

Partnered Parishes of:

Sacred Heart Parish, Preston (SHP)

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

St Raphael's Parish, West Preston (STR)

17 Hardy St, Preston West

Phone (03) 9480 3398 or (03) 9484 2124 Email: preston@cam.org.au

Websites: www.melbcatholic.org/preston www.straphaelswestpreston.org.au



Office Hours: (322 Bell St, Preston)

Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10:30am - 4pm

Parish Priest: Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

Parish Office: Rachel Costa

Sacred Heart School Principal:

Antoniette Stasi

School Phone: 9487 1001

St Raphael's School Principal:

Mrs. Rosalba Squarci

School Phone: 9478 8374

Sacred Heart Parish (SHP)

Sacred Heart Mass Schedule

Sunday Masses:

Saturday: 6:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am (Italian), 10:30 am, 6:00 pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday to Friday: 9:10am

Healing Mass: 1st Friday of February, May, August & November at 1:30pm

Next Healing Mass: Friday 6 November

Devotional Practices:

Adoration of the

Blessed Sacrament:

Every Wednesday Morning after the 9:10am Mass for 30 minutes.

Holy Rosary: Thurs after the 9:10am Mass

Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 5:15pm

Baptisms & Weddings: By appointment only

Cuppa with Fr Aloysius

1st Monday of the month, the next one is on **Monday 5 October** in the church foyer after 9:10am Mass. All welcome



St Raphael's Parish (STR)

St Raphael Mass Schedule

Sunday Masses:

Saturday: 5pm **NEW**, **Sunday:** 10:30 am

Weekday Masses:

Thursdays: 9:10am

Devotional Practices:

Reconciliation: Every Saturday at 4:15pm

Living Gospel Prayer Group (LPGP):

Wednesdays at 1:30pm. All Welcome

Enquiries: Marijana 0422 340 675

Stay connected with parish news and upcoming events. To receive the weekly bulletin by email, subscribe at: www.melbcatholic.org/preston

Bulletin printed: 18/9/2026

Our Parishes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Sunday 20 September 2026

“My Ways Are Above Your Ways –

My Thoughts Are Above Your Thoughts.” (Isaiah 55)

Isaiah reminds us that God's ways are far richer, wider, and more compassionate than our own. The readings invite us to look at our world and our relationships not only through human eyes, but through the **merciful and generous heart of God**. We are called to “seek the Lord” beyond the noise, pressures, and distractions of daily life, and to be open to what God asks of us. This openness may challenge our assumptions, yet it leads us into a deeper trust in the God whom John beautifully describes as **Love** itself.

Scripture forms us in this divine wisdom. Through the prophets and through Jesus' mission to bring Good News to the poor and suffering, we learn that every person is created in God's image and deserving of dignity, compassion, and respect. There is no trace of God's spirit in violence, elitism, discrimination, exclusion, or exploitation. God's justice is always joined to mercy, and God's mercy is always directed toward healing and lifting up the vulnerable.

Today's Gospel offers a striking and unsettling parable. The labourers who arrive last receive the same wage as those who worked all day. It overturns our usual ideas of fairness and reward. But Jesus is revealing something far greater: **the outrageous generosity of God**, which cannot be earned, calculated, or measured. God gives not according to merit, but according to need. Every person deserves what is required to live, to feed their families, and to share life with others. No one is to be judged, rejected, or pushed aside.

Matthew wants us to understand that the standard for human behaviour is nothing less than the mind and heart of Christ. His mission is now entrusted to us. Our challenge is to grow as a community that welcomes, listens, and accompanies - especially those who are newly arrived, isolated, or struggling.

The first step is simple but profound: **letting go of prejudgements**. Meeting people where they are. Listening with respect. Walking gently in their shoes. When we do this, we begin to see with God's eyes, and our parish becomes a living sign of Christ's compassion.

May the wisdom of God guide our thoughts, soften our hearts, and strengthen our commitment to be a community where all are welcomed, valued, and loved.



