

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, ‘Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.’ He said in reply, ‘The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Shorter form 13:24-30.

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. O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each

has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. 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 Ps 110:4-5
The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P. Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. 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

GOOD AND EVIL
Why do bad things happen to good people? It is a question often expressed in different ways. Bad people seem to get away easily with their bad deeds. Today’s Gospel teaching speaks into this perspective. Jesus’ parable teaching from last Sunday with his focus on seed continues today. Grain was an important agricultural commodity in the ancient world. It was the source of food and the means of addressing stressing taxation demands. Like last Sunday, the parable is about the Kin-dom of God. In the parable, the farmer sows good seed but, unbeknown, a nighttime enemy sows darnel in the same field. Both seeds sprout and produce. The workers query the farmer about the reason for the presence of the darnel. It is the classic query of life: why is there evil in a world that is essentially good? Why darnel among the wheat when only wheat was sown?
The solution offered by the farmer recognises the presence of ‘an enemy’ and the need to allow both seeds to grow until the harvest when the wheat could be gathered into the barn and darnel destroyed. Jesus’ wisdom in this parable is salient. We live in a world and faith communities where good and bad co-exist. The coexistence of ‘darnel’ and ‘wheat’ should not surprise us—but it is not forever. There is the harvest time when justice will be meted out. This awareness of a definitive act of divine justice at time’s end, one for which we pray in every celebration of the Eucharist for the coming of Jesus at the end of time, allows us to live in this in-between time as we seek to do good but, at times, experience the presence of evil and the agency of the ‘enemy’. Nevertheless, God’s kin-dom will be ultimately fruitful.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS
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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 JULY 2026

WHEAT AMONG THE WEEDS. The world in which we live is a mixture of wheat and weeds. Wonderful acts of heroism and self-sacrifice occur alongside shocking acts of violence and abuse of power. In the midst of a world tainted by sin we are called to live the values of the kingdom of God. This can be difficult, but the Spirit will help us in our weakness and God, the just and merciful judge, will reward us.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 53:6, 8
See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

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. Your 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 Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT
P. Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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 Wis 12:13, 16-19
A reading from the book of Wisdom
In the place of sin, you give repentance.
There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, / to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. / Your justice has its source in strength, / your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. / You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned / and you expose the insolence of those who know it; / but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, / you govern us with great lenience, / for you have only to will, and your power is there. / By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people / how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, / and you have given your sons the good hope / that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.
RESP PSALM Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. R. v. 5
R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, / full of love to all who call. / Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer / and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you / and glorify your name, O Lord: / for you are great and do marvellous deeds, / you who alone are God. **R.**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, / slow to anger, O Lord, / abounding in love and truth, / turn and take pity on me. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 8:26-27
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

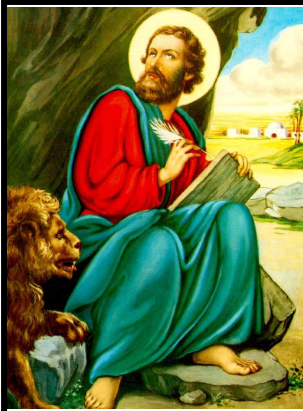
The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. Mt 11:25
Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 13:24-43
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.
Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner’s servants went to him and said, “Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?” “Some enemy has done this,” he answered. And the servants said, “Do you want us to go and weed it out?” But he said, “No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.”’

He put another parable before them, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.’
He told them another parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.’



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

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:

25th July (Sat):

6:00pm Reader: L. Peters.

Extraordinary Minister:

26th July (Sun):

10:00am: Reader: D. Borg & P. Betham.

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

6:00pm: Reader: L. Pegorin.

Church Cleaning:

23rd July (Thu) Team 4
A. Campana & S. Watson.

Counters:

21st July: L. Grech.
28th July: L. McGowan.

Thanksgiving: \$807(Env) \$655 (Loose). Presbytery: \$356 (Env) \$560 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.



all that's missing is U!

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

22nd July (Wed): Feast of St. Mary Magdalene.

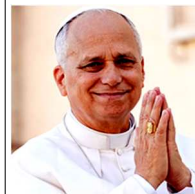
25th July (Sat): Feast of St. James, Apostle.

Next Weekend there will be a special collection towards Propagation of the Faith.

'AN ARROGANT PERSON CONSIDERS HIMSELF PERFECT.

THERE IS NO GREATNESS WHERE THERE IS NO SIMPLICITY, GOODNESS AND TRUTH.'

