

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he said, ‘who do you say I am?’ Then Simon Peter spoke up, ‘You are the Christ,’ he said, ‘the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.’ Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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. O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. 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 103:13-15
The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P. Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. 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 in peace.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Who is Jesus? What would I want to say to him? Today’s Gospel brings us to one of the most important questions posed by the evangelist to the Gospel’s audience – and to us: Who is Jesus for us?
Jesus first asks the disciples about the gossip circulating concerning him and who they believe him to be. Their response reflects how the disciples understand Jesus and how they will follow him as they draw closer to Jerusalem, the city where Jesus’ ministry will conclude in his death and resurrection. The disciples respond to Jesus’ question as to what others say about him: He is John the Baptist, or Elijah who will return at the end of time, or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asks them, ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter, speaking for the group, acknowledges Jesus as ‘the Christ’, the Greek for the Hebrew word ‘Messiah’, literally ‘the anointed one’. Jesus is God’s emissary anointed with the Spirit. Jesus affirms Peter’s response as divinely inspired and declares that Peter – Petros, ‘rock’ – will be the foundation or ‘rock-base’ for the growth of the Jesus movement.
For Matthew’s audience, this is an affirmation of the movement’s authority through time and history. It is within this graced community that we gather today. As contemporary followers of Jesus, we are invited to give our response personally and communally as to Jesus’ identity: Who do you, who do we say Jesus is? Our response will shape how we act, with whom we engage and the kind of community of Jesus’ followers we will be.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 AUGUST 2026

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? Jesus asks his disciples this question in today’s Gospel. He asks us the same question. He is not seeking a textbook response or for us to repeat what others have said about him. He wants to hear our personal response. May we answer his question as truthfully as possible, and then listen as he speaks to us.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 85:1-3
Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

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. O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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 lsa 22:19-23
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father’s house.

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

RESP PSALM Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8
R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, / you have heard the words of my mouth. / Before the angels I will bless you. / I will adore before your holy temple. R.
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love / which excel all we ever knew of you. / On the day I called, you answered; / you increased the strength of my soul. R.



3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly / and the haughty he knows from afar. / Your love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard not the work of your hands. R.

SECOND READING Rom 11:33-36
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
From him, through him, and in him are all things.

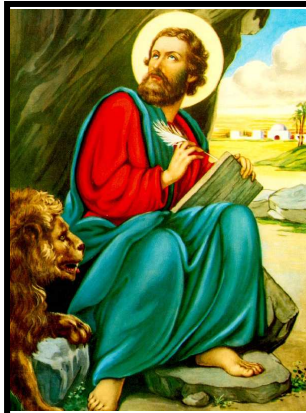
How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 16:18
Alleluia, alleluia! / You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church / the gates of hell will not hold out against it. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 16:13-20
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.
You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.



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. 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:

29th Aug (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: L. Peters.

Extraordinary Minister:

30th Aug (Sun):

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

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

6.00pm: Reader: M. G. Gibilisca.

Church Cleaning:

27th Aug (Thu) Team 1
S. Peiris & S. Watson.

Counters:

25th Aug: L. McGowan.
1st Sep: L. Grech.

Thanksgiving: \$584(Env) \$655 (Loose). Presbytery: \$228 (Env) \$518 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.

Pilgrim Virgin: 20th August - Genobile Family. 3rd September - Elizaga Family.

Death Anniversary: Jinny Zarb.

24th Aug (Mon): Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle.

27th Aug (Thu): Memorial of St. Monica.

28th Aug (Fri): Memorial of St. Augustine.

29th Aug (Sat): Memorial of The Passion of St. John the Baptist, Martyr.

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



**STOP LOOKING FOR A BETTER PASTOR AND A BETTER CHURCH,
START MAKING YOURSELF A BETTER MEMBER THEN YOU CAN SEE THE DIFFERENCE.**



POPE AT AUDIENCE: SACRED MUSIC IS TO GLORIFY GOD AND SANCTIFY THE FAITHFUL

Pope Leo reflects on sacred music in the
liturgy, praising it for giving voice to prayer
and expressing the faith, always with the main
objective of glorifying God and helping the
faithful grow in holiness. He mentioned singing and playing
sacred music in the liturgy "means to pray, attuning one's
heart to that of our sisters and brothers and to God, through
active participation in the mystery that is being celebrated."
Music expresses the affective dimension of prayer, he cited
when St. Augustine said, "Cantare amantis est," translated as
"singing belongs to those who love."

