

SUNDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2026
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Parish of The Holy Spirit and St. Francis

St Mary's

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sacred Heart

Dear parishioner,

As you all know last week I was away on the annual Clergy Conference with a 170 other Priests, Deacons, and staff from the Archdiocese office of Melbourne. The theme for the conference, was "Becoming a Catechumenal Church," which invited participants to reflect on how the Church accompanies people into an encounter with Christ. Our keynote speaker was Bishop Alain Vito Auxiliary Bishop of Reims, France, who is a respected theologian, philosopher and author whose work focuses on 20th-century theology. He noted that the Western Church is living in a complex time in history: society is often described as post-secular, yet there is a renewed hunger for images, symbols and sacramentality. Due to events like Covid, wars, and uncertainties people are searching for clarity. Bishop Vito encouraged us to rediscover the deep sacramental and symbolic life of the Church so that people today can truly encounter Christ and grow toward Christian maturity. He spoke about each of the sacraments and that they are not merely rituals or symbols, but real, transformative events in which the Holy Spirit acts. His sacramental theology is deeply hopeful. He sees the sacraments as: encounters with Christ, acts of the Holy Spirit, signs that speak to the human heart, and pathways to Christian flourishing. God's grace is at work.

WYD 2027: The Church of Melbourne is preparing for an exciting journey to World Youth Day Seoul 2027, and the Archbishop will officially launch our Archdiocese's pilgrimage on Thursday, 20 August 2026. This global gathering of faith, culture and youthful joy offers an extraordinary opportunity for young people to deepen their relationship with Christ, encounter the universal Church, and share in a vibrant celebration of hope. I warmly invite any young adults who may be interested in participating in the pilgrimage to make themselves known. I still remember my first World Youth Day in Madrid in 2011, a pilgrimage that opened my eyes to the beauty and strength of our universal Church. It was the first time I had ever walked among such an enormous crowd of believers — hundreds of thousands of young people from every corner of the world, travelling to a new country, navigating unfamiliar streets, and moving within such a sea of humanity was certainly challenging. Yet the joy of sharing our faith together made every difficulty worthwhile. To stand among so many young Catholics, praying, singing and witnessing to Christ, was deeply moving. This Thursday the WYD in 2027 will be a year away and I am wondering if there are any young adults who may be willing to experience this adventure. Please think this over.



Finally, while on the conference my mind turned towards some of the wording during the Eucharistic Prayer. In Eucharistic Prayer II, we hear the quiet but powerful words: "Let these gifts become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ." This moment reminds us that the Eucharist is not something we create; it is something God transforms. Bread and wine — simple, ordinary gifts of creation — become for us the living presence of Christ. Just as Mary received the Holy Spirit and Christ was formed within her, the Holy Spirit now descends upon our gifts so that Christ may be present among us. Then we hear the familiar words of Jesus: "Take this, all of you..." These words are not only a command; they are an invitation. Christ invites us to receive Him fully — His life, His love, His sacrifice, His mercy. He offers Himself without hesitation, without condition. In every Mass, He repeats this invitation, asking us to open our hearts and allow His presence to nourish what is wounded, strengthen what is fragile, and renew what is weary. The prayer continues with our response: "We offer and we pray..." Here the Church speaks with one voice. We offer our lives — our joys, our struggles, our hopes, our fears — placing them on the altar with the bread and wine. We pray not only for ourselves but for the whole world, trusting that God receives what we bring and transforms it, just as He transforms the gifts of bread and wine. Our offering becomes part of Christ's offering to the Father.



These simple phrases — *become for us... take this... we offer and we pray* — reveal the heart of the Eucharist. God gives Himself to us; we receive Him; and we offer ourselves back to God. It is a beautiful exchange of love, a moment where heaven touches earth, and where we are drawn into the mystery of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Amen

Looking forward to seeing you all.

God bless, Fr Martin.

WE PRAY FOR...

ILLNESS:

Rosa Nistico, Elizabeth Kiernikowski, Maria Reilly, Mick Zuccala, Nancy Camera, Lucy Finnegan, Ebony McDonald, Teresa Styne, Oliver & James Mendis, Mary Ryan, Sunny & Hunter Drew, Joseph Galekovic, Clive O'Connor, Rita Spinella, Kerstin Thomas, Marie Northey, Martin Patane, Shane Cowie, Anna Slawek, Melita Lambiris, Malcom Keys, Carmel Finley, M.S., Barry Martin, Vera Molloy, Claire Lawrence, Tom Fischer, Joan Tranter, Stella Noal, Peter Teasdale, Paul Kennedy, Vlad, Antonio Salas, Prue Turner

ANNIVERSARIES:

Jenny Berreen, Frank Scully, Matteo Genovese, France Chan Yam, Maria Bowditch, Desmond Murphy, Mary Petropulo, Marcus Young, Agnes Murray, Mary Hiskin, Irene Casson, Conrad Lobo, Georgette Zimmaro, Salvatore Manno, Catherine O'Brien

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Mary O'Connor (Funeral Tue 18 Aug at 11 am, St Joan of Arc, Brighton); Patricia Water & Martin Patane (Funeral Wed 26 Aug. 10 am Sacred Heart)

BAPTISM:

Ruby & James A Cookesley
Eve Stainthorpe & Sophie Calder

SACRAMENTS 2026



FIRST RECONCILIATION

TERM 4

Tues 10, 17 & 24 Nov 5:30 pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Semester 1: 2027

CONFIRMATION

Thu 3 Sept to 19 Nov 5 pm

Information & bookings at
sandringham@cam.org.au

SAVE THE DATE Sunday 4th October, 2pm.

