

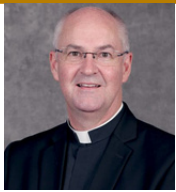
15 February 2026 St John Bosco Parish Niddrie

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

Green is the colour of hope and growth



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR..



Dear friends,
The Australian Bishops have issued a Social Justice Statement which is summarised below. The full statement can be read at www.catholic.au
Australia's bishops urge courage and tenderness about the nation's cost-of-living crisis. Each year since 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has issued a statement for reflection and discussion in the lead-up to Social Justice Sunday on a key issue in society. This year, the bishops have chosen to release two statements: one in February and another in August ahead of Social Justice Sunday (30 August). The February statement is entitled The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good. The statement sets out key facts and figures about the crisis, points to Catholic Social Teaching as a means of addressing it and outlines a list of actions largely focused on local communities. www.melbournecatholic.org.au

Lenten Season
Below is an extract from the Lenten Pastoral Letter of the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa. I hope you find this helpful.
With the beginning of Lent, the Church invites us to set out on a shared journey of prayer, penance, and conversion, a journey that will lead us to the beating heart of our faith: the solemnity of Easter. This time of grace is a precious opportunity to purify our hearts, renew our faith, and reorient our lives toward God. It is not merely a time of abstinence, but a call to rediscover the true meaning of our existence, to return to that first love who embraced us at Baptism.
In this context, we are all earnestly invited to rediscover the Sacrament of Reconciliation, through which we encounter the tangible face of the Father's mercy; it is an encounter of healing and love. Let us prepare ourselves with a serious examination of conscience, asking the Lord to illuminate the dark areas of our hearts.

Prayer is the soul of the Lenten journey. In this time of grace, we are encouraged to nourish personal and communal prayer with greater diligence. Let us set aside moments of silence, like Jesus in Gethsemane, to entrust our struggles, our hopes, and our desires for good to God. May the prayer of the Rosary also become our daily compass, expressing our longing for heaven. Brothers and sisters, Lent is not a journey without a destination. It is a pilgrimage toward Easter, toward the invincible light of the morning of the Resurrection. Let us live this Lent as a true "Kairos" moment, a favourable time of grace. Through sincere confession, with perseverance in prayer, and generous charity, let us renew our Baptismal vows, our covenant with God. www.lpj.org

Finance Committee Last Wednesday evening the Parish Finance Committee met in the presbytery. In the coming weeks we will provide an update about the financial situation of the parish. Thank you to those who regularly support our parish, your help is invaluable, and deeply appreciated.

Solemn Beginning of Lent On the First Sunday of Lent, next Sunday, we will observe the Solemn Beginning of Lent, beginning outside the church for the 10.30am Mass, and processing into the church with the Litany of Saints, signifying our journey towards Easter on pilgrimage of Lent. On this day in the Eastern Church, it is called the 'Sunday of Orthodoxy' and includes the Procession with Holy Icons. As part of our Catholic tradition, processions remind us that we are a pilgrim people, walking together to the Lord.

Chocolate Sunday ?? We are all aware of 'Shrove Tuesday' or 'Pancake Tuesday' on the day before Ash Wednesday. Today is a local replacement which I call 'Chocolate Sunday'- so instead of pancakes there will be a chocolate for you after Mass to enjoy before we start Lent next Wednesday, with my compliments !

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
29 Muriel Street Niddrie Vic 3042
Parish Office
Charles Meneze, Secretary
Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-4pm

Pray With Us

Mass Times

Wednesday - Friday: 9.30am Mass
Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

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

Social Media

Don't forget to 'Like' and Follow us on Facebook:

St John Bosco's Catholic Church Niddrie and *St John Bosco Young Adults*

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.

New Parish Monstrance

You will see on display at the front of the church a new monstrance which has been gifted to our parish, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of our church this year. A very kind donor has paid for this beautiful gift which is a very fitting gift for our church and for us to adore the Lord in the Eucharist. Please spare a prayer for the generous donor.

Do you have a moment, Father ?

I will be available in the church without appointment for anyone wishing to see me at the following times:

Thursday 26 February 5-6pm

Saturday 28 February 10-11 am

During this time, the church will be open for quiet prayer also. You may want to call in for a chat or ask a question, have some items blessed, documents witnessed or celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr David

Baptisms

This weekend we welcome Poppy & Sadie, who are to become members of the Church through Baptism. Let us make them welcome and pray for them and their parents and godparents.

Bible Study Group

The parish Bible Study Group is a long-term group which meets regularly for prayer and discussion in the church. All are welcome to join. The next meeting will be Saturday 28 February at 2.30pm. Please join us. No prior knowledge is necessary. Beginners welcome!

Easter Raffle

We will commence selling tickets for our Easter Raffle soon- we are in need of prizes. Any donations will be greatly appreciated Please see Geraldine or Fr David.

60th Anniversary of the Opening of our parish church.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of St John Bosco's current church. It will be an occasion for us to celebrate and give thanks to God. If anyone has any suggestions about how we should celebrate this as a parish, please see Fr David.

