

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

7 September 2025

readings

Next Week

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Num 21:4-9

Ps 77:1-2, 34-38

Phil 2:6-11

Jn 3:13-17

in a nutshell

Put Jesus First. It is somewhat shocking to hear Jesus say, 'Whoever comes to me without hating (family members) cannot be my disciple'. Jesus is using hyperbole to stress that we must give first place to following him. If that puts us in conflict with our family, we must choose Jesus. Thankfully most of us don't face such a conflict. We can rejoice in God and family, as Paul does in today's Second Reading.

we pray for

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

of special note

A relic of Saint Carlo Acutis is at Lilydale this week. See flyer in the foyer for parish events at St Patrick Parish.

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Psalm Response

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night.

You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades.

Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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/upperyarra

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
mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Parish Meetings:

6:00 p.m. Wednesday 10 September

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/upperyarraalley> and choose where you are donating: church, presbytery, maintenance.



Parish Notices

The Archbishop's Campaign - Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2025 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards are still available in the church. You can also make a gift online at melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign.

I encourage you to please give generously to the Campaign.

Donations for Flowers.

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

Child Protection Week—September 7-13

This year's National Child Protection Week theme, 'Every conversation matters: Shifting Conversation to Action,' reminds us that while dialogue is essential when it comes to raising awareness, challenging harmful norms, and sparking new ideas, real change is only possible when we turn those conversations into meaningful action. Through strengthening prevention and advocacy initiatives, we're empowering communities to actively protect every child, ensuring they not only feel heard but truly experience safety, care, and protection.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Since the Son of God became man for us and has devised a marvellous way to remain with us in the Eucharist, it follows that choosing adoration and an intimate encounter with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament will help us grow in love and gratitude. How could the Church not fittingly adore the substantial presence of Christ, who makes Himself present with great generosity in every Catholic Church? (Lawrence Feingold)

With God, nothing is impossible; life trumps over death and grace over sin; let us live the Sacrament of Reconciliation intensely so that our relationship with Him may be alive beyond our betrayals. May divine forgiveness make us, in turn, merciful toward our brothers and sisters. (Pope Leo XIV)

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

"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

Sacramental Program 2026

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 Sunday 1st March after 10:30 Mass for First Communions and Tuesday 3rd March at 5pm for Confirmation.

Get on the BUS OF LIFE! – Saturday, 11th October

The annual March For The Babies in the Melbourne CBD (marchforthebabies.com) is approaching. A bus for travelling to and from the event will be available.

Pickup: 10.30 am from St Patrick's Lilydale

Pitstop: 11.00 am at Shell/Hungry Jacks on the corner of Maroondah Hwy and Mt Dandenong Rd in Ringwood

Destination: Melbourne (Treasury Gardens) – bus stop at the corner of Lansdowne Street and Wellington Parade

March begins: 1 pm from Treasury Gardens

Destination Departure Time: Everyone must be back at the bus stop at 4.00 pm for the return journey

Book your seat - contact James (0407 406 384, inolet@inet.net.au), or use the form in the narthex.

Donations: to James, or to St Patrick's Church Account, BSB 083 347 Account 63931 6508, reference: BUS

St Mary's Parish Prayer Group

Monday at 9:15 am and Fridays at 9:45 a.m. For more information please call Maria at 0409 793 001 or just come and discover peace in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist!

Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis

The Lilydale and Healesville Parishes will be hosting in September the First Class Relic of saint Carlo Acutis and the Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles that he documented. Information on noticeboard in Narthex.

Jubilee Year—Pilgrims of Hope

On Christmas Eve 2024, Pope Francis symbolically opened the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica, marking the start of the 2025 Jubilee Year. Jubilee years happen every 25 years and are times of reconciliation and renewal. The theme of this Jubilee is Pilgrims of Hope. If you are unable to travel to Rome during the Jubilee Year, you are invited on a local journey of reconciliation and renewal by participating in the 2025 Jubilee at one or more of the many Pilgrim Places across the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, where plenary indulgences may be obtained as part of this very special time. Pilgrim Places across the Archdiocese of Melbourne will offer extended hours, additional Masses, Reconciliation, and Adoration. Pilgrims will receive a commemorative postcard, monthly reflections, and a Pilgrim Passport (available for a small donation) to be stamped at each location. Local Pilgrim Places will welcome visitors from February 2025 to 6 January 2026. Besides the Cathedral as a Pilgrim Place, Sacred Heart Church, Croydon is the closest to us. A not too distant pilgrimage location, which offers various experiences for pilgrims this Jubilee Year, including Masses, Reconciliation and adoration. Visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pilgrim-place-sacred-heart-croydon> for more information about Sacred Heart Croydon.

