

13 September 2026 St John Bosco Parish Niddrie

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Green is the colour of hope and growth



Dear friends,

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR..



Parish Mini Mission

In a couple of weeks time, we will spend some time in prayer together for our Parish Mini Mission as part of our 60th birthday celebrations. The timetable is below. Please mark it in your calendars and join us. This Mission is not just for us who are here each weekend, but it is for everyone. Particularly those in our community that may not be with us on a regular basis. In the church foyer, there are flyers that I invite you to take and share with others. In particular, I invite you to take some flyers and share them with the letterboxes in your street. It is a simple and non confrontational way of inviting others to join us, as well as highlighting our presence in the community. Please note on the large sheet, the name of the street you will be doing so we don't double up! It only takes a few minutes and you may touch someone to join our parish.

Parish Mini Mission Timetable

Sunday 27 September

7pm -7.30pm: Quiet Adoration & Confessions

7.30pm Talk: "Mass is Boring!" Or is it?

7.50pm: Benediction

8pm: Coffee, Port and Chocolates

Monday 28 September

7pm-7.30pm: Quiet Adoration and Confessions

7.30pm Talk: "I Don't Need Confession" Or Do I?

7.50pm: Benediction

8pm: Coffee, Port and Chocolates

Blessing of Animals

As the Season of Creation concludes on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, which falls on a Sunday this year, it is perhaps appropriate to have the 'Blessing of Animals' which is observed in a number of Christian churches. If you would like your pet blessed, we will do this at 9am on Sunday October 4 in front of the church. The ceremony will last about 15-20 minutes and you can return your pets to home and return in time for 10.30am Mass!

Service of Lament

On Tuesday 15 September, the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, the Archbishop will lead the second annual Service of Lament in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral at 4pm. This is a time to pray and stand with those who have suffered abuse in the Church as well as to pray for healing, justice and ongoing conversion in the Church. All are welcome to attend, and also to accompany this service in personal prayer.

Safeguarding Sunday

Today the Church in Australia observes Safeguarding Sunday, which is an opportunity for us to publicly commit ourselves to creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all people in our churches and communities, especially the young and the vulnerable and needy. Sometimes the requirements such as a WWC card and Code of Conduct and ongoing training can seem burdensome, but it is sign of the Church's commitment to ensure a safe community for all people and our observance of all Church and government regulations. Thank you for your support and commitment.

St Vincent de Paul

If anyone is interested in volunteering on a regular or occasional basis for the work of visitation to those in need in the parish, please see Geraldine or Fr David, or contact the parish office this week.

The Parish of St John Bosco and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and the vulnerable in our community. Protection and the dignity of every person is our responsibility.

Contact Us

Parish Priest
Fr David Cartwright
T: 9337 9994
E: Niddrie@cam.org.au
W: melbournecatholic.org/s/niddrie
F: St John Bosco's Catholic Church Niddrie
Parish Office
29 Muriel Street Niddrie Vic 3042
Mon, Wed, Fri: 10am - 4pm
Charles Meneze, Secretary

Pray With Us

Holy Mass Times

Wednesday - Friday: 9.30am Mass

Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Holy Days and Feast Days as announced

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 4.30pm

First Friday 9am, or any time on request

Please call Fr David on 9337 9994

Rosary

Recited at 9am before weekday Mass

Benediction

First Friday after 9.30am Mass

Baptisms

1st Sunday of the month 11.45am, please contact the office. Or by arrangement.

House Blessings/ Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the presbytery

Support Us

Thank you for your generosity toward our parish: physically, spiritually and financially. If you are not a regular contributor, we invite your support- please contact the Parish Office.

Tap and Go machines are available at the weekend Mass in the narthex.

Direct Credits can also be made:

Presbytery Account (1st collection, for clergy and presbytery support)

- BSB:083 -347 Acc No.: 6616 52479

Parish Account (2nd collection, for parish expenses) BSB:083 - 347 AccNo.: 6568 74974

The parish relies solely on your support. We receive no funding from external sources or the Archdiocese. We thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to continue the work of the Gospel.

"God loves a cheerful giver!"

Parish News

New to the Faith? Want to Know More?

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic, seeking baptism & reception in the Church? Please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr David.



Do you know someone who would like to become Catholic? Ask them? Invite them to talk to Fr David. We would love to welcome new members into the Church and our parish.

St John Bosco's 60th Anniversary of the Opening of the Church October

4 October 9am: Blessing of Animals on Feast of St Francis

18 October 10.30am: Anniversary Mass and luncheon. Mass to give thanks to God for 60 years of worship in our beautiful church and fellowship together.

Take a look at the windows!

Our stained glass windows in the church all have a name and/or a dedication on them. You might take a moment to look at these over the next few weeks and give thanks and spare a prayer for the generous donors who made our church such a beautiful place.

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

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 ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Online Diaconate information meeting:

Tuesday 22 September, beginning 7pm – 8pm, Location: via ZOOM

Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.



Don't forget 'Frank and Joan', our friendly Tap and Go machines in the church foyer!



Stewardship

The first collection is for the support of the Parish Priest, for retired and sick priests, parishes in need and the Archbishop.

