



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 OCTOBER 2026

FIRST READING

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / He has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

■ 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: \$868.65 Presbytery: \$913.65

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lectors:

Saturday 6:30pm R Rodrigues

Sunday 9:00am D Sarah 10:30am E Zheng

Counters: No Counting

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Wed 28 Oct: Sts Simon and Jude

Sun 1 Nov: All Saints Day

Thanksgiving



Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Our Chapel offers a quiet, sacred space to pray and to spend time with Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The Chapel can be accessed 24/7 with a security tag. To apply, contact the Parish Office. A fully refundable security deposit will be required.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Those seeking renewal of faith or desiring to become Catholics please come to our RCIA sessions on Thursdays, 6:30pm at Holy Cross Community Hall.

For more info contact our Parish Office.

Parish Social Lunch

The Camden Hotel - 414 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South. Wednesday 28th October at 12.00pm. All welcome to come together over a meal for conversation, fun, and friendship.

RSVP: Denise 0410311326 by Monday October 26th.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 104:3-4)

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 19:6)

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: Virginia Poloie Tu'l, Sister Miriam-Elizabeth Cusack, Sue Besomo, Dolores Conte, Peter D'Cruz

**Names are published for a month, unless further requested.*

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: Patricia Boland

Youth & Young Adults Hosting Mass: 24th October

The Youth & Young Adults' Group of our Parish will host the 6:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass on the 4th Saturday of every month at St Joseph's Church.

Mass is preceded by Adoration and Confessions starting at 5:30pm.

Celebrating Friendships!

This month, the young people will gather for a light supper, fellowship and music after Mass at St Joseph's School Atrium.



Rosary after Sunday Mass in October

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

It was initiated to express gratitude and honour the Blessed Virgin Mary for the protection that she gives the Church when we pray the Rosary.

All are invited to join us in praying the Rosary immediately after the 10:30am Sunday Mass at St Joseph's Church.

All Souls' Day

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

St Anthony's Spring Plant Sale

Sunday 25th October from 9:30am-1:30pm. Beautiful plants, books & cakes, pre-loved treasure & refreshments. Proceeds help Tony's Café Soup Kitchen keep up their good work.

First Holy Communion

The Year 4 students of St Joseph's School will receive their Sacrament of First Eucharist on Thursday, 29th October, 2026. Please keep these young people and their families in your prayers as they make their final preparations.

Melbourne Cup Day

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

Sausages, hamburgers and veggie burgers available.

Entry at 12:30pm (No early entry)

Closing time 2pm. Street parking only. All Welcome.

Youth Gathering, Registration Open!



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.

Join us for Mass and afternoon tea, break open the WYD theme and learn more about our pilgrimage to South Korea for WYD Seoul 2027!

Open to all aged 15 to 30 years.

Register by Wednesday 18 November 2026

Enquiries: proclaim@cam.org.au or 9926 5761.

Event Date: Sunday 22 November 2026

Time: 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Venue: Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002



Join us for a special breakfast as Annie Carrett, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, sits down with Fr Nathan Rawlins for an engaging conversation about faith, work, leadership and life within the Catholic Church.

Thursday 12 November 2026, 7:30am–8:45am

The Victoria Hotel, 215 Little Collins St, Melbourne

Bookings essential: \$45 (\$35 members, \$30 students)

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1648066>



Will you let Christ form you?

INTRODUCTORY RETREAT

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 2026

CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE, EAST MELBOURNE

Come and experience a deeper way of being formed in Christ.

Learn more or register: melbournecatholic.org/bethanyway

Enquiries: proclaim@cam.org.au



30th Ordinary Sunday Year A

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus

In the tradition of Israel, the simple questions when we ask of the stranger (Who are you? Where do you come from? Why are you here?) were reserved for the time *after* hospitality had been offered and accepted, and the guest had bathed and rested and been fed. The guest was allowed to wear the mask of the stranger until he had experienced the courtesies of hospitality. In that atmosphere he then revealed himself.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the conquering power of love when he asks his followers, "You must love your neighbour as yourself." As the Israelites were asked to love the stranger as themselves, so Christians are asked to love their neighbours. The ultimate offer of hospitality is the offer of love.

Often the real stranger is not the person we don't know but the person we don't want to know, the person we refuse to love. That person could be a neighbour or a member of our own family. We can all have strangers in our own house, still waiting to be welcomed and loved.

We are often scared to take people in because we are afraid of being taken in ourselves. We don't want to be duped, taken for a ride. Hospitality, like everything else, has a price. Jesus knew that when he opened up his heart to receive people: after a while the reception room begins to look like an emergency ward. People make demands on you; they bleed you. But remaining secure behind our locked doors has its own penalty: people die from being unvisited, people die behind locked doors and locked hearts, from caring only for themselves.

We all need strangers and neighbours to test the quality of our mercy and have the assurance that we minister to Christ: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Christ still comes to us not only in the forms of bread and wine, but in the form of the stranger seeking welcome. That is Gospel.

Fr Pat Jackson

Q: Why was Moses the most rebellious man in history?

A: Because he broke all Ten Commandments at once.

Rosary by Young People at St Anthony's Church

During October, the month of the Rosary, you are invited to come to join the youth in praying the Rosary every Friday at 7pm in the Church.

Friday 30th October: Adoration, Rosary & Discussion.

Rosary will be followed by light refreshments.

Happy Marriage, Happier Children

What if one of the greatest gifts you can give your children is a stronger, happier marriage?

Join Alicia and Mike Hermon for a live, interactive, webinar exploring the powerful connection between your marriage and your children's happiness.

Sunday 22 November 2026 at 1pm

Scan the QR Code to book. Online event.



Divine Playhouse Petition

There is an anti-Catholic 'art' exhibition in the Museum of Modern Art and brave Archbishop Fisher is pushing back at the NSW government for funding it and he seeks support.

If you would like to sign a letter to the NSW Minister for the Arts, requesting that no government funding be allocated to the ridicule of religious belief please click on the link below.

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/divine-playhouse-petition/>

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

As with last Sunday's Gospel, we find ourselves again on the Temple Mount—the sacred place where the Torah was taught and people were encouraged to live its demands and invitations. As Matthew's Gospel approaches its concluding chapters, however, the Temple also becomes the arena for another trial, continuing from last Sunday. Jesus' religious opponents set theological traps, seeking to expose him as an imposter and false teacher. This time the question concerns the greatest of the 613 commandments discerned in the Torah. It is a formidable test. Throughout his Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus to a Jewish community of followers living decades after the Galilean ministry of Jesus. The teaching Matthew records in the mid-80s CE reaches back to the original teaching of Jesus in the 30s.

Both then and now, Jesus draws upon the Torah to identify the two commandments that stand at the heart of faithful living. The first comes from Deuteronomy: to love God with one's whole being—heart, soul and mind. This command was so central to Jewish faith that it was symbolically carried on the body, clothing and doorposts of the home, and recited frequently each day in prayer. From this all-encompassing love of God flows the second commandment: to love one's neighbour as oneself. The two cannot be separated. Love of God finds its expression in how we love and treat others.

These commandments remain at the heart of our Christian heritage. They continue to shape our relationship with God and with one another, calling us beyond religious observance alone into a life grounded in love.

Fr Michael Trainor