He said, Music is very important because it helps us to open
our hearts to God's action in grace and to allow ourselves to
be moulded by it. Singing fosters communion, It contributes
to the unity of hearts, overcoming differences between
people and bringing everyone together in praise of God
through the symphony of voices. Thus, it becomes an
epiphany of the Church, a tangible manifestation of the
communion that belongs to her very nature.



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

72. What was the original condition of the human person according to the plan of God?

In creating man and woman God had given them a
special participation in his own divine life in holiness and
justice. In the plan of God they would not have had to suffer
or die. Furthermore, a perfect harmony held sway within the
human person, a harmony between creature and Creator,
between man and woman, as well as between the first human
couple and all of creation.

21. Why the Church is embracing synodality now?

The call to synodality is a response to the signs of the
times. In a fragmented world, God calls the Church
to witness communion, dialogue, and hope.



As Catholics we are all called to serve.... Each of us has
been given "charisms" otherwise known as gifts from the
Holy Spirit to help build God's Church. Our charisms can
only be used for good. We know that we are using them in the
right ministry when we are filled with joy and we want to
share stories about our charitable works. Discern how God
is calling you to use your charisms. Say "yes" to what God is
calling you to do and then do it! Share your joy and invite
others to do the same.

PRAYER SERVICE OF LAMENT - Archbishop Peter Comensoli
invites you to join on Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 4.00pm
in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral as we come before
the Lord in prayer and lament. This Service is an occasion to
humbly stand alongside those who have suffered abuse, and
all who continue to carry its lasting effects. It is for us, as the
Body of Christ, to acknowledge and lament sincerely and
with humility the failures that have caused such profound
harm, and to place before the Lord our prayer for healing,
justice and the ongoing conversion of His Church.

Her mother decided that 10-year-old Susie should get something practical for her birthday. "Suppose we open a savings account for you?" she suggested. Susie was delighted. "It's your account, darling," Susie's mother said as they entered the bank. You fill out the application." Susie was doing fine until she came to the space for "Name of your former bank". With just a slight hesitation, she put down: "Piggy."



HAPPY PARISH FEAST OF ST. MARK, OUR BELOVED PATRON.



Our parish is part of a bigger group of
churches called a Diocese and all the
dioceses together make up the
universal catholic church. We are One
Big family of Faith all around the world. We are an important
part of our parish. We can pray, sing in the choir, be an altar
server, and help others through parish events and services.
OUR PARISH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME. It's where we
worship God, grow in faith, and care for one another. So, let
us rejoice and be glad to belong here.
May St. Mark bless and intercede for all of us.

**Please join us for a Get-Together in the Parish hall after the
Mass to share our diversity and culture with food and music.**

The Archbishop's Campaign 2026 - Thank you to everyone
who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the
Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly
appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so.
This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in
our Archdiocese.

ALPHA Course is Starting Soon!

Curious about life, faith and the big questions? Alpha is a
welcoming series of conversations, videos and dinner
exploring questions like What is my purpose? Is there more
to life? Who is Jesus? Everyone aged 18-100 is welcome!
Whether you're Catholic, from another faith, have no faith,
or are simply curious, come with your questions, your expe-
riences, or simply come and listen. Dinner is included and
there is no cost from 14 September 2026, 7-9pm on Monday
nights at Good Shepherd Parish Hall, Gladstone Park.
Please contact the Parish office.

**ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT
DIACONATE - Tuesday, 22 September 2026 beginning 7:00 –
8:00pm. Location: via ZOOM.** The permanent diaconate is
open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's,
who want to serve God and the Church as ordained minis-
ters. The information session is open to everyone interested
in knowing more about the permanent diaconate. Attend-
ance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing
Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

O GOD, I REJOICE – A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER

O God, I rejoice that all the people I shall meet today
are your people. Let none in need of friendship, or any
gift I have to give, feel he is a nuisance; Let no child with his
honest questions find me less than honest; Let no odd or
lonely person, with a spate of talk, find me unwilling to listen.

Quicken my imagination, and my sympathy, that I may begin
to see what life is for each of these and what it might become.
Save my tongue from gossip and my hands from idleness;
Create in me a steady belief in things good and true and
lovely, That all who come my way may get a glimpse
of your kingdom on earth. Amen.