

NO MASSES WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY Diocesan Conference on religious education in schools and parishes in Melbourne for priests and teachers.

Saints and Masses this Week Tuesday 21 July – Ord time wk16, Wednesday 22 July – **NO MASS**, Thursday 23 July – **NO MASS**, Friday 24 July – Ord time wk16, Saturday 25 July – St James, Sunday 26 July – Sunday Ord time 17A.

2026 Collection/Observance Details		
9 - 23 August	Archbishop's Campaign	Development/Philanthropy
30 August	Social Justice Sunday	OBSERVANCE

Melbourne Catholic Digest News, stories, and events from the Archdiocese of Melbourne is a free newspaper available in the foyer.

Parish Receipts for Envelopes and Direct Deposits Please find in the foyer, in alphabetic surname order, your statement for the financial year 2025-26.

ARE you tired? Jesus said, "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll discover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Matthew 11: 28 – 30)

CDF Catholic Connect – Event Reminder Virginia Bourke, Chair of Mercy Health and Pro Chancellor of Australian Catholic University, has joined the panel for our upcoming CDF Catholic Connect workshop: **Economic Outlook: Navigating Change with Confidence and Purpose Wednesday 29 July 2026 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM (light lunch provided) Greg Craven Centre, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne** Virginia brings extensive experience in governance, healthcare, leadership and strategy, adding a valuable perspective to what promises to be a timely discussion for Catholic and for leaders. **Places are limited.** Register now, for another insightful and engaging conversation. She joins an experienced panel including: **Ivan Colhoun** – Economist and Keynote Presenter **Martin Teulan** – Executive Director, AMPJP **Professor Elizabeth Labone** – Chief Executive Officer, VCEA **John McClusky** – Chief Executive Officer, CDF Together, the panel will explore the economic outlook and its practical implications for Catholic organisations, including leadership through uncertainty, workforce and operational pressures, stewardship, sustainability, mission and future opportunities. **Our mailing address is:** Catholic Development Fund St Patrick's Ctr 486 Albert St EAST MELBOURNE, VIC 3002



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Parish Priest: Rev Fr Eugene Ashkar

Parish Secretary: Lorraine Nagle (Thurs)

MASS TIMES		ROSTERS THIS WEEK	
TUES – SAT		EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	
SAT VIGIL	9am at St Mary's	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SUNDAY	6pm at St Mary's	M Winnell	J Devanney
	8:30am Tallarook		
	10am at St Mary's		
MASS PREPARATION		COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
C Smith	C Crowe	C Smith	R Basco H Basco
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
C Smith	S Doyle	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		C. Spykers	V Hall

Thanksgiving Env - \$383

RECENTLY DECEASED We pray for the repose of the souls of Fr Tadeusz Ziolkowski (Thaddeus Zolkowski) and of all those who have died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 19/7-25/7: Richard McCormack, Aileen O'Keefe, Elsie Watterson, Jim Munari, Laurence Shepherd, Joan Shelton.

ILLNESSES: We pray for: Josie Gruneklee, Anne King, Sonia Willett, John McMahon, Peter Matthews, Colin Cooper, Jeremy Stokes, Pete Dillon, and all who are suffering from the Corona Virus and all those unwell at the present time, who receive support from our prayers.

25/26 JUL 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Sat: M Winnell	Sun: E Devanney
LECTORS	Sat: C Spykers	Sun: M Flynn C Crowe
MASS PREPARATION	Sat: C Spykers	Sun: M Flynn
COUNTERS: D Ring G Quillinan		

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 85)

ANTIPHON: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

RESPONSE: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

LECTOR: O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**

LECTOR: : All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **R.**

LECTOR: But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Or

Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

TODAY'S READINGS Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

NEXT WEEK (17th Sunday of Year A) 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 118; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

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God at work in the world



19 July 2026 16th Sunday Year A

Jesus is a strange and disconcerting figure. His words are biting and odd. They are elusive and obscure. At the same time, they command attention and demand a response. His actions are similar. He's not what is expected. He's dangerous. He's impossible to ignore. The religious and political leaders of his day understood this. That's why they crucified him.

If you are familiar with the portrait of God built up in the Old Testament, maybe you are not so surprised about Jesus. If that God, the God of Israel becomes human, you are going to get an irrepressible wildfire, an elusive, odd, dangerous One, beyond our control and manipulation, and yet close, too close, too committed for comfort. You are going to get a God who, as man, fully, even 'wildly,' devotes himself to the end he has for his good creation, despite our best attempts to wrest our own little piece of it from him for our ridiculous and narrow designs. You are going to get a God who, as man, irreparably binds, weds himself to humanity in unimaginable impassioned love.

You are going to get a God who, as man, provokes his own inevitable suffering and death at the hand of his beloved. He's ineffable, inscrutable, uncontainable, unstoppable. He's definitely not safe. No! He's too good to be safe. There's only ever more mystery to him.

Alas we have our own two-thousand-years-after-the-event strategies for handling Jesus. We can't

kill him. We are the ones who love him and want to be faithful to him above all else. Nevertheless, we tend to domesticate him, rounding off the hard edges, softening the sharp and pointed words, managing his frightening actions that, for fear, we refuse to ponder too long. We cage him up, privatising, declawing our religion, wheeling him out for a quick show when it's convenient, keeping him hidden away when it's not. We are expert at making him beneficial, conventional, docile, safe.

But the Church—and the Holy Spirit who guides her—won't let us do this for long. Look at this week's readings. With Jesus' parables, we've got the Living God speaking to us and teaching us. With his actions, we've got the Living God at work in the world. Today's Old Testament reading anticipates this. The New Testament reading helps us ponder it. And as we pass through these readings, brace yourself for the encounter? That's the shape of the Mass.

The lion paces. He's going to break out of his cage. He's going to find you. He always does. No one can keep him at a safe distance. He's already stalking among us. He's going to rule this world, destroying death and sin and evil once and for all. Don't let go of his mane! Hold on; hold firm. He will leap and the never-ending day will dawn.

W Chris Hackett

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