

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.

Do not fear those who can kill the body.
Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

‘Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

‘So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.’

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, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing 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 Ps 144: 15
The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

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

DIVINE PRESENCE

The instruction to the Twelve that concluded last Sunday’s Gospel continues today. Again, the Gospel offers us a missionary mandate and insight. The mission is essentially optimistic because ‘everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear.’ No way of life for the disciples, of their missionary commitment and engagement will be lost. It may appear to be covered and hidden but, ultimately and eventually, God’s goodness and the work of the ‘kin-dom’ will be revealed. No longer will the message of the Gospel be spoken in the dark or whispered. It will be proclaimed from the housetops!

The affirmation of the fruitfulness of the missionary task spills over into the way God will care for those on mission—and this is what is addressed also to us: We are looked after by God, in every detail of our lives. As Matthew puts it in the final verses of today’s Gospel, Jesus will affirm us before God.

There is one translation point worth noting in today’s Gospel. What is translated about God’s care of even the sparrows, which is translated as ‘yet not one falls to the ground without your Father *knowing*’, is better and more accurately translated, ‘and not one of them falls to the earth *without your Father*’. It is not about God’s knowledge of the falling sparrow, it is the very *presence* of God accompanying the falling or dying sparrow that is affirmed. That same God accompanies us. There is nothing in our life that happens without God’s presence intimately caring for us. God is joined to us in intimate care and accompaniment. This God we celebrate today in our liturgy!

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS
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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A 21 JUNE 2026

DO NOT BE AFRAID. In the face of many attacks Jesus courageously proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom. His courage stemmed from his firm belief in the Father’s love for him. Likewise, the prophet Jeremiah was not destroyed by intense opposition because he knew that his cause was with God. May we also be courageous witnesses to the values of the Gospel knowing that God’s love for us far outweighs any opposition we may encounter.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 27: 8-9
The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

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 have revealed yourself as the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. You have poured out on your people the Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
P. You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to eternal life: 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. Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. 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 20: 10-13
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.
He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.
Jeremiah said:
I hear so many disparaging me,
‘ “Terror from every side!”
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!’
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
‘Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!’
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

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

RESP PS Ps 68: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R. v. 14
R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.
1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, / that shame covers my face, / that I have become a stranger to my brothers, / an alien to my own mother’s sons. / I burn with zeal for your house / and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**



2. This is my prayer to you, / my prayer for your favour. / In your great love, answer me, O God, / with your help that never fails: / Lord, answer, for your love is kind; / in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**
3. The poor when they see it will be glad / and God-seeking hearts will revive; / for the Lord listens to the needy; / and does not spurn his servants in their chains. / Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, / the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

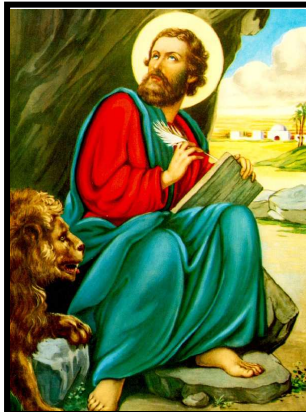
SECOND READING Rom 5: 12-15
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.
God’s gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of ‘law-breaking’, yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man’s fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 15: 26-27
Alleluia, alleluia! / The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, / and you also will be my witnesses. / 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

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

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. Colin Xavier, 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:

27th June (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: D. Abela.

Extraordinary Minister:

28th June (Sun):

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

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

6.00pm: Reader: D. Borg.

Church Cleaning:

25th June (Thu) Team 4

A. Campana & V. Mandundu.

Counters:

23rd June: L. McGowan.

30th June: M. & N. D'Souza.

Thanksgiving: \$525(Env) \$787 (Loose). Presbytery: \$241 (Env) \$458 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.



all that's missing is U!



MONTH OF JUNE IS THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

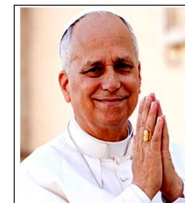
Pilgrim Virgin: 11th June - Campana Family. 25th June - Cortara Family.

Death Anniversary: Nazzareno Nardo.

24th June (Wed): Solemnity of The Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

Those who are homebound and wish to receive communion please contact the parish office.

"NEVER BE AFRAID TO TRUST AN UNKNOWN FUTURE TO A KNOWN GOD."