Divine Word Missionaries serving the Parish of Sacred Heart Preston since 2007 and St Raphael's Parish since June 2026. www.divineword.com.au

Sacred Heart Parish Roster (SHP)

Sat 6pm Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion	Slide Projection
19-Sep	Marlene Vergou	Terry Murphy	Rayhan Domingo
26-Sep	Raymond Wibisono	Teresa Dang	Rayhan Domingo
03-Oct	Teresa Dang	Terry Murphy	Rayhan Domingo

Sun 10:30am Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion	Slide Projection
20-Sep	Marlene Fortuna Ophelia Swai	Tony Eley	Tanya Ferraro
27-Sep	Tissa Sebastian Marlene Fortuna	Mia Grant	Tanya Ferraro
04-Oct	Mia Grant Marlene Fortuna	Giovanna D'Intino	Natalia Molini

Sun 6pm Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion	Slide Projection
20-Sep	Jenifer Cahapay Sneha Antony	Damian Casamento	Kartika Henry
27-Sep	Robert Dullard Judith Pimentel	Natalie Baran	Hoi Ying Lam
04-Oct	Damian Casamento John Gaffney	Robert Dullard	Tanya Ferraro

St Raphael's Parish Roster (STR)

Sat 6:30pm Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion
19-Sep	Paul Smith	Nick Cachia
26-Sep	Mel Pulivuea	Nick Cachia
03-Oct	Paul Smith	Nick Cachia

Sun 10:30am Mass	Lectors	Ministers of Communion
20-Sep	Rosetta Macri Anna Sisinni — Italian	Carmela Molinaro Nick Cachia
27-Sep	Lena Pennacchia Melinda Di Prospero — Italian	Bruna D'Alessandro Lucy Triulcio
04-Oct	Lena Pennacchia Anna Sisinni — Italian	Bruna D'Alessandro Carmela Molinaro

A Heartfelt Thanks to All Our Volunteers

Please note: All volunteers are required to have a current linked Working With Children Check (WWCC), complete the "Safeguarding Essentials Training Module" and sign a "Code of Conduct".
Phone 9480 3398 if you need assistance.



WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

Margaret Bannan, Paulina Nato

Our parishioners, family members and friends, that they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect.

Those who have died recently:

Betty Fitzsimmons RIP 12/9. Funeral Tue 22/9 at 11am (SHP)

Francesca Paolacci RIP 12/9. Funeral Wed 30/9 at 10:30am (STR)

We Commemorate:

Angelo D'Souza - Sun 20/9 at 10:30am (SHP)

George Harb, 28th Anniv. (SHP)

Benedetto & Angelina Lupo (STR)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.



Last week's Collection (Sacred Heart): 13.9.2026

1st Collection for our Church: \$1,479

2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$927

Last week's Collection (St Raphael's): 13.9.2026

Stewardship/Church \$948 Presbytery \$450

Thank you ALL for your kind generosity!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Sacred Heart Community Preston acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this Sacred land on which our Church stands. We acknowledge their unique wisdom and ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



Pope Leo XIV@Pontifex

The vision of humanity as a "community of people" is a valuable legacy that the Second Vatican Council has left us. It helps us all to engage in personal and communal discernment, so that we may responsibly evaluate today's social and political projects, based on the criteria of the dignity of the human person, social justice, and free participation in constructing the common good.



Solemnities / Feasts / Memorials of the week:

Monday 21 September St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist (Feast)

Wednesday 23 September St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest (Padre Pio)

Saturday 26 September Sts Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs



Flowers in the Church



Thank you to those who bring flowers to the Church.
Kindly return after 5 days and remove the dead flowers and dispose of them in your green waste bin. Thank you



Sacrificial giving via QR code

To support Sacred Heart parish, you can make a donation by scanning the QR code unique to Sacred Heart Church, Preston. It links directly to our parish donation page.



QR code for St Raphael's Church will be available soon.



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 2026 beginning 19:00 – 20:00

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.



CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



Catholic Theological College

Engaging Your Faith online presentations

in October 2026

From \$25 per session.

For more information:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith



Living Water

Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

The symbol for 2026 - **Immersion in Living Water** - is a symbol of renewal and birth: water flowing from the Temple as a sign of God's caring and healing for us.. Those who receive this water are invited to become sources of life for others, allowing God's love to flow through them into the world. And thus the water of God will become in us "a spring of water welling up to eternal life", as Jesus promised (John 4:14).

This Symbol also urges us to dive into the "tears" of creation (Romans 8:22-23), by allowing our hearts to be touched by the suffering of our brothers and sisters. Indeed, the Season of Creation is also an appropriate time for closeness and solidarity with the vulnerable and the poor, who suffer from environmental degradation. We can learn from their stories, from their resilience, from their commitment, and together keep hope alive.

