

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

23 August 2026

readings

Next Week

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7-9
Ps 62:2-6, 8-9
Rom 12:1-2
Mt 16:21-27

in a nutshell

Who Do You Say I Am? Jesus asks his disciples this question in today's Gospel. He asks us the same question. He is not seeking a textbook response or for us to repeat what others have said about him. He wants to hear our personal response. May we answer his questions as truthfully as possible, and then listen as he speaks to us.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially Pauline Bennett, Paul Latham, Fr Pat Purcell, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees
For those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

Archbishop's Campaign Collection concludes this week.

More information inside

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

St Thomas a Becket, Yarra Junction

Sunday Mass

Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am
First Friday—11:30am

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:10pm- 6:40pm
Mount Evelyn: Saturday
11:30am-12:30pm

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

St Josephs

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.siyarrajunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarraalley

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday
moutevelyn@cam.org.au

Parish Council Meeting:
Friday 30 October—1:30pm

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

Your financial support can be made via:

- Cash using the stewardship envelopes—call the office for information on how to become a contributor
- Direct Debit BSB 083347 **Sacred Heart Church**: 670642723, Presbytery: 649237379
- Use the QR Code on this page
- The website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarvalley> and choose where you are donating: church, presbytery, maintenance.



Parish Notices

Archbishop Peter Comensoli to visit the parish

The archbishop will make an official visit to the parish on the weekend of 4-6 September. He will be visiting with the school and with parishioners. More information will be provided once his itinerary is confirmed. We look forward to welcoming the archbishop to the parish. There will be morning tea after the morning mass on 6th September. Pop it in your diary!

Archbishop's Campaign 2026

The 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 and 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 taking place on the weekends of 15/16 & 22/23 August.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The Eucharist should be honoured not only during great celebrations, but also through the silent fidelity of those who accompany the Lord with a humble and quiet friendship that is nourished day by day. (St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia)

Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ, and let us know that it is precious to his Father because it was poured out for our salvation and it brought the grace of repentance to all the world. (Pope St. Clement I)

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction: Thursday 6:00pm. Mount Evelyn: Tuesday 5:10pm, Friday 8:10am. Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?" - ROMANS 11:35

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give God anything - He already owns it all. God made everything, including us. Since we are made in His image, we too, are called to be generous. How we use our God-given gifts becomes our gift back to Him. Gratitude for all we have been given opens our hearts to joyful generosity! And, through our generosity, we just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.

Supporting the Parish

Please note **only money in official stewardship envelopes goes towards the support of the parish**: loose cash and money in plain envelopes are given to support the Parish Priest.

Contact the office to become part of the Stewardship program either by direct debit or a set of envelopes.

Donations for Flowers.

There is a collection box in the narthex for donations towards purchasing flowers for the church each week. Thank you for your generosity.

Sacramental Program 2027

For Children, not attending the Parish School, wanting to receive the Sacraments, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, instructions are available through our Parish. Contact Anne at annevan.tilburg@gmail.com Lessons will begin first Sunday in March after 10:30 Mass for Confirmation and the second Tuesday of March at 5pm for First Communion.

Prayer Service of Lament—4:00pm 15 September 2026

This Service, held in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral, is an occasion to humbly stand alongside those who have suffered abuse, and all who continue to carry its lasting effects.

Melbourne Synod Membership—Are you Interested?

Sixty (60) lay members (15 from each region) will be nominated to participate in the Melbourne Synod.

PARISHES are invited to nominate 1-2 parishioners to be considered as a regional member for the Melbourne Synod.

PARISHIONERS are invited to nominate a fellow parishioner who is active in parish life, and who represents the diversity of the parish community.

NOMINEES are invited to complete the nomination form and have it endorsed by the parish priest prior to **Thursday 27 August 2026**. Speak to Fr Michel or the office to obtain a form.

Safeguarding Compliance for Volunteers

Thank you to those of you who have completed the process. Please check your SPAM folder for any emails from the parish. When you complete the training and sign the Code of Conduct please forward a copy of the certificate to the office.

Simplicity September

This September, simplify one thing in your life and discover what truly matters. Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for Palms International Volunteering, Australia's only Catholic lay organisation that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering. Join Australians across the country supporting Palms' work in the Asia-Pacific.

02 9560 5333 / 0422 472 567 www.simplicityseptember.org.au

Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Gathering 2026

Caritas Australia and Catholic Religious Australia warmly invite you to participate in the Catholic Earthcare **Season of Creation Gathering 2026: Listen, Reflect, Act**, a national online event on **3–4 September 2026**.

The Gathering offers inspiring keynote presentations and practical workshops to help participants deepen their faith and respond to the call to care for our common home.

Parishioners can register individually for \$20.

Learn more and register: www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering

Something to make you smile!

