The Saving Word

FIRST READING

Apoc 7: 2-4, 9-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words: 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23: 1-6. R. cf. v. 6

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
   the world and all its peoples.
   It is he who set it on the seas;
   on the waters he made it firm. **R.**



2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
   Who shall stand in his holy place?
   The man with clean hands and pure heart,
   who desires not worthless things. **R.**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
   and reward from the God who saves him.
   Such are the men who seek him,
   seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3: 1-3

A reading from the first letter of John

We shall see God as he really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished
on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge
him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of
God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet
been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.
Surely everyone who entertains this hope
must purify himself, must try to be as pure as
Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

The Parish of St Joseph's, Elsternwick & Holy Cross, Caulfield South

Parish Office: 707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162 95285988 elsternwick@cam.org.au
P.O.Box 664, Elsternwick 3185 www.melbcatholic.org/stjosephholycross

PARISH PRIEST : Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC
Assistant Priest: Rev Fr Eugene San SAC
Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam
Parish Coordinator: Joanna Lam

ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK
71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185
In Residence: Fr Zsolt Kiss

Mass
Wednesday and Friday 10:00am
Saturday 6:30pm, Sun 10:30am

Reconciliation
After weekday Mass and Saturday 6:00pm

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH
707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass
Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am
Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation
After weekday Mass

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY
74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163
In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass
Monday - Saturday 9:15am
Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation
30-mins before all Masses and Saturday 9:45am - 10:10am

Thanksgiving & Special Collections
Church: $1011.60 Presbytery: $1062.60
Special Collection: -

Thanksgiving

Next Week's Roster
Lectors:
Saturday 6:30pm M Ellis
Sunday 9:00am S McMillan 10:30am La Bonne family
Counters: M Beaumont & E Ambrose

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar
Mon 2 Nov: All Souls' Day
Wed 4 Nov: St Charles Borromeo
Sun 8 Nov: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

All Souls' Day
Masses on Monday 2 November



St Anthony's Church: 9:15am and 7:00pm

St Joseph's Church: 10:00am

Holy Cross Church: 7:00pm

(During the above Masses there will be an opportunity to light tealight candles and place flowers/petals at the Altar in honour of the Souls Departed).

A book has been placed on the altar rail / table in front of Our Lady's statue. Please write names of your deceased family and friends to be prayed for on All Souls' Day.

Envelopes for the November offering for Masses for the faithful departed are available in the church foyer. These can be placed with the weekend collections.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Mt 5:8-10)
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

PLEASE PRAY FOR
Those who are ill*: Virginia Poloie Tu'I, Sister Miriam-Elizabeth Cusack, Sue Besomo, Dolores Conte, Peter D'Cruz
**Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: Caridad Bartolaba Uy, Peter Neetany

First Holy Communion
Congratulations to the Year 4 students of St Joseph's School who received their Sacrament of First Eucharist on Thursday, 29th October, 2026.

We pray that the children, their family and teachers will continue to grow in their faith and love for our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Eucharist.

Melbourne Cup Day
On Tuesday 3rd November, Tony's Café will be serving a BBQ lunch to celebrate Melbourne Cup.

Sausages, hamburgers and vegie burgers available.

Entry at 12:30pm. Closing time 2pm. Street parking only. All welcome.

St Anthony's Garage Sale next Saturday
7th November 9am to 2pm outside 74 Grange Road.

Thank you to everyone who prepared and attended the plant sale last weekend. Despite the bad weather we were able to raise $4,441.50 for Tony's Cafe.

Come along and browse, especially if you missed out last Sunday. More plants available.

Volunteers' Thank You Mass & Dinner
Volunteers' Thanksgiving Mass for our Parishes will be held at Holy Cross Church at 7pm on Friday, 27th November followed by dinner at Holy Cross Hall.

This is to express our gratitude to all volunteers (current and new) for their time and talent.

For catering purposes RSVP by Tuesday 24th November, using the clipboards in church.

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday, 13th December, 6:30pm at St Joseph's School Atrium for both Parishes. We are looking for volunteers to form an Organising Team.

To register your interest to be part of the Organising Team please let our Parish Office know by Thursday, 8th November. Thank you.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and Finance Committee (PFC) Meeting

Key outcomes from our recent combined PPC and PFC meeting held on Tuesday, 27th October 2026:

1. Presbytery Renovations: A partition and a new kitchenette has now been completed to enable clear separation of the shared community space from clergy living quarters.

2. Community Space: A cashflow projection is being finalised. This will be completed before submitting the Project Appraisal application to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM) for approval. We can then formally engage the services of an architect for further planning.

3. Volunteers' Thanksgiving Mass and Dinner: We will host the combined event for both Parishes this year, with Mass at Holy Cross Church at 7pm on Friday, 27th November followed by dinner at Holy Cross Hall.

4. Carols by Candlelight: Proposed to be held on Sunday, 13th December, 6:30pm at St Joseph's School Atrium for both Parishes.

5. Holy Cross Centenary Celebrations: Sunday 10th January 2027. Sunday Masses will be combined to start at 10am at Holy Cross Church, followed by lunch.

6. 2027 World Youth Day: Prospective leaders to attend the upcoming CAM information session before starting a team to coordinate and assist pilgrims from our parishes.

7. Copyright: A reminder that all music, image and publication usage need to adhere to copyright guidelines and regulations.

