

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
Shorter form 13:44-46.

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. Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. 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: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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 102:2
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. 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

COMMUNION WITH GOD

Today we continue to hear from the central chapter in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus’ parable teaching about the kin-dom of God. Over the past Sundays we have been hearing parables concerned with sowed seed (15th Sunday) and the mystery of the darnel sown among the wheat (last Sunday). Today we hear that the kin-dom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, a common banking technique by peasant farmers to protect their most valuable possessions. Someone discovers this treasure; hides it again and then sells every possession to buy the field and claim the treasure. Between the discovery and the purchase, the finder goes off “happy”. The overwhelming joy of the discovery leads the merchant to sell everything to buy the field. This is an image of the disciple, of us, in discovering that the true encounter with God, the experience of the kin-dom, is most precious. Nothing can substitute it.

The second parable that concludes today’s Gospel is like the first. It is about a merchant’s search for valuable pearls and, in finding one, sells everything to have the pearl. In the ancient world, in the time of Jesus and Matthew, the pearl represented purity, beauty, power, wealth, even divinity. The discovery of the pearl by the parable’s merchant leads, as in the first parable, to the selling of everything possessed to gain the pearl.

Both parables speak into our desire for ultimate and intimate communion with the God revealed through Jesus. When we experience such communion, we realise how valuable it is; nothing can compare to it. Intimate communion with God cannot be bought nor can anything else in human existence substitute for it. This communion is deepened in every celebration of the Eucharist.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

26 JULY 2026

FINDING A TREASURE. A treasure is not something we earn but something we find. We can spend a lot of our lives wishing and hoping that some treasure will come our way. We can forget that we already possess a wonderful treasure in our loved ones and in the gift of life itself. And the greatest treasure of all is the kingdom of heaven which Jesus freely offers to us. May we have the wisdom to seek our treasure in God, and not in the glittering goods of a passing world.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 67:6-7, 36
God is in his holy place, / God who unites those who dwell in his house; / he himself gives might and strength to his people.

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. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
R. For we have sinned against you.
P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
R. And grant us your salvation.
P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.
V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
V. Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.

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, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. 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 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
A reading from the first book of the Kings
You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, ‘Ask what you would like me to give you.’ Solomon replied, ‘Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?’ It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. ‘Since you have asked for this’, the Lord said, ‘and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.’

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

RESP PS Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130. R. v. 97
R. Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, / is to obey your word. / The law from your mouth means more to me / than silver and gold. **R.**
2. Let your love be ready to console me / by your promise to your servant. / Let your love come to me and I shall live / for your law is my delight. **R.**



3. That is why I love your commands / more than finest gold. / That is why I rule my life by your precepts: / I hate false ways. **R.**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; / therefore I obey it. / The unfolding of your word gives light / and teaches the simple. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 8:28-30
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

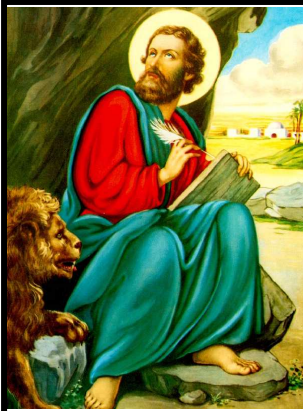
We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-52
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.
He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.



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.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. Bathen.

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:

1st Aug (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: L. Peters.

Extraordinary Minister:

2nd Aug (Sun):

10.00am: Reader: S. Fragapane & L. Maselli.

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

6.00pm: Reader: M. Pegorin.

Church Cleaning:

30th July (Thu) Team 1
I. Laskowski, S. Peiris.

Counters:

28th July: L. Grech.
4th Aug: M. & N. D'Souza.

Thanksgiving: \$498(Env) \$549 (Loose). Presbytery: \$226 (Env) \$498 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.

Pilgrim Virgin: 23rd July - Casaccio Family. 6th August - Lucera Family.

29th July (Wed): Memorial of Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus.

31st July (Fri): Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

This Weekend we will have a special collection towards Propagation of the Faith.

1st August (Sat): Working Bee - Please come along and help around the Church.

Please pray for Fr. Brendan Lane for a special healing from Cancer.

"IN THIS LIFE WE CANNOT DO GREAT THINGS. WE CAN ONLY DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE."



Summer advice from Pope Leo XIV: Don't forget the less fortunate.

On July 22, Maurizio from Rome asked the pontiff how best to deepen his spiritual life during the summer amid the distractions of daily life.