'HUNGER FOR GENUINE CHARITY': POPE LEO SHARES MEAL WITH VULNERABLE GUESTS AT CASTEL GANDOLFO



Pope Leo welcoming those present said, 'I came without a prepared speech, but I did come with hunger—hunger for justice, hunger for genuine charity, hunger for a Church that truly knows how to open its doors, to welcome and receive everyone; where there is love for all and no one is an enemy, where all of us know how to live reconciliation, forgiveness and peace.'

The Pope mentioned that one of the Pope's titles is the 'Pontiff—a builder of bridges. 'And today we too want to build a bridge with all of you, with your families and with the society in which we want to live—a society marked by justice, where the causes of poverty can be eliminated and where the causes of the injustices that still exist in our world can be overcome.'

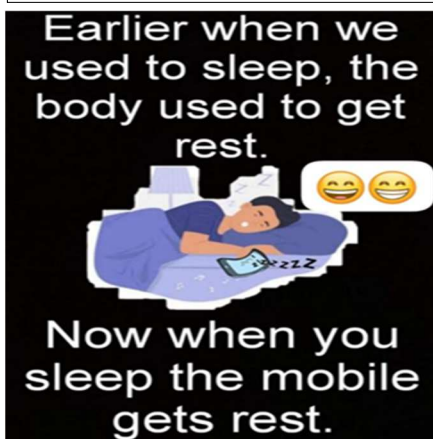
The Church is called to inhabit the places where human dignity calls for listening, closeness and hope ...Whenever we share this spirit of encounter around the same table—the one table where Jesus is also present among us—we are truly building a different world, a world of hope. 'The Holy Father's choice confirms that charity consists of closeness, encounter and sharing. When the Church places the most vulnerable people at the centre, it makes the Gospel visible and bears witness that no one is on the margins of God's heart.'

ON THE PATH TO BECOMING PAKISTAN'S FIRST BLESSED SERVANT OF GOD AKASH BASHIR



Akash Bashir was a young Pakistani Catholic and a proud alumnus of Don Bosco Technical Institute, Lahore. His life stands as a shining example of faith, courage, and selfless love. On 15 March 2015, at just 20 years of age, while Sunday Mass was being celebrated at St. John's Catholic Church in Lahore, a suicide bomber attempted to enter the Church. Realising the danger, Akash courageously stopped him and is reported to have said: "I WILL DIE, BUT I WILL NOT LET YOU ENTER THE CHURCH."

Moments later, the bomber detonated the explosives, killing both himself and Akash. Through his heroic sacrifice, hundreds of worshippers were saved, making him a powerful witness to Christian faith and love. On 31 January 2022, the Catholic Church officially opened his Cause for Beatification and Canonisation, granting him the title "SERVANT OF GOD." If the Holy Father officially recognise his martyrdom, Akash Bashir will be eligible to be Beatified without the need for a confirmed Miracle. If declared *BLESSED*, he will become *PAKISTAN'S FIRST BLESSED*.



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

67. For what purpose did God create man and woman?

God has created everything for them; but he has created them to know, serve and love God, to offer all of creation in this world in thanksgiving back to him and to be raised up to life with him in heaven. Only in the mystery of the incarnate Word does the mystery of the human person come into true light. Man and woman are predestined to reproduce the image of the Son of God made Man, who is the perfect "image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15).



FEAST OF GOD THE FATHER SUNDAY, 2nd AUGUST

Novena to God the Father will begin 10 minutes

before the Mass until Saturday 1st August. Flyers are placed in the Foyer.



Couples for Christ Australia invites you to Christian Life Program on Sunday 2 Aug - 1pm to 4pm at St. Damian Parish, Dunlop Hall, 5 Settlement Road, Bundoora Vic - 3083.

Contact Mile - 0413713973 or Sam - 0419356995



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.

St Carlo Acutis, The First Millennial Saint: Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition.

Thursday 16 July 2026, 10.00am to Tuesday 28 July 2026, 3.00pm at Legion of Mary - 456 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne. Contact - 0423 838 756



First Friday Masses.

Some parishioners have asked if we could have a Mass every First Friday evening. Do let us know a week in advance, so that it could be advertised in the Bulletin. We, priests would be glad to celebrate an evening Mass for you.



Hope Café Looking for some generous retired chefs to volunteer in preparing a meal every Thursday morning for our Hope Café guests. Please contact the Parish Office.

Parishes Job Vacancy

Pastoral Worker-Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, Balwyn Parish Secretary—St Gabriel's Parish, Reservoir. Please contact Human Resources at - hrmin@cam.org.au

18. Is Synodality slow?

Synodality may seem slower than top-down decision-making, but it often leads to deeper, more lasting renewal. What is discerned together is more likely to be embraced together.