8. Advent Programs: Advent Reflections Sessions and the Travelling Cribs will be organised by Fr Pat.

Preparing for WYD Seoul 2027

In preparation for the 2027 World Youth Day (WYD) in Seoul, all young people are invited to gather with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as we celebrate the Church's annual World Youth Day.

1) **Annual World Youth Day:** Gather with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli on Sunday 22 November from 2-5pm. Open to ages 15-30 years. Register by 18 November.
Venue: Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Pde, East Melbourne 3002. Enquiries: proclaim@cam.org.au

2) **Information Session:** Get the latest information on the three pilgrimage options (direct to Seoul, via Incheon, via Japan), along with costs, what to expect and past pilgrims' stories. You will have an opportunity to ask questions.
Venue: St Christopher's Parish, 5 Doon Ave, Syndal 3149.

3) **Mentors:** We are looking for volunteers to be Mentors, especially to help with planning and to guide our youth. Let our Parish Office know of your interest by next weekend. Our Parish Info Session to follow. Details TBA.

Faith in Action

Ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, the Bishops of Victoria have issued an election statement highlighting key issues for Catholics to consider when deciding their vote. You are invited to read the statement and prayerfully discern how your vote can contribute to the common good. View the statement online at: bit.ly/StateElection2026.

Advent Reflection Sessions

"Advent Reflections" will be held on 4 consecutive Fridays, commencing on Monday, 23rd November from 7pm—8pm at St Anthony's Church. All welcome!

All Saints Day

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus

It is a joy to celebrate the solemnity of all saints. For, the saints are dear to us and we are dear to them. They keep praying to God on our behalf. Their lives have been challenging as well as amazing. The Saints are from all walks of life. Among them are Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, priests, brothers, sisters, lay faithful like doctors, farmers, soldiers, officers, teachers, housewives, shopkeepers, unemployed, self-employed, young, old. They are from every nation, race, tribe and language. They are innumerable!

Some of them are canonized, some are beatified, and some are declared venerable. Some of them are well known, others are little known. They are classified by the Church as martyrs, confessors, virgins or holy men and women etc. They are ranked, with Mother Mary being in the highest position among the saints. Only after her are the archangels, angels, martyrs and other saints.

The lives of saints reveal what great things can be achieved by we humans in spite our weakness and imperfections, by the help of grace of God. They did not take their lives easy. Nor did they live easy lives. They had most difficult times and obstacles. They have been often misunderstood and mistreated. But they did not shun away from loving God and serving one another. They are formally declared as Saints because miracles have been associated with them as proof of their sanctity. And their lives have been fully examined by the Church and found to be worthy of imitation and veneration.

Today we honour not only those who are canonised or beatified, not only those whose names are listed and classified under different titles, but today we mean to honour all who may have inherited heavenly bliss. Though the Church has not declared them as saints, yet they are saints for the very fact that they are in heaven. Among them could be our own parents, grand parents, brothers, sisters, children, friends, parishioners, related in any way and related in no way. They have passed away. And we would love to believe that they are in heaven. Therefore they are saints for us. We honour them today on this day of All Saints.

There are no books written on them, no miracles attributed to them, nothing spectacular about them. But we know that they loved God and they cared for us. Here on earth they too had their hard times. We believe God has rewarded them with eternal bliss. We are to remember them tomorrow on All Souls Day, as well.

This day reminds us that we are all called to be saints. We shall not cherish the mistaken notion that being a saint is beyond our reach. Let us not forget that holiness is achieved by doing ordinary things well. A sincere love for God and one another would do, the rest follows.

Fr Leenus

Q: What is a saint's favorite type of math?
A: Dis-count-ing sins and adding up blessings!

The Christmas Travelling Crib



There are 7 travelling Cribs seeking a stop over for 2 days at family homes in both the parishes and schools of St Anthony's and St Joseph's & Holy Cross commencing 1 December until Christmas Eve (for the schools, it is starting a week earlier).

Those who want to represent each parish and school in this program need to meet ASAP. Please contact Fr Pat.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 11: 28

Alleluia, alleluia! / Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, / and I will give you rest, says the Lord. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5: 1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage;
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted;
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied;
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them;
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God;
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God;
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

BLESSED ARE YOU

Today's Feast of All Saints beautifully recognises our communion with all who have died and gone before us in faith. As we gather around the Eucharist, and as the Presider gives thanks to God over the bread and wine, we remember those whose lives continue to touch and shape us. They remain part of the Communion of Saints, a rich and enduring tradition in Catholic theology.

The Gospel presents Jesus' familiar teaching on the Beatitudes, highlighting the source of their holiness—and ours. The Beatitudes recognise people who struggle with the realities of life and, rather than relying solely on themselves, look beyond their circumstances trusting God's action. The Beatitudes address those who are poor in spirit, whose lives are not controlled by what they possess; the gentle, who choose compassion rather than aggression; those who mourn and grieve the sadness and tragedy of life; those who hunger and thirst for justice amid injustice; those who are 'pure of heart', living with authenticity and integrity; those who seek to build communion and peace; and those who endure persecution because of their faith and discipleship. Matthew's account adds a final, ninth Beatitude, reflecting the experience of Jesus' followers in Matthew's day who were themselves facing persecution.

One final distinction is important. Some translations begin each Beatitude with 'happy', but the more faithful translation is 'blessed'. Happiness is something we seek and experience, but it can come and go. Blessedness is different. It is God's gift and action within us, whether we are feeling happy or not, orienting our lives towards holiness. And that is lasting.

Fr Michael Trainor