Readings Reflection

[Counting the Cost](#)

Like a king making ready for battle or a contractor about to build a tower, we have to count the cost as we set out to follow Jesus.

Our Lord today is telling us up front the sacrifice it will take. His words aren't addressed to His chosen few, the Twelve, but rather to the "great crowds"—to anyone, to whoever wishes to be His disciple.

That only makes His call all the more stark and uncompromising. We are to "hate" our old lives, to renounce all the earthly things we rely upon, to choose Him above every person and possession. Again He tells us that the things we have—even our family ties and obligations—can become an excuse, an obstacle that keeps us from giving ourselves completely to Him (see Luke 9:23–26, 57–62).

Jesus brings us the saving wisdom we are promised in today's First Reading. He is that saving Wisdom.

Weighed down by many earthly concerns, the burdens of our body and its needs, we could never see beyond the things of this world; we could never detect God's heavenly design and intention. So in His mercy He sent us His Spirit, His Wisdom from on high, to make straight our path to Him.

Jesus Himself paid the price to free us from the sentence imposed on Adam, which we recall in today's Psalm (see Genesis 2:7; 2:19). No more will the work of our hands be an affliction; no more are we destined to turn back to dust.

Like Onesimus in today's Epistle, we have been redeemed. We have been given a new family and a new inheritance, made children of the Father, brothers and sisters in the Lord.

We are free now to come after Him, to serve Him—no longer slaves to the ties of our past lives. In Christ, all our yesterdays have passed. We live in what the Psalm today beautifully describes as the daybreak, ready to be filled with His kindness. For He has given us wisdom of heart and taught us to number our days aright.

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

Meditation on the Nativity of Mary

(The Nativity of Mary is celebrated on Monday, 8 September)

BEFORE the birth of Mary the world was lost in the darkness of sin. Mary was born, and the morning arose: “*Nata Maria, surrexit auroro,*” says a holy Father. Already it had been said of Mary: “Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising?” As the earth rejoices when the day dawns, for the dawn is the precursor of the sun, so Mary at her birth gave joy to the whole world, for she was the precursor of the sun of justice, Jesus Christ, who being made her son, came to save us by his death; therefore the Church sings; “Thy nativity, oh virgin mother of God, announced joy to the whole world, for from thee the sun of justice has arisen, who has given us life eternal.” Thus, when Mary was born, we received our remedy, our consolation, and our salvation; for through Mary we have received the Saviour.

This child being then destined for the mother of the eternal Word, God bestowed on her so much grace, that even from her immaculate conception her sanctity excelled the sanctity of all the saints and angels united, for she received a grace of a superior order, corresponding to the dignity of mother of God. Oh holy infant, oh full of grace, I, a miserable sinner, salute thee and adore thee. Thou art the beloved, the delight of God; have pity on me, who through my sins have been hateful and abominable in the eyes of God. Thou, oh most pure Virgin, hast so well known even from thy infancy how to gain the heart of God, that he denies thee nothing, and grants all that thou dost ask of him. In thee then I place my hopes. Recommend me to thy Son, and I shall be saved.

At the same time that Mary was destined to be the mother of our Redeemer, she was also destined to be the mediatrix between God and us sinners. Hence the Angelic Doctor, St. Thomas, says, that Mary received grace sufficient to save all men; and therefore St. Bernard calls Mary a channel so full that we can all partake of its fullness. Oh my queen, oh mediatrix of sinners, perform thy office and intercede for me! Let not my sins prevent me from confiding in thee, oh great mother of God; no, I trust in thee, and trust in thee so much, that if my salvation were in my own hands, yet I would place it all in thine. Oh Mary, receive me under thy protection, and this is enough for me.

From The Glories of Mary by St Alphonsus Liguori

490 To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary “was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role.” The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as “full of grace.” In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God’s grace.

491 Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.

492 The “splendour of an entirely unique holiness” by which Mary is “enriched from the first instant of her conception” comes wholly from Christ: she is “redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son.” The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person “in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” and chose her “in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love.”

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church