Parish Celebration for the Feast of St Francis & The Holy Spirit.

This year we celebrate the 800th Year of St Francis' death.

Entrance Antiphon Psalm 83:10-11

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading Isaiah 56:1.6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)

2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Lord, 'help me.'

Matthew 15:25



Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon Psalm 129:7

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil

5 pm St Mary's

59 Holyrood St, Hampton

Sunday Morning

9 am Sunday - Sacred Heart

13 Fernhill Rd, Sandringham

10:30 am Immaculate Heart

441 Bluff Rd, Hampton East

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 9:15 am Immaculate Heart

Tue 9:15am Sacred Heart

Wed 9:15am Sacred Heart

Thur 9:15am St Mary's

CONFESSION TIMES

Sat. 4:45 pm St Mary's

Sun. 8:45 am Sacred Heart

PRAYER & ADORATION

All are welcome!

Rosary & Prayers

Sun, 10 am Immaculate Heart

Mon, 8:50 & 9:50 am Immaculate Heart

Tue, 8:45 am Sacred Heart ^{New Time!!}

Wed, 8:20 am Sacred Heart

Thu, 8:45 am St Mary's ^{New Time!!}

Adoration

Wed, 8:45-9:10am Sacred Heart

EMERGENCIES

For anointing of the sick please
call 7036 9381 and dial 3

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST: FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE

That in cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.



BITE SIZE THOUGHTS BY GREG SUNTER

From the perspective of ... A disciple.

As we passed through a little village near Sidon this Canaanite woman suddenly started calling on the master to help her daughter. We all expected the master to help her out as usual but he really put her in her place! He told her that his ministry was not for pagans like her. That should have stopped her, but she kept on and on, even turning the master's words back on him! She was so rude. We were about to push her out of the way so that the master could move on when he suddenly told her that her faith was great and that her daughter was better. Great faith? A Canaanite? He never ceases to surprise us!

PARISH CELEBRATION – FEAST OF ST FRANCIS

Sunday 4th October 2026 2pm

Your invitation to our Parish Celebration for the Feast of St Francis & the Holy Spirit has been included in this week's online parish newsletter.

If possible, please download, print, complete and return your RSVP to the RSVP box at the church.

Hard copies of the invitation are also available at the back of the churches.

If you have any queries, please contact:

St Mary's: Jennifer Whithecomb, Michele Connell, Angelina Robinson

Immaculate Heart: Angelina Robinson, Cheryl Juelg, Rick Thomas

Sacred Heart: Sue Thorp, Heather McGrath, Mark Shannon

WHY THE CHURCH IS EMBRACING SYNODALITY NOW



The call to synodality is a response to the signs of the times. In a fragmented world, God calls the Church to witness communion, dialogue, and hope.



The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code. You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends

ONE YEAR TO GO UNTIL WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027

Thursday, 20 August 2026, 6.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral

Celebrate the launch of the World Youth Day pilgrimage to South Korea with Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli. The evening includes the Six30 Holy Hour, food and fellowship. All are welcome!

Community Cuppa

Sundays After 9:00 am Mass, Sacred Heart.
Sundays After 10:30 am Mass, Immaculate Heart.
Wednesdays After 9:15 am Mass, Sacred Heart.

Monthly Dinner

1st Saturday of the month after 5 pm Mass.
Contact Michele: 0427 508 003.

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH COLLECTIONS

Please note that at our Masses there are two collections:

- The First collection is for priest and retired priests
- The Second collection helps support the day-to-day expenses of the parish.

If you would prefer to give by card, tap machines are available in the foyers of the churches.

DIRECT DEBIT

Parish of The Holy Spirit & St Francis

BSB: 083 347

Acc. Num: 646745079

Presbytery Account

BSB: 083 347

Acc. Num: 646741705

ON LINE DONATIONS

at our [website](#) or using your phone to read our QR code



Thank you for your generosity to help us continue our ministry.

Donations to SH Social Justice Group

Sacred Heart Parish SJG East
Timor Project
BSB: 083347
Acc: 250540755

or through Return-It Vic!

Parishioners returning bottles and cans at refund points operated by CDS Vic East can now donate their refund directly to the Parish Social Justice Group by using the Parish Donation Partner ID C2000075764



Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Tanti martin.tanti@cam.org.au

Parish Secretary: Maria Jesus de Santisteban

Parish Office 13 Fernhill Rd, Sandringham VIC 3191

sandringham@cam.org.au Tel.7036 9381

Tue to Fri - 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

www.melbcatholic.org/holyspiritstfrancis