

Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. ‘Heaven preserve you, Lord,’ he said. ‘This must not happen to you.’ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God’s way but man’s.’

Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

‘For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.’

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. May this sacred offering, O Lord, confer on us always the blessing of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery it may accomplish in power.
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 30:20

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour.
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

GENUINE DISCIPLESHIP

Today’s Gospel follows on immediately from last Sunday’s Gospel and the question posed to Jesus’ disciples in Matthew’s day, and to us, about his identity. Jesus then outlines what awaits him in Jerusalem—his suffering, death and resurrection. These words seem either incomprehensible to his disciples, represented by Peter, or are rejected.

Whatever the reason for Peter’s reaction, following God’s anointed one on a path of suffering, death and resurrection is unfathomable. The disciples imagine a triumphant, powerful figure who will overcome Roman opposition. Success and status are their vision for the future of discipleship!

Today’s Gospel is a sobering reminder that suffering is not excluded from discipleship. Life’s tragedies and concerns are not the opposite of following Jesus; they can be authentic expressions of it. Disciples are not called to seek suffering nor to become victims. Rather, suffering can be integrated into genuine discipleship. These are important insights especially for some who think that they must ‘prove’ their loyalty to Jesus by seeking out further pain or suffering. We know that suffering is part of life; we need not look for it further. We are surrounded by a world of suffering.

Today we acknowledge the sufferings of those who gather with us in our Assembly, especially those borne silently or through violence, including domestic violence.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

30 AUGUST 2026

‘YOU HAVE SEDUCED ME, LORD!’ The prophet Jeremiah was captivated by God. His attachment meant that he suffered greatly at the hands of God’s enemies but he also experienced a fire within, lit by God’s love, that urged him on. We too can follow Jesus wholeheartedly only if we are captivated by him. Like Peter, we may remonstrate with Jesus as we struggle to understand his ways, but we will follow him faithfully along the way of the cross to the fullness of life.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 85:3, 5
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

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. God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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 Jer 20:7-9
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.
You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody’s butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: ‘Violence and ruin!’ The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, ‘I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.’ Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.
The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v. 2
R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; / for you my soul is thirsting. / My body pines for you / like a dry, weary land without water. R.
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary / to see your strength and your glory. / For your love is better than life, / my lips will speak your praise. R.
3. So I will bless you all my life, / in your name I will lift up my hands. / My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, / my mouth shall praise you with joy. R.



4. For you have been my help; / in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. / My soul clings to you; / your right hand holds me fast. R.

SECOND READING Rom 12:1-2
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

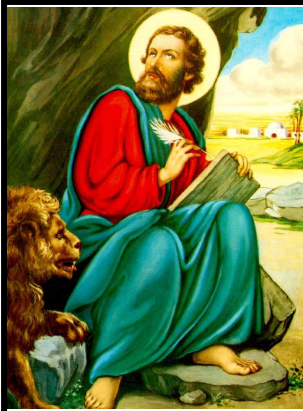
May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice. Think of God’s mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION cf. Eph 1:17, 18
Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of our heart, / that we might see how great is the hope / to which we are called. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 16:21-27

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.
Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.
Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day.



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. Bathen.

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:

5th Sep (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: L. Peters.

Extraordinary Minister:

6th Sep (Sun):

10.00am: Reader: D. Borg & P. Betham.

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

6.00pm: Reader: L. Pegorin.

Church Cleaning:

3rd Sep (Thu) Team 2
A. Campana & S. Markus.

Counters:

1st Sep: L. Grech.
8th Sep: M & N. D'Souza.

Thanksgiving: \$611(Env) \$813 (Loose). Presbytery: \$313 (Env) \$478 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.

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

Death Anniversary: Grant Cassar.

5th Sep (Sat): Working Bee - Please come along and help around the Church.

6th Sep (Sun): Next Weekend – Father's Day.

THERE IS ONLY ONE CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE YOU CAN BE CERTAIN OF IMPROVING, AND THAT'S YOUR OWN SELF.



