

Saints and Masses this Week **Monday 21 September – Friday 25 September – no weekday masses.** **Saturday 26 September – Votive 1 BVM, Sunday 27 September – Sunday Ord time 26A.**

2026 Collection/Observance Details			
20 September	Social Services Sun	OBSERVANCE	
27 September	Migrants, Refugees	OBSERVANCE	

2027 Columban Calendar Pre-ordering To ensure the supply of sufficient copies of the 2027 Columban Calendars for the parish, parishioners are asked to let our pious goods store staff how many you intend to buy when they become available.

Mass Intentions Each week the list on the notice board is updated. Feel free to request your mass intention with Father. Naturally, recently deceased cannot be prebooked so all effort will be made to say it on the day of request.

Pledge to Pray The Vocations Office invites you to 'pledge a prayer' for vocations at www.pledgetoprayer.com.au Please pray for vocations in Australia. **School holidays Keep families in your prayers** Our school and parish families have begun their holidays and we pray that they may remain safe from all harm in body and soul.

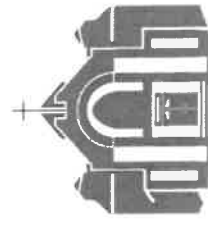
No Masses During these Weekdays I will be away visiting my parents from late evening Sunday 20 until late evening Friday 25 and will return for morning Mass Saturday. Weekend masses will be as usual.

First Communions October 11 Please remember over these next few weeks our First Communion children as they and their families prepare for this holy event.

Importance of Intelligent Discernment In a world crowded with noise, the Church continues to remind us of the importance of listening: to God, to one another and to the world around us; on responding to God's will in the midst of everyday life through a willingness to listen and to say 'yes'. Listening also requires discernment. Literacy in this age of algorithms and AI is about learning how to think critically, recognise truth and encounter the experiences of others with empathy.

Please Pray for our Leaders As the elections rapidly approach, we are all very much in need of prayers for our leaders and our society. We have come so far from God in this society that by ourselves and our own thinking there is nothing that we can do that will change things for the better except learn to return to God and trust in him to bring changes of heart and mind to those in leadership and society as a whole. I ask you to set a goal of a daily prayer for this purpose and the expansion of faith especially within your parish.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, SEYMOUR
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 Parish Priest: Rev Fr Eugene Ashkar
 Parish Secretary: Lorraine Nagle (Thurs)

MASS TIMES		ROSTERS THIS WEEK	
TUES – SAT	9am at St Mary's	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	
SAT VIGIL	6pm at St Mary's	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SUNDAY	8:30am Tallarook	M Winnell	J Devanny
	10am at St Mary's	COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
MASS PREPARATION		SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	C Spykers	M Flynn C Crowe
C Spykers	S Anderson	COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
COUNTERS		SATURDAY	SUNDAY
D Ring	G Quillinan	C. Spykers	V Hall

Thanksgiving Env \$ 592

RECENTLY DECEASED We pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 20/9-26/9: Gus McDonald, Jim Hawkins Jnr, Christine Murphy, Brian O'Sullivan, Maureen Ruscoe, Beryl Larkin, Jill Coughlan, Robin Gardiner, Kevin Smith, Margaret Solomon Snr, John Dominguez, William Schneider, Mons Anthony Toms, Maurice Hoare

ILLNESSES: We pray for: Margaret Jennings, Margaret Winnell, Ellen Ashkar, Josie Gruneklee, Sonia Willett, John McMahon, 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.

26/27 SEPT 2026

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS Sat: M Winnell Sun: M Flynn
 LECTORS Sat: D Mercovich Sun: S Royals S Liddell
 MASS PREPARATION Sat: J Bottaro Sun: C Crowe

COUNTERS: C Mansbridge & C Spykers

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 144)

ANTIPHON: The Lord is near to all who call him.

RESPONSE: The Lord is near to all who call him.

LECTOR: 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. **R.**

LECTOR: 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. **R.**

LECTOR: 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. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Or

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 55:6-9; Philipians 1:20-24, 27; Matthew 20:1-16

NEXT WEEK (26th Sunday of Year A) Ezekiel 18:25-28; Psalm 24; Philipians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32

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An ever-generous God



20th September 2026 25th Sunday Year A

In the gospel parable we might wonder is this the way God acts? It doesn't seem fair to pay everyone the same wage, whether they have worked the entire day or for an hour, even if it was agreed to by the workers at the beginning.

Then, at the parable's end, the landowner says to these upset workers, 'Why be envious when I am generous?'

But we could say it's unjust; what about a fair go for all, not simply those who waited all day for work. Justice is central to the parable, but justice as a form of compassion, ensuring everyone gets paid a living wage, from the first to the last. However, if the wage is a metaphor of salvation, whether we've worked for a long time or not isn't really the issue; we can't earn salvation, it's a gift, and wanting more of it doesn't make sense.

We begin to see how generosity and envy too are at the heart of this gospel, and how envy is a response to a perceived lack of generosity on God's part. It distracts us from what we have been given, and we fixate on what others have – such as money, house, car, status – and that's what we want. The media thrives on this, whether social or otherwise, as the cartoon character called Envy reminds us: she has 'a big appetite for everything she doesn't have.'

This is why gratitude is important, because it enables us to give thanks for what we have been given. So too trust: trust in what Jesus has promised us. As we come to trust in God

we begin to realise that God provides for us and we're able to give thanks for the gift of Jesus' life.

In doing so, we come to see that God gives us all we need and gradually we begin to recognise that we have been living in a self-enclosed world where scarcity and ambition rule. It's then that we come to understand our need to be free of envy if our lives are to be open to the generosity of God; and it's not just St Francis, giving up his lavish lifestyle, who reveals this to us, but it's to be seen in our own lives. Or are we too locked into a way of life that prevents us from seeing it, and so denies us the freedom to live in God's love?

In the second reading Paul, in prison, sees clearly the meaning of his life: 'Life to me, of course, is Christ.' Jesus is our life too and the gift of himself is more than enough. He gives himself to us so we might give away to others what we have received. While the first reading from Isaiah speaks of God's love for his people.

God's thoughts and ways are beyond our understanding, and yet God is close to us and rich in forgiveness. This is the ever-generous God who gives us everything we'll ever need.

Damian Coleridge
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