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: \$605

2nd collection: \$1,492

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



We recall in Prayer

Those who are sick

Carl Pinto

Recently Deceased

Gerald Lopes; Rosaria Borgia

Anniversaries and Remembrances

Patricia Crawford; Domenico Casternzi;

Caterina Romano; Immacolata Romano

Mass Intentions this week

Wednesday: for a holy Lent for the parish

Thursday: for those in special need

Friday: for those seeking Jesus

Saturday: for the parish volunteers in thanks

Sunday: *Pro populo* (for the people of the parish)

Lenten Prayer Campaign As we did last year, we will have our Lenten Prayer Campaign for our own private intentions and people whom we wish to pray for especially during Lent. More details next Sunday.

Our Liturgical Life

A Walk Through the Mass

The Mass is the ritual Catholics celebrate in response to Jesus' command to "do this in memory of me" (Lk 22:19). One of the basic, distinctive marks of ritual prayer is that Catholics know what is going to happen next. We do things over and over. When the priest says, "The Lord be with you," without any thought or hesitation the congregation responds, "And with your Spirit." The priest says, "Let us pray," and the congregation stands up.

Our Spiritual Life

Expressions of Prayer - Contemplative Prayer

We are conscious of its impact, but our reaction is wordless. When we experience God personally, we feel his love and wait for him to speak to us in his own way. The key is to make time to relax and listen in God's presence, to seek union with the God who loves us. From www.loyolapress.com

Ash Wednesday: 18 February

Masses 9.30am and 7pm (confessions at 6.30pm)

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat.

Lenten Timetable

Tuesdays of Lent: (24.2; 3.3; 10.3; 17.3; 24.3; 31.3)

- Adoration and Confessions 6.30-6.50pm, Mass 7pm

Fridays of Lent:

- Stations of the Cross 7pm in the church

Sundays of Lent:

- Confessions 10-10.20am

Project Compassion boxes will be available next week.

Coming Up

The Parish Mission Team (Pastoral Council) will meet on March 4 at 7pm to start some planning for the 60th anniversary of our church and to discuss other parish matters. If you would like to be part of this, please see Fr David or contact the Parish Office

Ministry at our weekend Masses

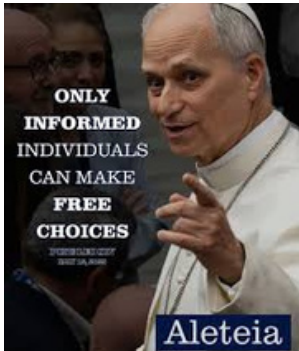
We are blessed to have a good number of volunteers who assist at our Masses with reading, collecting etc. We would like to expand our ministries in the area of music and altar serving. Currently we have a fledgling music ministry at both Masses, which we are very keen to expand. If you would like to join with singing or playing an instrument, please see one of our musicians after Mass or speak to Fr David. You don't need to be an expert, just willing to learn. If you would like to assist with Altar Serving or music on Sundays, please see Fr David.

Wisdom of the Saints

Saint Isaac Jogues: "My hope is in God, who needs not us to accomplish his designs. We must endeavour to be faithful to him."

Thought for the Week

Sin is the greatest of detectives (Numbers 32:23).



Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;

‘You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

‘Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is “Yes” if you mean yes, “No” if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.’

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

Longer form 5:17-37

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. May this oblation, O Lord, we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward. 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: When we eat this Bread, and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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 77:29-30
They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

OR Jn 3:16
God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P. Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live. 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 and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD
HONOURING THE TORAH

As we continue to hear Jesus’ teaching in Matthew’s ‘Sermon on the Mount’, we now move into a very Jewish-oriented section. Matthew’s audience were Jewish followers of Jesus. They were very familiar with the teachings of the Old Testament, from the Torah (the ‘Law’) and the Prophets. Jesus now reflects on these teachings stressing that he has come, not to abolish them, but to ‘complete them’. In other words, Matthew is not rejecting the Jewish teaching heritage of the audience but deepening it. This preservation and honouring of the Torah is central in Jesus’ teaching. In fact, the one who keeps and teaches others the injunctions of the Torah will be regarded as ‘great’ in God’s Kingdom. Matthew moves to explicate some of the key moral injunctions of the Torah. Each begins with the same formula: ‘You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors...’ Then follows Jesus’ interpretation of the Torah for Matthew’s Jewish listeners. It is important to note how this teaching is presented. The usual translation has ‘... But I say to you...’ This is not what the Greek text has. There is no contrast, no ‘but’, between what the ancients said and what Jesus teaches. There is no contrast between the old (the Torah) and the new (Jesus’ teaching), and no rejection of Judaism or its ancient wisdom summed up on the Torah. Jesus deepens the meaning behind these different aspects of Jewish law concerning murder, adultery and oath-breaking, getting to the heart of each. Undergirding each is the invitation to integrity of relationships. This, too, is the invitation to us, to live with a wholeness of being to others, God and the world.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS
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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A **15 FEBRUARY 2026**

FOLLOW GOD’S LAW. The vast wisdom of God is revealed in the law God has given to us, a law designed to lead us to the fullness of life and happiness. In today’s Gospel, Jesus reminds us that law is not only about external behaviour. Our inner attitudes are also important. It is from within, from the attitudes of our hearts, that good or evil actions flow.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 30:3-4
Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

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.
All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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



SECOND READING 1 Cor 2:6-10
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

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 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34
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.
Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

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, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. 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 15:15-20
A reading from the book of Sirach
He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

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

RESP PS Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1
R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!
1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God’s law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. **R.**