



## SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2026 18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

### Reflection on the Gospel (Matthew 14:13-21)

Forty-five million people are presently at risk of acute hunger on account of the Middle East conflict (WFP 28/06/26). At the same time, the number of people living in extreme poverty numbers some 830 million, approximately ten per cent of the global population, down from nineteen per cent in 1990. Encouraging as the improved statistics may be in this case, it is still a fact that almost three quarters of a billion people have less than \$US1.90 per day to meet all their basic needs for food, shelter and security.

At the same time, the gap between rich and poor is widening dramatically. My country Australia, for instance, wastes enough food annually to fill the Melbourne Cricket Ground nine times over ([www.dcceew.gov.au](http://www.dcceew.gov.au)). It is difficult for us in our affluent society to imagine the plight of so many in the war-torn and earth-quake affected countries of our world. It is virtually impossible for us to get inside the desperation of parents in Gaza or Myanmar watching their children die from starvation.

What has this to do with our Gospel reflection? In the First Reading from Isaiah, God tells the "thirsty": "Listen and delight in rich food.... Incline your ear, and come to me; listen that you may live". Isaiah is here reminding his hearers that food is a gift from God.

The Gospel reading from Matthew tells a story of hungry people "hearing", following Jesus and enjoying an abundance of life-sustaining food. In other words, Matthew presents Jesus as the one who makes Isaiah's prophetic dream a reality for those who hunger and thirst, both literally and figuratively. The passage echoes key aspects of Israel's history. Jesus retreats to a "desert" place, recalling the experience of God's people in the wilderness of Sinai. Those who follow Jesus find life-restoring food in the desert, just as God provided manna for the hungry Israelites in the Sinai desert.

Jesus has compassion for people struggling with disease and thirsting for the means to live.

In biblical terms, compassion is always accompanied by action for restorative justice. Jesus heals the sick and creates a structure for the sharing of resources. Faced with a hungry crowd, the disciples offer a simple solution: "Send them away."

Sending the desperate away has, sadly, been part of our national response to countless asylum seekers hungering and thirsting for life and security. Jesus refuses such a solution and invites his disciples instead to take some personal responsibility for the situation.

The Gospel invites us to attend to food security in our world and to address ways of meeting the new Sustainable Development Goal of eliminating poverty and hunger by 2030. Keeping ourselves informed on the issues might be one place to begin. Another might be to check supplies before shopping for more food and to ensure that we waste not even a scrap of the food which we receive as gift of a gracious, compassionate God.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

#### DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Joseph Santamaria** who died recently and for **Manfred Lerch** whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.



#### Synodality and the Holy Spirit

At the heart of synodality is trust in the Holy Spirit. Without prayer, synodality becomes mere strategy. With prayer, it becomes a path of grace.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

**The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 144:8-9, 15-18. R. v. 16

**(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:**

**he answers all our needs.**

1. 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.)**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.  
You open wide your hand,  
grant the desires of all who live. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

**Second Reading:** Romans 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Matthew 4:4

**Alleluia, alleluia!** No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of

this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot.

So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

**The Gospel of the Lord. (R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the Only Begotten Son of God,**

**born of the Father before all ages.**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God, begotten, not made,**

**consubstantial with the Father;**

**through him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation**

**He came down from heaven, (All bow)**

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate**

**of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,**

**he suffered death and was buried,**

**and rose again on the third day**

**in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right**

**hand of the Father. He will come again in glory**

**to judge the living and the dead**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who with the Father and the Son**

**is adored and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins**

**and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon:**

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,  
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

**Take the Way of the Gospel –  
Growing a Vibrant, Vital and Viable Parish**

**PARISH AMALGAMATION PROCESS**

We extend our sincere thanks to all parishioners who contributed to the Round 2 consultations in recent weeks and who took the time to submit suggestions for a name for the new parish following amalgamation.

The Transition Team met last week to undertake a prayerful process of reflection and discernment. The Team carefully considered what parishioners had shared through the consultations, particularly the hopes and aspirations expressed about who we are and who we hope to become as a parish in the future.

From the names proposed during the consultations and through written submissions, a list was prepared for discernment. The names were considered according to the agreed criteria: that they be biblical or scripturally based, grounded in Catholic tradition and theology, and expressive of the mission and spirituality of the parish and of who we hope to become.

During the two-week period for submissions, there was strong support for names associated with the Holy Spirit. Parishioners reflected that a parish dedicated to the Holy Spirit is called to be prayerful and discerning, missionary in outlook, united in diversity, and open to the gifts of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's living, active and dynamic presence among us, forming and transforming us, drawing us more deeply into the Body of Christ, and enabling us to live and proclaim the Gospel. These reflections, together with the other names and insights offered by parishioners, formed part of the background considered by the Transition Team in its discernment of the suggested names.

