

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

‘I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

‘I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.’

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 God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that, through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. 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

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 41:2-3
Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son’s great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
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

SEEK RECONCILIATION

Last Sunday reminded us that following Jesus is not free from struggle. Challenges, even misunderstandings, will be part of the disciple’s vocation. This Sunday, the evangelist moves deeper to highlight further concerns that beset the community of disciples—internal struggles, tensions, even rejection.

The evangelist draws on the wisdom of Jesus to address these realities and suggests a three-step process towards reconciliation. It begins with personal dialogue. The one wronged seeks to invite the wrongdoer to reconciliation. If this fails, witnesses to what has happened verify the authenticity of the issues and encourage resolution. If this fails then the whole faith community, the *ekklesia*, witness to the wrong that has created the division, inviting the wrong doer to a change of heart and reconciliation.

Even if this third step fails then Matthew advises to treat the wrong doer ‘like a pagan or tax collector.’ In other words, as Jesus welcomed strangers and invited a tax collector to become one of his disciples, the door must always be left open. The final words of the Gospel contain Jesus’ assurance that he is always present to even a small discipleship gathering, of even two or three, no matter what they are dealing with.

Today’s Gospel is as relevant for our day as it was in the time of Matthew. No faith community is tension free. Disagreements arise and, sometimes, are not easily resolved by faith leaders. Rather than gossiping or character assassination, personal approaches that invite conflict resolution and community building are essential. In everything, Jesus is present.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

6 SEPTEMBER 2026

I SHALL BE THERE WITH THEM. Every Christian community experiences difficulties in one form or another. Misunderstandings occur, divisions arise. Today’s Gospel reminds us that Christ is present in our communities even when they are broken, when only two or three meet in his name. Healing occurs when we seek to embody in our communities the qualities of Christ, especially forgiveness and mutual love.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 118: 137, 124
You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

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. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: 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. O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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 Ezek 33:7-9
A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, ‘Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.’

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

RESP PSALM Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8
R. O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. R.
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. R.
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / ‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.’ R.



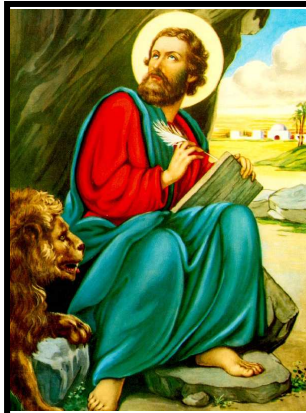
SECOND READING Rom 13:8-10
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 2 Cor 5:19
Alleluia, alleluia! / God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; / and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 18:15-20
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.
If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.



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. 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:

12th Sep (Sat):

6.00pm Reader: L. Peters.

Extraordinary Minister:

13th Sep (Sun):

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

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

6.00pm: Reader: M. Pegorin.

Church Cleaning:

10th Sep (Thu) Team 3

R. Caruana, I. Laskowski & Erfan & Gladys.

Counters:

8th Sep: M & N. D'Souza.

15th Sep: L. Grech.

Thanksgiving: \$511(Env) \$733 (Loose). Presbytery: \$171 (Env) \$585 (Loose).

Thank you for your generosity & support.



all that's missing is U!



Happy Birthday, Dear Mother & Queen!

Pilgrim Virgin: 3rd September - Elizaga Family. 17th September - Garcia Family.

8th Sep (Tue): Feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

10th Sep (Thu): R U, OK? Day

13th Sep (Sun): Fr. Benneth will Celebrate his Anniversary of Priestly Ordination.



"KIND WORDS CAN BE SHORT AND EASY TO SPEAK, BUT THEIR ECHOES ARE TRULY ENDLESS."



POPE'S SEPTEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: 'FOR THE CARE OF WATER'

Pope Leo invites everyone to pray for "the care of water" during September as Christians celebrate the Season of Creation. He prays that water may be a "source of fruitfulness, freshness, and hope," and recognizes that water is "a right without borders." Water quenches thirst, nourishes the earth, and heals wounds, as well as serving for Christians as a symbol of God's grace and love for us and our renewal in Baptism. He said we see with pain so many brothers and sisters who lack clean water, who walk for miles to find it, who become ill due to its scarcity.