A little old woman who is devout Catholic lives next door to a loud-mouthed atheist. Every morning the lady goes to her front porch and shouts, "Praise the Lord." Every day the atheist neighbour can't help himself and shouts back, "There is no God!" The lady begins to experience financial hardship with cost-of-living rises and buying her weekly groceries becomes more difficult. However, every morning she continues to go out on her front porch and asks God for help with her groceries and shouts, "Praise the Lord!" One morning she discovers three bags of groceries on her porch and immediately yells, "Praise the Lord!" At that moment the atheist jumps out from behind some bushes and says, "Ha, got you. There's no God. I bought those groceries for you." The lady looks at him and smiles. Then she shouts even louder, "Praise the Lord! Not only did you provide for me, Lord, you also made Satan pay for the groceries!"

Readings Reflection

'Oh, the Depths!'

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!" Paul exclaims in today's Epistle. Today's Psalm, too, takes up the triumphant note of joy and thanksgiving. Why? Because in the Gospel, the heavenly Father reveals the mystery of His kingdom to Peter.

With Peter, we rejoice that Jesus is the anointed Son promised to David, the one prophesied to build God's temple and reign over an everlasting kingdom (see 2 Samuel 7).

What Jesus calls "my Church" is the kingdom promised to David's son (see Isaiah 9:1–7). As we hear in today's First Reading, Isaiah foretold that the keys to David's kingdom would be given to a new master, who would rule as father to God's people.

Jesus, the root and offspring of David, alone holds the kingdom's keys (see Revelation 1:18; 3:7; 22:16). In giving those keys to Peter, Jesus fulfills that prophecy, establishing Peter—and all who succeed him—as holy father of His Church.

His Church, too, is the new house of God—the spiritual temple founded on the "rock" of Peter, and built up out of the living stones of individual believers (see 1 Peter 2:5).

Abraham was called "the rock" from which the children of Israel were hewn (see Isaiah 51:1–2). And Peter becomes the rock from which God raises up new children of God (see Matthew 3:9).

The word Jesus uses—"church" (ekklesia in Greek)—was used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament for the "assembly" of God's children after the Exodus (see Deuteronomy 18:16; 31:30).

His Church is the "assembly of the firstborn" (see Hebrews 12:23; Exodus 4:23–24), established by Jesus' exodus (see Luke 9:31). Like the Israelites, we are baptized in water, led by the Rock, and fed with spiritual food (see 1 Corinthians 10:1–5).

Gathered at His altar, in the presence of angels, we sing His praise and give thanks to His holy name.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](mailto:Dr.Scott.Hahn@stpaulcenter.com)
stpaulcenter.com

The Church: The Sacrament of Communion

Why is the Church called the “Sacrament of Communion”?

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. (1 Cor 10:17)

The Church is the Sacrament of Communion because of her unique and intimate relationship both within humanity and with God himself. The Church is fundamentally a community of men and women united in Christ’s fullness of grace as Head of his Mystical Body.

The Church’s *communion* — in Greek, *koinonia*, includes both an *invisible dimension* (intimate communion among the Persons of the Blessed Trinity and all humanity) and the *visible dimension* (communion in the teaching of the Apostles, the Sacraments, and in the hierarchical order). This communion, then, implies a spiritual solidarity among the members of the Church inasmuch as they are members of one Body, united in Christ. The union of the Church with Christ is described in Scripture as that of a Bride with her Bridegroom.

This communion is above all a gift from God, a new relationship between the members of the Church and God that has been established in Christ and is communicated through the Sacraments and also extends a new relationship of humans among themselves. It is through this communion that God seeks to gather all of humanity to him in order to draw them toward eternal salvation—the ultimate unity of the human race rooted in heavenly glory.

Through Baptism the faithful are incorporated into a Body—the Church—which the risen Lord builds up and sustains through the Eucharist. The Eucharist, the root and centre of the community, is the source of communion among the members of the Church; it unites each one of them with Christ himself. “When we share in the body and blood of Christ we come what we receive” (St. Leo the Great).

By giving us his Body, the Lord transforms us into one Body: the Church. Hence, St. Paul’s identification of the Church with the Body of Christ means that the Church expresses herself principally in the Eucharist. While present everywhere, the Church is yet One, just as Christ is one.

From the Didache Bible

772 It is in the Church that Christ fulfils and reveals his own mystery as the purpose of God’s plan: “to unite all things in him.” St. Paul calls the nuptial union of Christ and the Church “a great mystery.” Because she is united to Christ as to her bridegroom, she becomes a mystery in her turn. Contemplating this mystery in her, Paul exclaims: “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

775 “The Church, in Christ, is like a sacrament—a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and of unity among all men. “The Church’s first purpose is to be the sacrament of the *inner union of men with God*. Because men’s communion with one another is rooted in that union with God, the Church is also the sacrament of the *unity of the human race*. In her, this unity is already begun, since she gathers men “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues”; at the same time, the Church is the “sign and instrument” of the full realization of the unity yet to come.

776 As sacrament, the Church is Christ’s instrument. “She is taken up by him also as the instrument for the salvation of all,” “the universal sacrament of salvation,” by which Christ is “at once manifesting and actualizing the mystery of God’s love for men. “The Church “is the visible plan of God’s love for humanity,” because God desires “that the whole human race may become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one temple of the Holy Spirit” (Bl. Paul VI).

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church