



The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner
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XXII Domenica del tempo Ordinario (ANNO A)

Non pensi secondo Dio, ma secondo gli uomini”. Pietro scopre così la vera identità di Gesù. Egli fa l’incredibile scoperta che questo carpentiere di Nazaret non è altro che il Cristo, l’unto di Israele, la realizzazione dell’attesa, lunga duemila anni, del suo popolo. Ma Pietro interpreta la missione di Gesù in termini politici. Gesù ben se ne rende conto e spiega che tipo di Messia sarà: andrà a Gerusalemme per soffrire, essere messo a morte e risorgere il terzo giorno. Ciò è troppo per Pietro: nel suo spirito, l’idea di sofferenza e l’idea di Messia sono semplicemente incompatibili fra loro.

“Non pensi secondo Dio, ma secondo gli uomini”. Se Pietro potesse solo rendersene conto, sarebbe pervaso dalla gioia! Il Messia, che si sarebbe immerso nella sofferenza, che avrebbe incontrato l’ostilità degli uomini e che avrebbe subito tutte le conseguenze dell’ingratitude secolare di Israele verso il Dio dell’Alleanza, era proprio lì! Davanti a lui c’era finalmente colui che avrebbe sconfitto Satana in uno scontro decisivo e che avrebbe, in questo modo, portato a compimento il piano divino di salvezza per l’umanità.

Poiché Pietro “cominciò a protestare dicendo: Dio te ne scampi, Signore, questo non ti accadrà mai”, Gesù gli disse: “Lungi da me, satana! Tu mi sei di scandalo, perché non pensi secondo Dio, ma secondo gli uomini!”. Voltaire scrisse argutamente: “Dio fece l’uomo a sua immagine e somiglianza e l’uomo gliela rese proprio bene!”.

Nella nostra tendenza innata a resistere a Dio, noi deformiamo la sua immagine, ci rifiutiamo di lasciare che Dio sia come vuole essere. Il nostro Dio è troppo piccolo, troppo fragile e troppo limitato, mentre il Dio di Gesù Cristo è letteralmente troppo bello per essere vero. Gesù si affretta a percorrere la via che porta a Gerusalemme per svelarcelo sulla croce.

Sulla croce, infatti, Gesù rivelerà l’ultimo ritratto di Dio nel dramma della misericordia che vince il peccato, dell’amore che supera la morte e della fedeltà divina che cancella il tradimento.

Chi avrebbe mai immaginato, sia pure in sogno, che Dio sarebbe intervenuto nella nostra storia in questo modo? Sfortunatamente, per molti, Gesù è davvero troppo bello per essere vero. “Se tu conoscessi il dono di Dio e chi è colui che ti dice: Dammi da bere!”

(La Chiesa)

This gospel contains the first of three predictions of his passion and death that Jesus makes along his journey to Jerusalem. Matthew tells the story of that journey across the next four chapters of his gospel.

Peter is highly disturbed by the predictions of Jesus’ suffering, but is soundly rebuked. The contrast between this text and the gospel of the previous week is stark! In the immediately prior episode, Peter is praised and rewarded for his sublime affirmation of faith, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ In this text, Peter’s lack of understanding, both of what that means and of Jesus’ mission, causes him to be ridiculed as an obstacle to the divine mission. While we may have some sympathy for Peter in wanting to spare Jesus the pain and suffering he predicts, what is at issue is Peter’s failure to see that the cross is part of the plan and that discipleship will also involve the cross. Taking up the cross, however, will result in great reward and ultimate vindication when the time of judgment comes.

(The Summit)

St. Matthew’s Parish Dinner and Parish Raffle

St. Matthew’s Parish will be holding a dinner to celebrate the feast of St. Matthew on Friday, 18th of September in the parish hall. Tickets are \$25.00 for adults / \$15.00 for children.

A raffle will also be held - tickets are \$2.00 each or \$20.00 per book. The raffle will be drawn at the dinner.

Entry tickets and raffle tickets are available for purchase before and after weekend masses., or, from the Parish Office.

The raffle prize list will be available on the noticeboard in the church foyer.