The Pope prays that the Holy Spirit may make Christians "pilgrims of the essential," who are able to live simply and avoid all waste or pollution. He encourages us to defend everyone's right to water, so that all may drink "without fear and without inequality." "May our care for water be a sign of love for the Creator and a commitment to the lives of the poor, educating new generations to value and protect the Earth's resources."

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUNDAY MASS : The Pope urged Catholics to attend Sunday Mass and warned against using virtual gatherings to substitute for in-person attendance. "To sanctify Sunday, it is essential to celebrate the Eucharist." "The liturgical assembly is in fact fulfilled through the active participation of brothers and sisters."



CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

74. What was the fall of the angels?

This expression indicates that Satan and the other demons, about which Sacred Scripture and the Tradition of the Church speak, were angels, created good by God. They were, however, transformed into evil because with a free and irrevocable choice they rejected God and his Kingdom, thus giving rise to the existence of hell. They try to associate human beings with their revolt against God. However, God has wrought in Christ a sure victory over the Evil One.

GOD EXISTS. CHRIST IS LORD, AND HE ESTABLISHED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

That's how Joe Schmid announced his conversion to Catholicism on his YouTube channel: "Majesty of Reason," on Aug 21. Conversion is always a cause for celebration, but in Schmid's case it was likely unexpected among his channel's 55,000 subscribers. On Aug 21, however, Schmid posted a nearly half-hour-long video revealing his conversion to Catholicism, and in the roughly two weeks since then his videos have focused on topics such as "the best-ever cumulative case for God" and "the best objections to Catholicism answered."

He told EWTN News his return to the faith "wasn't my own making." "Conversion is a gift of God's grace, and I've seen its transformative impact in my life. So, God is ultimately what led me to Catholicism." "I converted after a long process of working through my many objections to Catholicism and appreciating the many powerful arguments in its favour," he said. In his video he described the process as a "culmination" of "head factors and heart factors." "God is good," he told his viewers.

Martin had just received his brand-new driver's license. The family trooped out to the driveway, and climbed in the car, for he was going to take them for a ride for the first time. Dad immediately headed for the back seat, directly behind the newly minted driver. "I'll bet you're back there to get a change of scenery after all those months of sitting in the front passenger seat teaching me how to drive," says the beaming boy to his father. "Nope," comes dad's reply, "I'm gonna sit here and kick the back of your seat as you drive, just like you've been doing to me all these years."



Those who are celebrating their Birthday and Wedding Anniversary this month - We wish you the most beautiful time with family and friends.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

We never outgrow our need for Fathers

Because we are never too big for Fathers to stop holding us, nurturing us. That's the character of a Father.

Even Jesus, King of Kings, our Lord Bowled and cried, Abba, Daddy, Father.

Today we thank our heavenly Father for giving us the gift of earthly Fathers.



THE POWER TO HEAL

Sometime back I heard a short speech from a Neurosurgeon with a powerful Gospel message. He said that they don't discuss anymore the effects of prayers on the sick. They have made many experiments with prayers for the Sick, or for the sick people who are in a coma and are not aware that people are praying for them, and other experiences and the results have been astonishing. The only thing they discuss is that it works, and the scientists don't know how to explain. The Neurosurgeon who operated on a patient last year, mentioned that every time he performs a surgery, he always consecrates his hands to Our Lady, the Mother of Jesus. Let us use our hands, the beautiful gift God has given us to heal and bless in His Name.

National Child Protection Week 6-12 September, 2026

NCPW is a national campaign that brings Australians together to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect, share valuable resources, amplify children's voices, and encourage practical actions that support families and communities, and help prevent harm before it occurs. It reminds us that protecting children is everyone's responsibility. It encourages parents and carers, community leaders, service providers, policymakers, neighbours and young people to consider how our everyday actions and decisions can contribute to children's safety and wellbeing. Find resources from NAPCAN here: <https://www.napcan.org.au/get-involved-2026/>

23. Synodality and leadership

Leadership in a synodal Church is not about control but about service. Leaders create spaces where gifts can emerge and flourish.

