



SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2026 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A

Reflection on the Gospel (Matthew 18:15-20)

As we celebrate the first Sunday of the Season of Creation, we are conscious of the need for the human community to be reconciled with Earth and with all that inhabits our common home. The theme for the 2026 Season of Creation is “Living Water” and the symbol is “Immersion in Living Water”. Both theme and symbol are inspired by Ezekiel 47: 1- 12 “which portrays God’s life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deeper and deeper restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water...actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together” (<https://seasonofcreation.org/>).

At the corporate level, we might ask if those who refuse to listen to the science on the climate crisis should be deterred by more stringent legislation and heavy penalties. On the personal level, the shaming of offenders is rarely effective. So, what does a just society do with its persistent offenders, with those whose behaviour continually disrupts the very future of life on the planet? There is no easy answer.

What does the Gospel tradition offer in this respect? Today’s Gospel indicates that the power to deal with transgression is firmly in the hands of the community. All care must be taken to allow offenders to recognise and acknowledge their offences without being publicly shamed. If that fails, the matter is referred to a group of witnesses, in line with Israel’s ancient legal practice (Deuteronomy 19:15).

The next step is referral to the assembled community. Those who refuse to listen are to be treated as “Gentiles” or “tax-collectors”. Some scholars suggest that the Matthean Jesus is proposing expulsion of those who refuse to listen. Others consider that he is advocating the sort of compassionate approach he has personally shown to outsiders, to those in need of

conversion. Since every one of us needs conversion in relation to planetary health, compassionate persistence and leading by example are attractive options.

We do well to seek the wisdom of others. We have the assurance that Christ, God-with-us, is present in the assembly. We also have the assurance that our failure to deal with transgression can leave perpetrators unreconciled and susceptible to reoffending. We need to “loose” the sins of those who acknowledge their offences. In other words, we are called to forgive them and thus set them free from the burden of their transgressions.

While the Gospel passage focusses on forgiveness, our first concern must be with those who suffer at the hands of offenders, including the Earth itself. We must “surrender to the sky [our] heart of anger” (James K. Baxter) and, at the same time, work actively to provide our planetary home and all of its inhabitants with the care that is surely needed.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Daniel Cauchi** who died recently and for **Freddie Calleja** whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.



Synodality is demanding

Walking together takes patience, time, and effort. But the Gospel has never promised an easy path—only a fruitful one.

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!

Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

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

Gospel Acclamation: 2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone,

between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

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 41:2-3

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.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK:

6 -12 September

National Child Protection Week is a national campaign that brings Australians together to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It provides an opportunity to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect, share valuable resources, amplify children's voices, and encourage practical actions that support families and communities, and help prevent harm before it occurs. It reminds us that protecting children is everyone's responsibility. It encourages parents and carers, community leaders, service providers, policymakers, neighbours and young people to consider how our everyday actions and decisions can contribute to children's safety and wellbeing. This Week, we invite everyone to reflect on how we can each contribute to making our Church a safer place for children and young people. Together, we can help create communities where every child feels safe, respected and supported.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT, AUGUST 2026

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has issued a statement for reflection and discussion,

Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division. It explores emerging divisions and fractures in Australian society and urges a renewed focus on working together to make Australia a more cohesive society with a culture of encounter and concrete acts of compassion and justice.

The following is an excerpt from the Preface by the President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe.

We are living through an era of heightened community tension and a growing normalisation of abusive behaviour, incendiary language and violence.

How are we to live the Gospel in these times?

First, by remaining close to Christ in prayer and the sacraments, allowing the Lord to convert our hearts before we seek to change the world.

Second, by practising a "culture of encounter": listening before reacting, seeking to understand the fears and hopes of others.

Third, by exercising restraint in what we say - especially online - rejecting gossip, slander, dehumanising labels and the sharing of unverified claims. Christians must be known as people who speak truthfully, argue respectfully and never delight in humiliation.

Fourth, by concrete acts of compassion and justice: standing with those targeted because of their faith or background, supporting families under economic pressure, welcoming migrants and refugees and working for the common good through parish, school and community initiatives.

This statement invites us to see our current social climate as an opportunity to witness to the Gospel.

MASSES DURING SEPTEMBER

Fr Robin Lomangkok, CSsR will celebrate 5.00pm Mass on Saturday 5 September and on Sunday 6th September, **Fr Trevor Tibbertsma** will celebrate the 8.00am, 9.30am and 11.00am Masses.

Please make Fr Robin Lomangkok and Fr. Trevor Tibbertsma welcome.

There will be **no weekday Masses** during September.

Office Hours for September - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9.30am – 2.30pm

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE FATHERS AND GRANDFATHERS TODAY

LIGHT INTO THE CITY PROJECT

Light into the city is the Archbishop's long term vision for the renewal of the St. Patrick's Cathedral precinct. It is a multi-year program that will be delivered progressively.

Stage 1a: Restoration and conservation of St. Patrick's Cathedral to preserve its heritage fabric and ensure its long term structural integrity.

Stage 1b: Construction of a new multipurpose Assembly building and associated public realm works to provide visitor amenities, gathering spaces and community infrastructure.

Stage 2: Presbytery and Cardinal Knox Centre refurbishment.

Stage 3: New Catholic Centre on the east of the site, to support a range of Catholic community services.

EMMAUS PARISH, BRUNSWICK MORELAND

More than 300 people filled St. Fidelis' Church in Moreland on Friday 14 August for the inaugural Mass of the Emmaus Catholic Parish of Brunswick Moreland.

The New Parish brings together the legacy of St. Ambrose, Our Lady Help of Christians, St. Joseph and St. Fidelis into the one parish family.

The Catholic Parish of St. Ambrose was established in 1873 to serve Melbourne's north. As the district expanded, Our Lady Help of Christians in Brunswick East (1911), St. Joseph's West Brunswick (1913) and St. Fidelis Moreland (1927) were formed.

The 'treasures of faith' from St. Ambrose, Our Lady Help of Christians, St. Fidelis and St. Joseph's are not being left behind,' said Archbishop Comensoli in his homily. Rather, 'they are being carried forward into a new chapter.'

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION

WEEK: 6 -12 September

Safeguarding Sunday: 13 Sept

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Information Night: Mon 14 Sept

7.00pm – 8.00pm

Engaging your faith -

online presentations October 2026

from \$25 per session

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith

PRAYER SERVICE OF LAMENT

Tuesday 15 September 2026

4pm St. Patrick's Cathedral grounds

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

beginning 7:00pm – 8:00pm ZOOM

COMMUNITY FAIR

Corpus Christi School 10am to 4pm

Saturday 14th November 2026,

FEAST DAYS DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday 8 Sept: The Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 9 Sept: St. Peter Claver

Saturday 12 Sept: The Most Holy

Name of Mary

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

5th & 6th September 2026

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm John Ryan

9.30am Tere Tutai

Sam Polzella

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Natasha Fernandes

Imelda Gibson

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Greg Buhagiar

9.30am..... Pina Guzzardi

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Mary Huynh

COUNTING: Val Taylor

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK

12th & 13th September 2026

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Krystyna Biront

9.30am Gerald Bain-King

Pina Guzzardi

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Val Taylor

Rachael Nguyen

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Kath Baker

9.30am..... Pat Mc Laughlin

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Julianna Barr

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)

**THERE WILL BE
NO WEEKDAY MASSES**

(MON TO SAT)

DURING

SEPTEMBER

at

St. Augustine's,

Corpus Christi

or

Annunciation

WEEKEND MASSES

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