



SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST, 2026 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A

Reflection on the Gospel (Matthew 16:13-19)

Jesus' true identity is a key issue for Matthew's community, as it is for us. "Be yourself. Everybody else is taken", sings Melinda Schneider. The lyrics of this song, composed for Melinda's dying father, affirm some fairly obvious truths. Even though we know that "everybody else is taken", most of us spend energy trying to measure up to other peoples' expectations and fail to be truly ourselves. In our self-absorption, we can also misread others and fail to know them as they are.

Accepting ourselves and being accepted as we are is among the most precious of gifts. Jesus knew this. He was utterly true to himself and he allowed others time to discover for themselves his real identity and the nature of his mission. If the mission were to succeed, then his followers needed to look beyond their preconceptions about him and accept him as God's anointed, as the revelation of the living God.

From the outset, Jesus is presented as the anointed of God, the Messiah or the Christos. Before his birth, the reader knows him as "Emmanuel", God with us. What the narrator asserts at the outset, certain characters in the story come to understand. Jesus' fearless teaching and his healing ministry bring the crowd to recognise him as a prophet and as the incarnate Wisdom of God.

The power of God at work in Peter leads him to a deep understanding of Jesus' identity. Peter has faltered in the past and will falter again, even to the point of denying any knowledge of or association with Jesus. He finally arrives at deep insight, however, and proclaims his faith in Jesus as both Christ/Messiah and son of the living God.

Insight is a gift and God can work wherever there is openness and goodwill. Peter is presented here as having both. He is declared "blessed" on account of this gift of insight and entrusted with the "keys" of God's empire.

The specific power of binding and loosing that is given to Peter is subsequently given to the community of disciples (18:18). The saying is framed by instructions

about dealing with transgressors and by the assertion that where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, he is there in their midst.

"Binding and loosing" belong to all who gather in the name of Jesus whom Matthew presents as God-with-us, as prophet and Wisdom, as the Christ and as the revelation of the living God. The exercise of the power "to bind and to loose" demands the same wisdom and insight as does the capacity to recognise and affirm the true identity of Jesus.

Gathering in the name of Jesus is a challenge at any time. It is a particular challenge in the face of the disillusionment and hurt caused by abuse of the most vulnerable in our midst. We pray for the wisdom to find new ways of being church and of truly dealing with transgression.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

BAPTISMS

We welcome and pray for **Marcus Milner, Hayden West, Arlo Moore and Darcy Moore** through the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend.

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Rosa Kuka** who died recently and for **Maria Teresa Pham, Cristina & Modestino Santucci, Dean & Dino Dellabernardina and Peter Callea** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.



Synodality and joy

When people are invited to participate meaningfully, joy increases. A synodal Church is not weighed down by bureaucracy but energised by shared mission.

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,

I remove you from your post,

and the same day I call on my servant

Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,

gird him with your sash,

entrust him with your authority;

and he shall be a father

to the inhabitants of Jerusalem

and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close, should he close,

no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg into a firm place;

he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;

do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. 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.)**
2. 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.)**
3. 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.)**

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

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

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 16:18

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!**

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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 proceeds from the Father and the Son,

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: Ps 103:13-15

The Earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

**EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION OF
MOST REV STUART HALL AS BISHOP
OF THE MILITARY ORDINATE OF
AUSTRALIA.**

Saturday 29 August 2026

11.00am – 1.00pm

**St. Patrick's Cathedral,
1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne.**

Those unable to be at the Cathedral in person can watch online at the Archdiocesan You Tube channel and or on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV).

Let's keep Bishop-elect Hall in our prayers as he prepares to take up his new ministry.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027

Preparations are in full swing for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where Pope Leo XIV is expected to join young Catholics from around the world for the second World Youth Day ever held in Asia. The gathering, which will take place on 3-8 August 2027, comes more than three decades after the first World Youth Day in Asia, which drew between four and five million people to Manila with Pope John Paul 11 in 1995, setting a Guinness World Record for largest attendance at a papal event at the time.

Across the world, parishes and dioceses have already started preparing young people to participate in the pilgrimage to South Korea.

MANNIX LIBRARY 2026 BOOK SALE

2pm Monday 24 August – till mid Sept. or until stock runs out at 278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne.

It is a great opportunity to scoop up a range of books on theology, history, philosophy and religion at a good price. Opening hours for Mannix Library are 9-5pm Monday to Friday.

FEAST OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Next **Friday 28th August** is the Feast Day of St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church and Patron Saint of our Yarraville Parish, Church and School. Students and Staff from St. Augustine's, Corpus Christi and Annunciation will be attending a **combined schools' Mass on Friday at 10.30am at St. Augustine's.**

Everyone is invited to attend.

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

Date: Sunday 30 August 2026

Time: 12.00pm – 4.00pm

**Location: Mount St. Joseph Girls' College,
133 Maidstone Street Altona
Vic 3018.**

**Price: \$55 per person, 2 course Meal &
Dessert, BYO drinks**

RSVP: Friday, 21 August 2026

**Tickets: Use the QR code
or call the Sisters of St. Joseph
Regional Office on 9861 9500**



2026 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2026 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.

Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating, or you can use the campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards.

This year's campaign is focused on our gratitude for the lifelong contribution and ministry of our retired priests and of those entering the priesthood.

Right now, there are 17 seminarians preparing for priestly service in our Archdiocese. We are very blessed to have had 3 enter the seminary this year.

The Archbishop's Campaign is also an opportunity to show our gratitude for the vocations of our retired priests, who have dedicated their whole lives to serving the people of God.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan

PHONE: 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au

ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.melbrcatholic.org/yarraville

SAFEGUARDING: Pat Mc Laughlin

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

SAVE THE DATE

COMMUNITY FAIR

Annunciation, Corpus Christi
& St. Augustine's
(Three Schools, One Community)
Saturday 14th November 2026,
10am to 4pm

There will be rides,
entertainment, Stalls,
yummy food, Face Painting

Location: Corpus Christi School,
380 Geelong Road
Kingsville 3012

Mary MacKillop Spirituality

**Centre, St. Joseph's by the Sea,
at 16 Esplanade Williamstown**

Upcoming events include ongoing
spiritual programs, monthly
twilight sessions, and multi-day
directed retreats running through
to late 2026.

For more information,
please call (03)9397 6012 or email
admin.sjbts@sosjspirit.org.au

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

22nd & 23rd August 2026

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Greg Buhagiar

9.30am Pat McLaughlin

Sam Polzella

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Julianna Barr

Edith Fletcher

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Maree Ryan

9.30am..... Agnes Hopmans

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Imelda Gibson

COUNTING: Phillip Marques

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK

29th & 30th August 2026

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Kath Baker

9.30am Pina Guzzardi

Sam Polzella

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Cass Pelino

AJ Pelino

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Mary Vella

9.30am..... Mary Joseph

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Joe Fusca

COUNTING: Les Vella

**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)