

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Phil 2:15-16
Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like
bright stars; / you are offering it the word
of life. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 22:15-21
A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and
to God the things that are God's.*

The Pharisees went away to work out between
them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And
they sent their disciples to him, together with
the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that
you are an honest man and teach the way of
God in an honest way, and that you are not
afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means
nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is
it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?'
But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied,
'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for
me? Let me see the money you pay the tax
with.' They handed him a denarius and he said,
'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's'
they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well,
give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar –
and to God what belongs to God.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 OCTOBER 2026

WHO IS OUR GOD?

Homilists today may be tempted to use
this Gospel as an encouragement to honour
taxation: every citizen contributes to the
common good, and perhaps parishioners
might even be urged to contribute a little
more to the parish coffers. After all, Jesus does
say, 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar!' While we certainly have a responsibility to
support those social structures that advance
the common good, and to assist those who
struggle, something more troubling is at work
in this Gospel.

The setting is the Temple Mount, where
Matthew presents Jesus undergoing a
theological trial before religious leaders and
guardians of orthodoxy. It is a scene repeated
in every generation of Jesus' followers: the
attempt by theological rigorists to indict those
whom they regard as out of step with orthodox
teaching. Jesus refuses the premise of their
question. Instead, he asks them to produce
the coin used to pay the tax and to identify
the figure and inscription upon it. 'Caesar's,'
they reply.

Here lies the real issue. These religious leaders
publicly champion the Torah's fundamental
confession that there is only one God. Yet, in
Israel's most sacred place, the Temple, they
carry an image of the god-king Caesar. Their
actions contradict the faith they claim to
defend. Thus, today's Gospel is not primarily
about the lawfulness of taxation. It is about
fidelity to the Divine One. Beneath the
question of what belongs to Caesar lies the
more searching question: Who is our God,
the One to whom our ultimate love, allegiance
and obedience belong?

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations
before his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the
setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the
Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations
his glory / and his wonders among all the
peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, /
to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the
heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who
made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, /
give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord
the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and
enter his courts. **R.**



4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth,
tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations:
'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in
fairness. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

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

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the
Church in Thessalonika which is in God the
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you
grace and peace from God the Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers
and thank God for you all, and constantly
remember before God our Father how you have
shown your faith in action, worked for love
and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus
Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and
that you have been chosen, because when we
brought the Good News to you, it came to you
not only as words, but as power and as the Holy
Spirit and as utter conviction.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



Parish Clergy & Staff:

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)
Fr Peter Varengo sdb (Assistant Priest)
Fr John Gandini sdb (Assisting Priest)
Fr Anthony Nguyen sdb (Assisting Priest)
Virginia Carter (Parish office Administrator & Finance Secretary)
Rafelina De Donato (Sacristan & Parish Office Assistant)
Natalia Tawaf Molini (Faith Formation Coordinator)
Jason Vu (Website Content Manager)

Parish House & Office:

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61 Queens Pde Clifton Hill Vic 3068

Website: olsc.org.au | **Facebook:**

facebook.com/people/Our-Lady-of-the-Southern-Cross/61560645217161

Our Clergy, Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Office, welcome any comments, feedback or suggestions from our Parishioners. It helps us all to help our Parish.

Church Communities:

St John the Baptist Community

61 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill; Tel: 9481 7333

St Joseph's Catholic Church Community

46 Otter Street, Collingwood;

School: Tel: 9419 4918; Principal: Matthew Shawcross

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

St Heliers Street, Abbotsford Tel: 9417 2909

Pastoral Care:

For a pastoral visit from Fr Cassius or one of the Salesans of Don Bosco seminarians, we invite you to contact the

For Urgent Pastoral Need Call: 0401 887 115

Parish office.

Mass Times:

St John the Baptist Church:

Tuesday to Friday at 9.15am, **Saturday** at 8.30am.

Sunday at 9:00am (Italian), 11:00am and 5:00pm.

St Joseph's Catholic Church:

Monday to Saturday at 8:30am, **Saturday** at 6:00pm (Vigil).

Sunday at 9:00am (Vietnamese).

The Chapel of Good Shepherd:

Sunday at 9:30am.

Sacramental Reception:

Baptism: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/sacraments.

St John's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month—12pm.

St Joseph's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month during Sunday 9am Vietnamese mass, or contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/sacraments.

Reconciliation: Fridays 7:15pm—8:00pm except for 1st Friday of the month—Holy Hour 7pm-8pm.

Holy Communion, Reconciliation & Confirmation: Please contact the Parish office.

Envelopes & Loose Collections 10-11 October 2026:

St John's: \$825.70 | **St Joseph's:** \$1,075.65

Thank you for your thanksgiving offerings and donations.