POPE: CHURCH MUST HELP BROKEN FAMILIES HEAL FROM DRUG ABUSE

The Pope greeted many people from faith-based centers who work for the accompaniment, prevention, recovery, and integration of young people affected by drugs. Reflecting on the impact of substance abuse, he noted that "suffering and hope know no borders."

He pointed to four "bridges" that converged at the meeting, representing four paths of cooperation. First, he said, the Church works closely with international organizations in order to combat the abuse of drugs. Second, the Pope said science and faith form another bridge, since the Church seeks to shed the light of the Gospel upon it through an integral understanding of the human person. Third, the Church serves as a bridge between all continents, as people with common goals come together to "share their suffering, hopes, and pastoral enthusiasm." Fourth, the Church and other ecclesial communities employ faith as a common language with which to practice concrete love for those who suffer from addiction.

The pope said, "The Family is the place where life is nurtured, cared for and given direction. There is no better protection against drugs than a good family." We witness the suffering of many broken families, whether because of drug use, violence, the criminal recruitment of a child, poverty, or the lack of opportunities that pushes people to the margins. May the Church be the family of all those left by the roadside. Let us build a Church that stops, draws near, is moved with compassion, anoints wounds, provides nourishment, and becomes a home.



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

73. How should we understand the reality of sin?

Sin is present in human history. This reality of sin can be understood clearly only in the light of divine revelation and above all in the light of Christ the Savior of all. Where sin abounded, he made grace to abound all the more.

22. Synodality is a conversion

True Synodality requires conversion of hearts, attitudes, and sometimes structures. It asks us to let go of habits that no longer serve the mission.



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! 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.

"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve...As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." When we commit to serve the Lord, we become disciples in the work of the Lord. A disciple is a person who spends time in prayer every day, who joyfully participates in charitable works and who generously supports their local parish and Church mission. If we say we serve God, then our words and actions should reflect the message of the Gospel to others.

Teacher: "So far, you have taken leave three times, saying that your grandmother died..."

How many times does your grandmother die?"

Student: "What can I do, sir?"

Every time grandmother dies, grandfather gets married again!!"

I ask the grace to live in Jesus.

Jesus, Whenever we face your mysteries, filled with wonder and love, please remind us of your words:

"Love me, and I will ask the Father to give you the Spirit of truth, to be with you always."

"Love me and my Father and I will love you, and I will tell you everything."

We want to love you, Lord That is everything. Show us how.



This Weekend we observe **Social Justice Sunday** - It calls for compassionate response to homelessness.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) issued its annual social justice statement, as they have done since 1940, to encourage the Catholic community to reflect and act on the social dimension of the Church's mission.

WHAT IS THE TRUE NATURE OF GOD'S LOVE?

God's love never fails, never forgets, never compromises, never lies, never lets us down nor disappoints us. His love is consistent, unwavering, unconditional & unstoppable.

We may choose to separate ourselves from him, but nothing will make him ignore us, leave us, or treat us unkindly. He will pursue us, love us, and call us to return to him no matter what might stand in the way. It is his nature to love. That is why he created us - to be united with him and to share in his love and unity of persons.

God is a trinity of persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and a community of love. That is why Jesus challenged his followers and even his own earthly relatives to recognize that God is the true source of all relationships. God wants all of our relationships to be rooted in his love.

BISHOPS SEEK FOCUS ON SOCIAL COHESION

THE CHURCH CAN AND MUST BE A SIGN OF UNITY.

'Listening is especially important. Genuine listening does not require us to agree on every issue, but it does require recognition of the dignity of those with whom we disagree. 'The Church can and must be a sign of unity: a community where every person feels at home and all are encouraged to use their gifts to build a more just, peaceful and cohesive Australia.'

Thank You to all our Parishioners, Visitors and Volunteers who contributed in making the Parish Feast a joyful celebration. It was a blessing for the parish community to come together and be part of the celebration and enjoy food, music and dance.



World Youth Day Seoul 2027

Take courage! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

At SeoulFest, Archbishop Peter Comensoli, along with 600 young people, launched the Archdiocese's pilgrimage to WYD Seoul 2027. For further details please visit the Archdiocese website.



We invite our young parishioners to come on board and volunteer to help clean the church or join the working bee team. Please contact the parish office.