Air conditioners in the church

Work on the removal of the existing split systems and the installation of the new systems will commence in the near future. S&J Mechanical Electrical P/L have been assigned the responsibility of the project. The systems are expected to be installed and running by the end of September. There should be minimal disruption to weekday or weekend mass services. Voluntary donations are welcome.

The sick in our parish: Teresa Lamonaca, John Markis, Miriam Markis, Angela Barto, Sonia Taranto, Evelyn McDonough, Laurence, Monica Zahra, Cathy Taviane, Maria Mallozzi, Aiden Agius, Meldon Richardson, John Bussutil, Elda Taranto, Alfredo Pannunzio, Claudette McAllister, John Pannunzio, Maria Lester, Robert, Richard, Rosario Galati, Alice Abella, Estrelita Flores, Anna Boscaglia, Cleo Mallia, Theresa Beard, Remi Infanti, Christine, Vic Usher, Nidal, Peter, Sam Brady.

Upcoming funeral: Juliana Varron Israel, Monday, August 31 at 10.30 am.

Recently deceased: Juliana Varron Israel, Joseph Ranno, Giuseppe Tomeo, Nazarena Caruana, Jesus Ladera, Galdo, Felice Nania, Giovanna Failla, Mario Cutajar, Geoffrey Harris

Anniversaries: Maria Concetta Raco, Grazia Malivindi, Concetta Malivindi, Domenico Malivindi, Filippo Lazzaro, Carmel Jeffery, Brian Miller, Elio Raffaeli, William McAllister

Mass times Weekday: Tuesday-Friday: 9.30 am. Wednesday: Novena mass 6.00 pm. Weekend Saturday Vigil mass 5.30 pm Sunday 9.00 am ; Sunday 10.30 (Italian mass) Reconciliation: Saturday: 5.00 pm. Bookings are essential. Contact the Parish Office	Rosters for weekend masses (September 5/6) Lectors: Saturday: 5.30 pm. J. George Sunday 9.00 am: A. Hamrock-Fox 10.30 am: M. Costa Bus driver: B. Tjahtono 
Melbourne Synod 2026 On the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis’ vision of a ‘listening Church’ (<i>Evangelii Gaudium</i>, §31). Informed by Vatican II’s teaching, the Church is ‘a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit’ (<i>Lumen Gentium</i>, §4). The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Further information is available at : https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026	
Joke of the day Three holy, religious priests, a Dominican, a Franciscan, and a Jesuit were in the same hospice. All were near death. One evening, the Angel of Death appeared before them and informed them that it was their time. He said, however, that each could have a final request before accompanying him from this world as they had scrupulously practiced the triple norms of Christian discipleship in their pretty long lives. The Dominican went first, and he asked to gaze upon the face of his Savior. In an instant, the face of Christ appeared before him. He was satisfied and felt he could die with no regrets. The Franciscan was next. He asked to touch the wounds in the hands and feet of Jesus before he died. No sooner had he spoken than Christ appeared and invited him, as he did Thomas, to examine His wounds. The dying priest touched Christ’s hands and feet, wept with joy and was content and at peace. Finally, the angel turned to the Jesuit and asked his final request. Without hesitation, the Jesuit replied: “<i>I’d like a second opinion.</i>” <i>(frtonyshomilies)</i>	
Preghiera di San Matteo Dio nostro Padre, ti ringraziamo per tutti i doni che hai conferito sulla nostra famiglia parrocchiale. Concedici la Sapienza per cercare la tua volontà’ in ogni cosa. Circonda le nostre famiglie con la tua protezione amorosa. Dona salute e gioia ai nostri genitori, sapienza e coraggio ai nostri giovani e fede ed allegria ai nostri figli. Per intercessione di San Matteo, benedici perche’ diventiamo una famiglia piu’ fedele ed amorosa e di cuore e mente unici. Amen	St. Matthew’s Prayer God Our Father, we thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed upon our Parish Family. Give us the wisdom to seek Your Will in everything. Encircle our families with Your loving care. Give good health and happiness to our parents; wisdom and courage to our youth; faith and cheerfulness to our children. Bless us, through the intercession of St. Matthew, to grow stronger in faith and love, as a family of one heart and one mind. Amen
St. Matthew's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.	