From different communities and regions, the call of Living Water reminds us that we are not alone: when we walk together, our hope becomes a river that can transform

♥ What drop of hope do you want to contribute?

For more information visit: seasonofcreation.org



Melbourne Synod 2026



36. Synodality is a long journey

A Synod is not a one-time event. Synodality is a way of life that unfolds over time.

37. Synodality and renewal

Renewal does not come from programs alone but from transformed relationships. Synodality nurtures those relationships.



Enrolments for 2027 at Sacred Heart Primary School are now open!

We warmly invite prospective families to book a personal school tour to discover our welcoming community, meet our dedicated staff, and see our students learning and thriving. We'd love to welcome you to Sacred Heart. To book a tour or learn more, please visit <https://www.shpreston.catholic.edu.au/>.



CHOOSING PEACE

"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt ~
The International Day of Peace on September 21 gives us reason to consider what peace really means in today's world.

Dear Lord, help us to live peacefully with one another, especially when we do not agree. Teach us to respect our differences and recognise what we share. May there be greater understanding between people, communities and nations, and may peace have a lasting place in our world. Amen.

Sourced from www.majellan.media



Children's activity pages

Activity sheets and pencils are available in the foyer to keep young children quietly engaged during Mass.

Please tidy up after your children when Mass is over.

Thank you for your cooperation.



St Raphael's and Sacred Heart News

Cuppa after Mass – please join us-

Sacred Heart:

Sunday 20 September
after both 10:30am and 6pm Masses

St Raphael:

Sunday 20 September after 10:30am Mass



AFL GRAND FINAL BBQ and FUN DAY

Saturday, 26 September 2026, 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Sacred Heart Presbytery, 322 Bell Street, Preston VIC 3072

All parishioners, families & friends are warmly invited!

Gold coin donation

BBQ meats will be provided

Please bring nibbles or salad or dessert to share

Byo drinks

Join us for an afternoon of fun, food and footy spirit as we celebrate Grand Final weekend together at the Sacred Heart Presbytery.

Bring your team colours, good cheer and enjoy a great community day.

Please write your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet in either church foyer or register through

Trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/DPUFX>



Monthly Partnered Parishes Lunch

Next Lunch on Thursday 1 October

at 12.00pm Midday at Darebin RSL,
402 Bell Street, Preston.



If you would like to attend, please write your name on the sign-up form in either church foyer by Monday 28

September or email preston@cam.org.au. Thank you.

Any questions, please contact Nadia on 0409 409 467.



Save the date- Sunday 11 October

St Raphael's Feast Day Mass and Celebration

All are welcome to 10:30am Mass followed by refreshments in the St Raphael's School Hall



Creation Sings!

Catholic Youth Art Competition

Submissions Due September 25, 2026

In celebration of the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi, Catholic Climate Covenant is holding a youth art competition! Youth K-12 are invited to submit art inspired by the lives and example of St. Francis & St. Clare of Assisi for cash prizes. Learn more at bit.ly/FrancisYouthArtContest



😊 Joke Corner 😊

As we are deep into the football finals ...

Patient: Please doctor, you've got to help me with these nightmares!

Doctor: What type of dreams are you having?

Patient: I always dream of these awful rodents playing football. Seeing them crawl, tackle, squeal night after night right in front of me. It's terrible! Do you have a remedy?

Doctor: Have I what! I've got the cure for you right here. This pill is so strong, so powerful, you will never have nightmares!

Patient: Ok great! Can I start taking the pill tomorrow night?

Doctor: Yes, but why not tonight?

Patient: Well, it's just that the grand final is tonight.

PENITENTIAL ACT

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,

And, striking their breast, they say:

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.

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.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18

The Response Is:

The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,

compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,

who call on him from their hearts.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:20-24,27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel

Acclamation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?”’ “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s

work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’ The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE NICENE CREED.

I believe in one God, the Father 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 men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow, up to and including ‘and became man’, all bow.)

and by 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, who with the Father

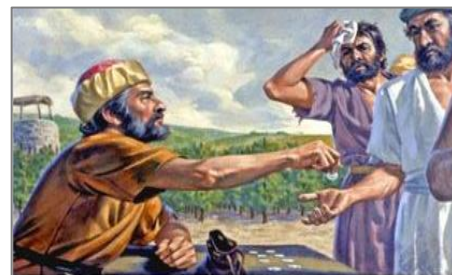
and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

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. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.



**Laborers Hired Unto The
Vineyard**

Matthew 20:1-16