SAFEGUARDING

At the Parish of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our Parish.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/commitment-to-the-safety-of-children-and-young-people>

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people and offer our respects to the elders past, present and future. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land.

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 17-18 OCTOBER YEAR A

For All Those We Remember

Condolences & Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Vincenzo Carnovale, Sr Louise Joyce Dowling, and Giuseppe Vaiano



Mass Offerings

We pray for *Armando Pasquale* on this the first anniversary of his passing, and we pray for his family.

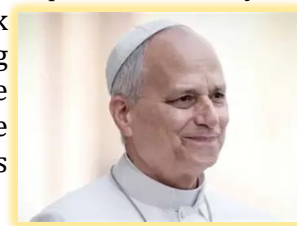
Prayers for Healing

We pray for all in our parish who are sick, suffering, or facing distress, and for those who care for them, that they may feel Christ's healing presence.

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rachel Bartolo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Greg Andrews, Paul Sutherland, Joseph Bonnici, and all those who need prayers for their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

If you are in need, or know of fellow Parishioners who are in need and wish to be included in our prayers, please contact the Parish office.

Our prayers are also with our Pope Leo XIV: May he feel better and be healed back to good health after his lung surgery; and may he continue his vital ministry as advocate for those in need and what is right and just.



Holy Father, you are our beacon of light during these times.

Teen Mass this Sunday 18 October

Our Parish teens are invited to our next Teens Group mass this Sunday 18 October at St John's.

We welcome all teens to come together in faith.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/Psalm	Second Reading/Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful
18 Oct	TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Samoan Community	Samoan Community	Samoan Community
5pm	Teens Group	Teens Group	Teens Group
25 Oct	THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Quyen Pham-Nguyen	Susan Smith	John Andrews
5pm	Julia Manickam	Daniel Ryan	Clotilde Berryman

A Sunday to Celebrate

You are all warmly invited to share your thoughts of our *Parish Life and Mission* with Fr Cassius and the Pastoral Council members who will be present for refreshments after the St John's 11am and 5pm services this Sunday 18 October. Please join if you can for fellowship and conversation.

To our Parishioners at our other services, there will opportunity for you also soon.

A gentle reminder that our Parish clergy and staff always welcome you to come to them for any pastoral care, and to talk about Parish life; and that the Parish House which is at St John's, is open to you all.

We Celebrate Fr Anthony

Our dearest Fr Anthony Quang Nguyen sdb will celebrate 40 years as an ordained priest on Sunday 25 October 2026.

You are warmly invited to join the celebration if you can, at the St Joseph's 9am Vietnamese mass.

A message from St Joseph's PS Principal

Our students celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation last Saturday evening, 10 October. This was an important milestone in their faith journey and a meaningful expression of the partnership between our school, families and parish.

Thank you to Fr Cassius, Deacon Afia, our St Joseph's staff and all who supported the children's preparation and the celebration. We pray that our newly confirmed young people will continue to recognise their gifts and use them with courage, compassion and generosity in service of others.

I also thank all the parishioners involved in the preparation of the beautiful supper that was served afterwards.

Matthew Shawcross

Food Outreach Saturday 24 October

Please join to help the Matautia family as they once again live the gospel through cooking and serving warm meals for those in need—St Joseph's next Saturday, 24 October at 3pm.

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me'

—Mt 25:40

"May all members of the Church be united in mission"—Pope Leo XIV

Humanity

The story I am about to present is a breath of fresh air amid the gloom and doom of everyday life. We live in a world where selfishness and success become unavoidable priorities that tend to isolate us from community values and lead to a spiral of uncontrollable desires, an addiction causing slavery and depression.

The more we have, the more we want and the more we get the less happy we become. The possessions we have become a noose around our necks choking us from breathing the fresh air of true freedom and happiness that we can only enjoy when we abide by the Lord's teaching.

Below is an amazing picture: Abdul Raheem, an Afghan soldier who lost both his hands in war received a pair of hands from Joseph of Kerela who had suffered brain death. Joseph's wife and daughter are looking at the hands that once caressed them. The transplant surgery was performed by Dr. Subramanian Iyer, who is wearing the blue shirt, of the Amrita Hospital, Kerela.

**A Hindu doctor—
A Christian organ donor—
A Muslim recipient.**



THAT'S HUMANITY.....THAT'S HAPPINESS.....
GOD IS GREAT!

Fr John Gandini sdb

October, Month of the Holy Rosary

You are all warmly invited to pray the Holy Rosary together during the month of October after each morning mass on weekdays:

St John's: Tuesday—Friday
after the 9:15am mass;

St Joseph's: Monday—Friday
after the 8:30am mass.

Please let us come together for this gift of prayer.