The second collection is for parish expenses like wages, utilities, insurance etc.

Last week:

1st collection: \$1,092

2nd collection: \$1,658

You can also donate to our Presbytery & Parish accounts using this QR code:



We recall in Prayer

Those who are sick

Maurice & Loretta; Javier Dillon; Ralph Erna; Mario Christofi

Recently Deceased

Antonietta Russo

Anniversaries and Remembrances

Connie Patten; Frank Muscat; Diana De Maio; Edward Myszka; Dorothy Lyra Fernandez; John Hogan; Hector Barra; Joan Clancy; Vince Tudini; Enzo Sabitina; Michael Dunn; Gojko Soldo

Mass Intentions this week

Wednesday: for our parish mission
Thursday: for our parish growth in holiness

Friday: Rose D'Souza Gomez anniversary

Saturday: those preparing for marriage
Sunday: *Pro populo*

Our Liturgical Life

From Pope Leo's Wednesday Audiences.

Saint Augustine, commenting on this passage of the Fourth Gospel, insists on the perspective of grace, which alone can make us friends of God in his Son (Commentary on the Gospel of John, Homily 86). Indeed, an ancient motto stated: "Amicitia aut pares invenit, aut facit", "friendship is born between equals, or makes them so". We are not equal to God, but God himself makes us similar to Him in his Son.

From The Documents of Vatican Council II. I. Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum. 1. God speaks to men as to friends (Reading: Jn 15:15)

Our Spiritual Life

Meditative Prayer

The process of meditation can involve several steps:

- Find the time and place which is conducive to meditation. It is important to pick a time when one is alert and able to focus and a comfortable and quiet place.
- Prepare to pray by relaxing your body so that you can devote your attention to prayer. Some people use muscle relaxing exercises and breathing exercises.
- Choose a word or phrase to focus your attention on God. Some people use "Jesus" or "Abba" or "Jesus saves" or "Jesus loves me."
- Connect the word or phrase with your breathing. Silently repeat the word or phrase in tune with your breathing. Let the word resonate within you. The repetition helps to focus on and remain open to God's presence. If you become distracted, focus again on repeating the word or phrase.

From www.cathedralstm.org

Caritas Australia: Nepal Floods Appeal

Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for families affected by the recent floods.

To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call 1800 024 413.

Thought for the Week

Science and the Bible cannot possibly contradict each other since God is the Author of both.

Wisdom of the Saints

Saint Clare: "Live and hope in the Lord, and let your service be according to reason."

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

Standard One

Committed leadership, governance and culture.

Standard Two

Children and adults are safe, informed and participate.

Standard Three

Partnering with families, carers and communities.

Standard Four

Equity is promoted and diversity is respected.

Standard Five

Robust human resource management.

Standard Six

Effective complaints management.

Standard Seven

Ongoing education and training.

Standard Eight

Safe physical and online environments.

Standard Nine

Continuous improvement.

Standard Ten

Policies and procedures support the safety of children and adults.

that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:by the power of the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is adored and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins,
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

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. Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these,

your servants' offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all. 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 cf. Ps 35: 8
How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. 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

FORGIVE FROM THE HEART

Have you ever been hurt by another? How do you act? Can you forgive? Hurts, misunderstanding and at times serious ruptures can occur amongst Jesus' members. The question which Peter asks Jesus is relevant: 'How often should one forgive another? Seven times?' Jesus replies, 'Seventy times seven,' meaning forgiveness is beyond calculation. Jesus then offers a parable to highlight the essential truth about forgiving others 'from the heart'. The story involves two servants. One owes his king 1000 talents. In Matthew's day a talent was worth a year's wage. The servant owes the king 1000 years' wages! An impossible debt to honour, even though the servant promises to pay it in time. The king, out of compassion, cancels the debt. Whew! Leaving the judgement hall, that same servant comes across a fellow servant who owes 100 denarii. A denarius is a day's wage, so the debt is a hundred days' wages, a paltry sum by comparison. But in this second scenario, compassion and debt cancellation are absent. The king gets to hear of this and imprisons the first servant for his lack of forgiveness. Meanness of spirit and forgiveness of heart will have their divine repercussions, the point of the final words of today's Gospel. Matthew's Jesus invites us to reflect upon our own forgiving and compassionate spirit towards those who have hurt or wronged us. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer, '...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.' The measure of our forgiveness is ultimately not God but our own hearts.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

HOW OFTEN MUST I FORGIVE? There is much truth in the proverb, 'to err is human, to forgive divine'. We all make mistakes. We all do or say things we later regret. And yet, when others wrong us, we can find it beyond our human strength to forgive. As we celebrate the mystery of Christ's love today, let us ask Jesus to heal our divisions and fill our hearts with his spirit of forgiveness.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Sir 36: 18
Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

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. Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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 Sir 27:30–28:7
A reading from the Book of Sirach.
Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.
The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8
R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**
3. His wrath will come to an end; / he will not be angry for ever. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**



4. For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. / As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 14: 7-9
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.
Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 13: 34
Alleluia, alleluia! / I give you a new commandment: / love one another as I have loved you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 18: 21-35
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.

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders