘Give her what she wants,’ they said ‘because she is shouting after us.’ He said in reply. ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.’ But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. ‘Lord,’ she said ‘help me.’ He replied, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the house-dogs.’ She retorted, ‘Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master’s table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.’ And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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. Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. 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

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his coheirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
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 in peace.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

BEYOND THE EXPECTED

In today’s Gospel Jesus travels beyond his usual and familiar abode. He is in today’s southern Lebanon, areas around Tyre and Sidon. This is foreign or pagan territory, unfamiliar to Jews. Here Jesus encounters a woman from the region who pleads for him to exorcise her demonically possessed daughter. Jesus’ disciples want him to deal with her quickly so that they won’t be bothered by her. Then comes the clear missionary statement of Jesus for Matthew’s Jewish audience, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel’, and, later, ‘It is not fair to take children’s food and throw it to house-dogs’. The focus of his ministry and healing is clearly on the Israelite people, the ‘children’, rather than on gentiles (‘house-dogs’!). Jesus’ derogatory comment to the woman is met by her witty repartee, ‘Yes, sir, but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master’s table’. Her clever verbal joust meets his respectful acknowledgement. He affirms the woman’s great faith in engaging him in a manner that respects the priority of his mission to the Jewish people (and Matthew’s Gospel audience) while acknowledging that non-Jews can also be recipients of his ministry. This results in the Canaanite woman’s request being granted. Her daughter is healed. From this episode, it seems as though even Jesus had to learn and to extend his healing reach beyond the expected. That same insight is an invitation to us and our faith communities as we too are invited to offer hospitality and a welcome to the foreign and unexpected that we come across.

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 781. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2026

WOMAN, YOU HAVE GREAT FAITH! The Canaanite woman in today’s Gospel enjoyed no status in the eyes of the Jewish people of her time. She was someone to be scorned and ignored. Yet, in her deep love for her daughter and her great faith, she is a model of the true disciple of Jesus. She reminds us that what identifies us as Christians most fundamentally is our faith, our hope and our love.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 83:10-11
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

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.
P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: 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 Lord, / you alone are the Most



SECOND READING Rom 11:13-15, 29-32
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

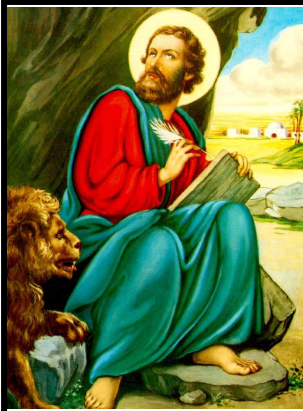
The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.
Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:23
Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 15:21-28
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.
Woman, you have great faith.
Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, ‘Sir, Son of David, take



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. 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!



 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!

Next Weekends Rosters:

22nd Aug (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: L. Peters.

Extraordinary Minister:

23rd Aug (Sun):

10.00am: Reader: M. Raymond & P. Betham.

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

6.00pm: Reader: M. Pegorin.

Church Cleaning:

20th Aug (Thu) Team 4
A. Campana, Erfan & Gladys.

Counters:

22nd Aug: J. Degran, E. & A. Bathan.
25th Aug: L. Grech.

Thanksgiving: \$436(Env) \$724 (Loose). Presbytery: \$203 (Env) \$447 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.

VOLUNTEER

all that's missing is U!

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

Sick: John Roumanos.

Recently Deceased: Winnie Carbon, Sarina Mantarro & Elena Capozza.

Death Anniversaries: Jinny Zarb, Margaret Penno & Royce Gonsalvez.

20th Aug (Thu): Memorial of St. Bernard.

21st Aug (Fri): Memorial of St. Pius.

22nd Aug (Sat): Memorial of The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

There will be a special collection towards the Archbishop's Campaign this weekend and the next weekend.

"BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL MAN, THERE ARE LOT OF UNSUCCESSFUL YEARS"



POPE AT AUDIENCE: THE LITURGICAL YEAR RENEWS CHRIST'S SAVING WORK

Pope Leo reflects on the liturgical year, describing Sunday as its "foundation and kernel" and urging Christians to participate actively in the Eucharistic celebration as a visible expression of communion with Christ and His Church.

Pope Leo explained that it should therefore be understood as a continual renewal of Christ's saving work in history. By journeying through its seasons and celebrations, the Church remains united with the Lord's redemptive action, allowing the faithful to receive His grace.

Pope Leo went on to explain that "the encounter with Jesus, who died and rose again for us, is the purpose that the Church always pursues, placing the celebration of the Paschal event at the centre of every moment". The Pope noted that Sunday is the dies Domini, the Day of the Lord. Even in languages whose name for Sunday refers to the "day of the sun," he added, Christians can recognise a reference to Christ, the true "sun of righteousness" who enlightens every person.



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

71. What relationship has God established between man and woman?

Man and woman have been created by God in equal dignity insofar as they are human persons. At the same time, they have been created in a reciprocal complementarity insofar as they are masculine and feminine. God has willed them one for the other to form a communion of persons. They are also called to transmit human life by forming in matrimony "one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). They are likewise called to subdue the earth as "stewards" of God.

20. Synodality and the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the heart of synodality. Around one table, many are gathered as one Body. What we celebrate sacramentally must shape how we live communally.



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 TO BE 'A CELEBRATION OF HOPE'

Join Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and hundreds of young people from across the Archdiocese as they launch pilgrimage to South Korea. The evening will begin with Six30 Holy Hour with adoration and Benediction followed by food, music and celebrations on Thursday 20 August 2026, 6.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne.

Applications are currently open for the following positions:

Parish Administration Assistant—St Francis Xavier and St John's Parish, Frankston. **Finance Business Partner**—Catholic Development Fund, East Melbourne.

Judge: Why did you steal the can of peaches ma'am?

Lady: Your honour, my husband and I don't have much. I was just hungry.

Judge: How many peaches were in the can?

Lady: Six.

Judge: Then, six days in jail.

Husband: Your Honour, she also stole a can of peas.

Lady: A can of peas?

Winnie Carbon's Funeral Mass will be held at St. Mark's Church on Tuesday, 18th August at 10:30am. May her dear soul rest in gentle peace.

PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION 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.

QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Queen Mother of Heaven and Earth is entrusted with the grace of God. She is not the source, but she is privileged to be the instrument of distribution. She longs to gather all of her children together in Heaven, with and in her divine Son.



Though the liturgical and theological evolution of the memorial might seem complex, the heart of it is simple. We not only have a mother in Heaven, we also have a Queen Mother. As Mary is the Queen Mother of God, we must turn to her with childlike faith and simplicity. She is our protectress, our refuge, our hope, and our sweet delight. Her affection is perfect and her motherly love unmatched.

As we honour the Queen of Heaven, ponder the Church's ever-deepening understanding of her role. As the Church has increased its comprehension of Mary's exalted role through the centuries, so we must individually make this discovery throughout our lives. Turn to her, seek her prayers, rely upon her intercession, and honour her as your mother and your queen.

ALONG THE TRACK "Scientists have discovered that an ordinary little spider, one we have all seen hundreds of times, is actually a very adept sailor. This humble little spider has been sailing over ponds and rivers and creeks for thousands of years. Faith is the key that enables us to see the wonders of the Creation as well as the love of its Creator. For some, that is delusional, fantasy as it were. But faith is far from that.

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.**

