

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

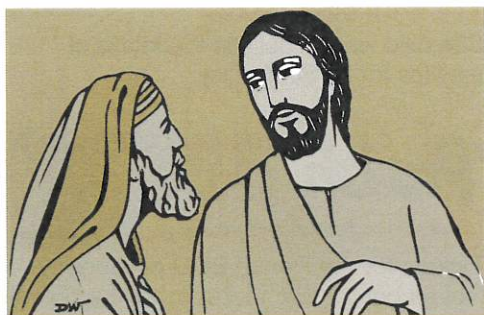
Mt 22:34-40

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 SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 OCTOBER 2026

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

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."

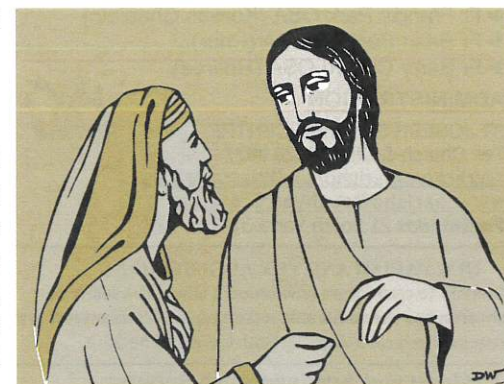
■ The word of the Lord.

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.



Est. 1887

30th Sunday of the Year 25th October 2026
St Joseph's Catholic Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street
St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street

In the Pastoral Care of the **AUGUSTINIANS**

- Fr Luca Park OSA (Parish Priest)
- Fr Francis Park OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- Fr Brian Buckley OSA (Prior)
- Fr Barry Clifford OSA (Retired)

ADMINISTRATION

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE
 Tel: Church & Office 9826 9677
secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au
www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au
 Postal: Box 21 South Yarra 3141



OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and the vulnerable is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

Pastoral and Administrative Support

- Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant) ► Joel Sanchez (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ► Sarah Thyssen (St Joseph's Outreach Services: Mon, Tues, Thurs)
- Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

MORNING TEA & CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass
 Fourth Sunday of the month.
 (except school holidays and long weekends)
 St Thomas Aquinas – Morning Tea - last
 Sunday of the month following 9am Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.10pm – 5.40pm, or by appointment.

ANointing / HEALING MASS

(*Sacrament of the Sick*) First Tuesday of the month 10am at St Joseph's Church

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to request a visit for communion at home.

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 25th October 2026

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 24th October	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 25th October 30 th Sunday of the Year	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 26th October 30 th Week in Ordinary Time		
Tuesday 27th October 30 th Week in Ordinary Time	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Wednesday 28th October Sets. Simon & Jude	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 29th October 30 th Week in Ordinary Time	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Friday 30th October 30 th Week in Ordinary Time	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 31st October 30 th Week in Ordinary Time	9am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass	



NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS.

We will provide opportunities for you to remember your loved ones by inscribing their names in our *Books of Remembrance* placed in our churches for your use. *November Envelopes* are placed at the church doors, or you may contact the parish office with Mass intention requests. We remember especially parishioners deceased in the past year.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- **Meditation:** Fridays 10.45am
- **Parish BBQ:** Sun 22 Nov 11.30am
- **Advent Reflection Day:** 13th Dec
- **RCIA:** Thursdays 7pm

ST AUGUSTINE - THE ROAD TO LIFE



"Nowadays many people, simply because they are members of the Church, appear to be seeking salvation. But are they all equally assiduous, equally persevering? Is one seeking the road to salvation if they turn to evil? All vices lead straight to death—which is why those who walk that road can't simultaneously be looking for the road to life. That's why our Saviour lamented, "How few there are who find it!" (*Ser. 4*)

WELCOME FR SAJU OSA



Thank you and welcome to Fr Saju OSA who is here from St Claire Parish, Sydney to assist with masses at St Joseph's this weekend.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN



If you know someone who would like to know more about the Catholic faith, or if you have questions about taking the next step, the

Parish of South Yarra is here to accompany you. Please contact the Parish office for more details. 98269677

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK - Pope Leo, Margaret Wallin, Anne Rigg, Mitos Gloudemans, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Janine Forster, Christie De Silva, Anita Zaio, Maurice & Pauline Sheehan, Rosie Gucciardo, Nichole Garnaut, Enid Netto, David Mills, Charles, Tom Greene, Anna Slawek, Maurice White, Helen Haines.



IN LOVING MEMORY



Recently Deceased

* Randy Cailles

Anniversaries

* Frances Keighery * Justin Khoo
 * Stewart Murrhiy * Jean Li Yao
 * Guiseppe (Joe) Giofre * Jackie Hutton
 * Carmel & Jim Madden * Anton Rozman

MORNING TEA AND FAREWELL FOR STEPHY - SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Stephy Coosnapa, our Pastoral Worker for the past seven years, as she concludes her time with us next week. We wish Stephy God's blessings for the next chapter in her life. Please join us for morning tea after 10.30am Mass this Sunday to bid Stephy farewell.

COFFEE AFTER ST THOMAS' 9.00AM MASS THIS SUNDAY

After mass at St Thomas Aquinas this Sunday 25th October

join us for coffee at Velvet Bean Café, 35 Albert Road. Refreshments to farewell Stephy to follow in the Parish Centre.



ALL SOULS DAY MASS

See next week's bulletin for details of masses for All Soul's Day.



Tickets for the Parish BBQ on Sunday November 22nd at 11.30am will be on sale next week. \$15 Adult or \$30 Family with children under 12 years. Food provided, BYO drinks.

MASS COLLECTION 18/10/2026

Clergy (Augustinian Community)
 1st Collection, CDF & bank deposits... \$ 903.05
Church (Parish Ministries)
 2nd Collection \$ 511.35
 Envelopes..... \$ 70.00
 Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards...\$1105.60
 Tap Point Terminals..... \$ 675.00
 Thank you for your generosity