Supported by relevant Scripture and reflections on the spirituality associated with each proposed name, the Transition Team prayerfully considered the names and endorsed **Holy Spirit Parish** as the proposed name of the new parish. The name will now be submitted to the Archbishop, together with the Petition for Amalgamation documents, for approval.

The name **Holy Spirit** also reminds us of the Spirit we receive in Baptism and Confirmation and of our continuing call to discipleship. It expresses our hope for a parish that is renewed by the Holy Spirit, formed in the way of Christ, and sent out to share the Gospel.

**CENSUS 2026 SHAPE THE FUTURE:  
BE COUNTED AS CATHOLIC THIS CENSUS.**

Australia's national Census will be held on **11 August 2026**. Catholics are encouraged to mark **"Catholic" in the question on religion**. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to Government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. **By identifying as Catholic**, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.

**NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK  
2 - 9 AUGUST 2026**

Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.

**MARY MACKILLOP TODAY FUNDRAISER  
AUCTION AND FUNDRAISING LUNCH**

**Sunday 30 August 2026 from 12.00pm – 4.00pm**  
**Mount St. Joseph Girls' College,**  
133 Maidstone Street Altona Vic 3018.

Price: \$55 per person (2 Course Meal & Dessert, BYO drinks); RSVP by Friday, 21 August 2026

The funds raised at the fundraising event contribute directly to supporting people in need through provision of the Community Grants Program.



Tickets: Use QR Code or call the Sisters of Saint Joseph Regional Office on 9861 9500 to book your tickets.

Mary MacKillop Today is a national not for profit organization that empowers communities to realise their dignity through education, health, financial inclusion and livelihoods.

**PARISH PRIEST:**

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

**PARISH SECRETARY:** Emilia Balkan

**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

**EMAIL:** [yarraville@cam.org.au](mailto:yarraville@cam.org.au)

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

**PARISH WEBSITE:**

[www.melbocatholic.org/yarraville](http://www.melbocatholic.org/yarraville)

**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlin

[patmac766@gmail.com](mailto:patmac766@gmail.com)

**PARISH CHURCHES**

**ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

**CORPUS CHRISTI**

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

**ANNUNCIATION**

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

For email copy of **Bulletin**



Click QR Code

**LITURGY TIMES**

**TUESDAY MASS**

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

**WEDNESDAY MASS**

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

**THURSDAY MASS**

St Augustine's...9.15 am

**FRIDAY MASS**

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

**SATURDAY MASS**

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

**SATURDAY VIGIL MASS**

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

**SUNDAY MASS**

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi...11.00 am

St Augustine's...11.30 am

(Polish)

**RECONCILIATION:**

**SATURDAYS** after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

**NEXT ITALIAN MASS**

On hold until further notice

**COMMUNITY FAIR**

Annunciation, Corpus Christi

& St. Augustine's

Three Schools, One Community

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2026**

**10.00am to 4.00pm**

Rides, entertainment, Stalls,

yummy food, Face Painting

Location: Corpus Christi School,  
380 Geelong Road Kingsville 3012

**SAVE THE DATE: SEOULFEST**

**- One year to go to**

**WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027**

**Thursday 20 August 2026 at 6.30pm**

**St. Patrick's Cathedral East Melb.**

Join Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli and hundreds of young people from across the Archdiocese as we launch our pilgrimage to South Korea.

The evening will begin with Six30 Holy Hour with Adoration and Benediction in St. Patrick's Cathedral, followed by food, music and celebrations in the Cathedral grounds. Share this event with young people in your community for your invitation can open the door to a life-changing encounter with Christ.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Thank you to parishioners at Annunciation, Corpus Christi and St. Augustine's for your regular donation of food items placed in the churches each week.

In addition to **non-perishable food**, (cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits), items such as **shampoo, soap, deodorant, washing powder/liquid, toothpaste and brushes** are also needed and appreciated.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

**ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK**

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2026

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time A**

**READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm ..... Nic Fusca

9.30am ..... Phillip Marques

Pina Guzzardi

**READERS:** **Corpus Christi**

11am ..... Natasha Fernandes

Imelda Gibson

**MINISTERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Joseph De Bono

9.30am..... Gerald Bain-King

**MINISTER:** **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Khanh Nguyen

**COUNTING:** Val Taylor

**ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK**

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August 2026

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time A**

**READERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm ..... Rose Thomas

9.30am ..... Agnes Hopmans

Pina Guzzardi

**READERS:** **Corpus Christi**

11am ..... Val Taylor

Rachael Nguyen

**MINISTERS:** **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Nic Fusca

9.30am..... Pat McLaughlin

**MINISTER:** **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Nathan Lane

**COUNTING:** Krys Biront

**SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL**

**VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

[www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements](http://www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements)