TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME **20th September 2026**

INTRODUCTION

Good evening/morning and welcome to St Joseph's Church on the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. As always, we extend a special welcome to all visitors to our church today.

We deeply respect this land and its traditional custodians, the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and we re-commit ourselves to the ongoing safeguarding of the young and vulnerable in our community.

The Scripture readings today show that God's generous love is for all, even those who are disadvantaged or marginalised.

Today is **Social Services Sunday,** a day when we recognise and pray for all the staff and volunteers in the Catholic agencies supporting the vulnerable and poor. We especially pray for our own St Joseph's Outreach Services staff and volunteers, and those they serve.

Our celebrant today is ……
Please stand for our entrance hymn:

No……. Title……..

FIRST READING The prophet Isaiah 55:6 – 9

In this reading, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that although God is beyond our understanding, he is still near, with his generous love for us.
(Commentator pause after first reading)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM On the Bulletin if not sung
(Commentator pause after psalm)

SECOND READING Letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:20 – 24, 27

Paul sends a powerful and joyful message to the Philippians despite his imprisonment. He says that '*life, to me, is Christ*,' whether now or in eternity.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION On the Bulletin if not sung

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

CELEBRANT: Dear friends, the generosity of God, demonstrated in the teaching and actions of Jesus, calls us to be generous in our prayer, words and actions, showing a constant witness to charity, justice and mercy.

1. For Pope Leo preparing for his Apostolic Visit to Paris and Lourdes at the end of the week, that he will be a witness to peace in the world and unity in the Church. Let us pray to the Lord.

2. For those in our Social Services organisations providing safety and support, and the work of our own SJOS outreach volunteers, that their work and ministry in providing practical help be blessed: Let us pray to the Lord.

3. For the quality, supply and distribution of water in all lands, that in this month's Season of Creation, we will remember all who do not have access to this necessity for life. Let us pray to the Lord.

4. For the peoples of Ukraine and Russia along with Nigeria, Sudan, Myanmar, and Haiti, as well as those in the Middle East. May the constant prayers of people of many faiths lead to lasting peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

5. For people who are sick, especially for people in the Alfred Hospital, and for those in aged care facilities, and the housebound: Let us pray to the Lord.

6. For those who have died recently: _____ and those whose anniversaries occur at this time _____ For all who grieve, we pray that they may experience hope and joy in their loving remembrance of those dear to them. Let us pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT: Receive our prayers of petition, merciful God, so that all people may live their lives in peace and tranquillity. We ask this through Christ our Lord.