The Pope responded that one ought to think of those unable to enjoy the summer, particularly the sick, victims of war, and migrants who do not feel welcomed. "Holidays should also be for everyone a space of respite from occupations and worries." He continued: "Let us think of the sick, of people who have lost faith in life, of those who are overwhelmed by grief over the loss of loved ones, of the victims of wars, of hatred, of terrorism and of violence, of those persecuted for their faith and for justice, of prisoners, of those who have been left without work, without a home, of migrants who have not been humanely welcomed.

The pope also reminded the importance of the elderly. "To families he said: Do not leave your elderly alone." Use the summer time as well to live the gospel of peace and mercy. Let us think of the privilege we have when we support the poor and bear witness to evangelical poverty."

The Confessional - I had somebody in face-to-face confession who looked at me and they said: Father why do you have a tissue box in your confessional?

I said: "Well that's not just for the penitent, that's for me too." And they said: "Why would you cry?" I said: "So often I see the love of Jesus that they have, how sorry they are for their sins and I am moved with pity and joy to see the love they have for Jesus and my own love for Jesus and I also cry with them because I realized that I too have sinned and I have let down my Savior whom I love so much and so as a dispenser of God's mercy, I can't help but be filled with tears of joy and tears of sorrow and then that's that inexpressible groaning of the Holy Spirit that we all have inside of us because we do love our Lord Jesus."

Pope Francis in the Year of Mercy made this beautiful prayer. Halfway through the prayer it goes like this: But God so willed that his ministers would be clothed in weakness that they might have compassion for those who are wayward and that we would come to be an instrument of God's love, compassion and mercy. And so, those tissues are for me and the penitent because not only am I the Confessor but at times my own life almost monthly and weekly that I too am the penitent. And I see the love they have for Jesus and so I welcome you to that Confessional wherever it might be, to know that box of tissues are meant not just for you but for the priests too because we're all in the of mercy and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Melbourne Vocations Office and ACU Campus Ministry are hosting a Vocations Expo on Saturday 1 August 2026 at Greg Craven Centre, Level 7, St. Teresa of Kolkata building, ACU Melbourne. Archbishop Peter Comensoli is the keynote speaker, alongside speakers representing Catholic Religious Orders, the Diocesan Priesthood, and married life. The event is free to attend, but registrations are required. Book via - trybooking.com/DNKHK



Alcohol does not make you FAT. It makes you lean. Lean against table, chairs, walls and floors.



REVERENCE FOR JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

People who leave the Church early, REMEMBER, that only one person left the Last Supper early!

Whenever people left the church right after Holy Communion, St. Philip Neri would send servers with candles and bells to accompany them. A man once stormed back into the church and confronted the saint. "What kind of joke is this?" he demanded. St. Philip Neri said, It's no joke. The rules of the liturgy say the Blessed Sacrament should be treated with reverence. You left the Church immediately with no prayer of thanksgiving. You were carrying the Blessed Sacrament within you. So, I asked the boys to accompany you to honour Jesus. After Communion you and I are tabernacles, the physical presence of Jesus continues in us for a brief time. That's why we have the Communion hymn, a time of silence, the Communion Prayer - and even the announcements - to build up the Body of Christ in practical ways. I encourage you to use well the time after Communion to say thanks, to express your gratitude.

ST. MARK'S PARISH

9 Lee Street, Fawkner

July 31- Aug 1, 2026

FRIDAY, July 31

6:30 PM - Rosary
7:00 - Holy Mass
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Rosary
- Silent Adoration
8:45 - Nine Offices of the Sacred Heart
10:50 - Rosary
- Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary
11:20 - Family Consecration
11:30 - Rosary
11:50 - Benediction

SATURDAY, August 1
12:00 AM - Holy Mass

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.

PARISH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION ON 16 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.

Melbourne synod 2026 – Theme Paper Release

The Synod theme papers are an important step in our journey of listening and discernment as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to foster a spirit of hope and imagination—trusting that, as we walk together, God is calling us into a future marked by faithfulness, renewal, and deeper communion. The suggested reflection process is a 'Conversation in the Spirit' or a Spiritual Conversation. This method It is based in prayer and allows people to come together to both speak and to listen. At the conclusion of each theme paper, there are prompt questions for reflection. Responses to these prompt questions can be provided via the QR code which is at the end of each paper. **The website: Melbourne Synod 2026 / Melbourne Catholic is regularly updated with new information, so do please keep checking for updates.**

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

68. Why does the human race form a unity?

All people form the unity of the human race by reason of the common origin which they have from God. God has made "from one ancestor all the nations of men" (Acts 17:26) All have but one Savior and are called to share in the eternal happiness of God.



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!