POPE: CHURCH BUILDS FUTURE; WAR DESTROYS THE PRESENT

Pope Leo encourages Eastern rite Catholics to enrich the Church with its spiritual riches, and condemns the instability caused by war that forces Christians to flee their native lands. He praised the meeting's focus on the need to support the formation of priests and monks in Eastern seminaries. He said the Eastern Catholic Churches have a great gift of spiritual riches to share with the universal Church, noting that formation of ministers remains essential for growth.

The Eastern Churches lead Catholics back to the origins of the faith as their liturgies make the light of grace shine forth. The Pope turned to the heavy burden of war and instability brought about by "so many who foment wars." He said: "While you generate life, they sow death. While you reach out to your brother, they seek enemies to crush; while you create dialogue, they seek monologues; while you open paths of hope, they lock people into fear; while you build the future, they destroy the present." He also appealed for everyone to reflect on the vast consequences of war and instability, including how violence often backfires on those who carry it out. The Pope said, "Let us pray to Jesus, the Lord of peace and appeal to people's consciences so that they may be moved by indignation; and may respect for humanity and a proper sense of civility be restored."

'CASTING OUT DEMONS' ALSO MEANS DENOUNCING CRUELTY OF DICTATORSHIPS, EXILED NICARAGUAN BISHOP SAYS

Auxiliary Bishop Silvio Báez of Managua, Nicaragua, compared "casting out demons" to denouncing the cruelty and irrationality of dictatorships that violate human dignity. "Casting out demons means committing ourselves to processes of personal and social liberation, and helping those trapped by idols, fear, or hopelessness to regain their freedom."

"It also means denouncing the irrationality and cruelty of regimes that violate human dignity and multiply peoples misery, often even invoking the name of God." Báez, who was forced to leave Nicaragua in 2019, now lives in exile and serves at the Miami parish where his compatriots gather. Like many others, Báez was a victim of persecution by the Nicaraguan dictatorship, which intensified its ruthless campaign against the Catholic Church in 2018, a campaign that continues to this day.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

63. What is the place of the human person in creation?

The human person is the summit of visible creation in as much as he or she is created in the image and likeness of God.

After Germany's 7-1 win over Curaçao, something even more beautiful happened. While everyone else celebrated, players from both teams formed a small circle together, put their arms around each other, and prayed.

Germany's Felix Nmecha later explained: "On the pitch we're opponents. After the game, we're all Christians and brothers. We simply prayed together because we're grateful." In a world constantly trying to divide people, moments like this remind us what really matters.



Congratulations to the children receiving their First Holy Communion. May Jesus, the Bread of life continue to love you. May your parents always support you as you grow in faith.



An American Catholic couple just went viral for celebrating their 70th anniversary surrounded by an incredible legacy. At 93 and 90 years old, they've welcomed 11 children, 68 grandchildren, and 109 great-grandchildren (with 11 more on the way!). Counting spouses, this beautiful family is 244 strong and rapidly growing to 255. The anniversary was marked by a beautiful Mass celebrated by one of their own grandsons, who is a priest. Other grandsons served at the altar, while the great-grandchildren formed the liturgical choir. The entire church was completely filled with family.



What's the secret to this profound blessing? According to their daughter Nicole, it's rooted in daily faithfulness: praying the family Rosary, attending Holy Mass, devotion to the Stations of the Cross, embracing the traditional roles of father and mother, and maintaining a total openness to life without ever closing the doors to God's will.

In a time when the family unit is so often challenged, this couple is a powerful reminder that it is possible to build a strong, faithful home full of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who remain devoted to the Church. This is true "generational wealth"—not measured in material things, but in souls who love Christ.



Thank You to all our parishioners and visitors for your generous contribution towards the Winter Appeal- St. Vincent de Paul Society. We collected \$986 towards the appeal.

14. Synodality begins locally

Synodality is lived first in parishes, schools, families, and communities. When people feel heard and valued locally, the Church becomes more credible and more missionary.



"EVERYONE OF US NEEDS HALF AN HOUR OF PRAYER EACH DAY, EXCEPT WHEN WE ARE BUSY - THEN WE NEED AN HOUR."

- ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with very limited memory, just 1 byte, and everything crashed.