Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

8 NOVEMBER 2026

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 24: 42, 44. R. v. 2

Alleluia, alleluia! / Be watchful and ready: / you know not when the Son of Man is coming. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 25: 1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. the other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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STAY AWAKE!

As we move towards the final Sundays of our liturgical year, the Evangelist turns our attention to watchfulness and alertness. While this teaching is essentially about God's coming at the end of time—the 'Parousia,' or God's final coming—it also invites us to remain alert to Christ's coming whenever and however that occurs in our lives.

Matthew sets his parable within the familiar setting of a Middle Eastern wedding. At night, ten bridesmaids await the arrival of the bridegroom, carrying oil lamps to welcome him to the celebrations. Five are prepared and have enough oil; the others are not. When the bridegroom's arrival is delayed, the unprepared bridesmaids ask the others to share their oil. They refuse, telling them instead to go and buy what they need. By the time they return, the wedding celebration has begun and the door is shut. The Gospel concludes with the familiar injunction: 'Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.' The message seems clear: we are to remain ready for God's coming, whenever that may be.

But is that the whole message? Another question deserves consideration: *Why do those who have enough oil refuse to share with those who do not?* Their refusal contributes to their sisters' exclusion from the wedding feast. Could the Gospel be asking us to 'stay awake' not simply for God's coming, but to recognise those in need around us—so that everyone might share in the divine wedding banquet?

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Wis 6: 12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her,
she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go.
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 62: 2-8. R. v. 2

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**



4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 4: 13-18

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

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

Shorter form, 1 Thess 4: 13-14

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 home visit, we invite you to contact the Parish office.

For Urgent Pastoral Need Call: 0401 887 115

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 30 October-1 November 2026:
St John's: $382.85 | St Joseph's: $825.85
Thank you for your thanksgiving offerings and donations. These help sustain and support our Parish gospel mission.

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

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 7-8 November 2026 Year A

For All Those We Remember

We pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Julia Rickard, Gregorio Addamo, Francesco Tascone, and Fr Frank Moloney sdb.



On *Remembrance Day* this Wednesday 11 November, we remember and pray for all those fallen in war.
May they share in Christ's resurrection, and rest in the eternal joy of God's heavenly kingdom.

Prayers for Healing

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rachel Bartolo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Greg Andrews, Paul Sutherland, Joseph Bonnici, Nicholas, 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 Dear Parishioners to be Married

This Sunday at St John's, Fr Cassius Correya sdb will unite *Clara Pinnisi* and *Michael Di Carluccio* in the Sacrament of Marriage.
Clara and Michael are a faithful and wonderful young couple, and loyal parishioners at St John's.
Let us pray for them on their wedding day, and for their blessed union and life as husband and wife.



May God and the Holy Spirit always be close to you Clara and Michael, throughout your banquet of life.

Baptisms



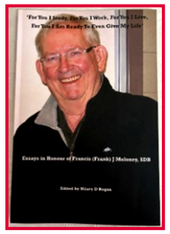
Please let us pray for the little ones *Tahlia* and *Sebastian* who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism from our Salesian Seminarian, Deacon Silao sdb this Sunday 8 November at St John's.
May the Church and the Holy Spirit accompany them every day of their life.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful
8 Nov	Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time		
11am	Doriana Penso	Vin Penso	Hugh McGinlay
5pm	Salesian Youth	Salesian Youth	Salesian Youth
15 Nov	Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time		
11am	Samoan Community	Samoan Community	Samoan Community
5pm	Teens Youth	Teens Youth	Teens Youth

We Fondly Remember Fr Frank

We remember our beloved Salesian priest and friend, the late *Fr Frank Moloney sdb*, whose first year anniversary is this Sunday 8 November. We will offer the 11am mass at St John's for Fr Frank.
There will also be a special book to look at or purchase—essays that honour Fr Frank, written by *Hilary D Regan*.



If you wish to see or purchase a copy, please see John Andrews at the end of the St John's 11am mass at the back of the church. The price is at cost for $27, payable via the EFTPOS machine. For those not at this mass who wish to purchase a copy, please contact the Parish Office; for those who wish to purchase a copy at another time, John will take your contact details.

Congratulations Julia Vu

As the *Melbourne Synod 2026* approaches on 4-6 December, the members have gathered for formation. Julia, a faithful parishioner and youth leader from our St Joseph's congregation, applied to become one of the Parish representative members of the Synod, and was chosen to participate. Not all Parishes will have a representative, so we are so grateful to Julia for her poignant application.
Julia will join bishops, priests and other parish representatives, to discern on and shape the Church's mission in this contemporary world.
The focus will be on these vital aspects of Parish Life—*Youth Discipleship*, *Missionary Leadership*, and *Formation and Participation*. A gentle reminder that the Synod papers on these three themes, and other information are available at:
melbournecatholic.org/ synod2026.
Our prayers are with you Julia during this journey. We look forward to knowing about your encounter.

Cambodia Salesian Immersion 2027

An exciting and special opportunity is coming up for you to immerse yourself in Khmer culture while contributing to the mission of an overseas Salesian community.
For ages 16 and over, the trip will be next year in June and July, and there is an information night on Wednesday, 24th February 2027.
For more information, please refer to the flyer on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

Lamps Alight

I am sure that Jesus would subscribe to Baden Powell's Scouts and Guides motto to "be prepared to stand in a state of readiness in mind and body to do one's duty". These words resonate strongly in today's Gospel, carrying both wisdom and challenge for personal responsibility and active commitment lest we miss the onrush of God journeying with us in our life story. As we look back on a year fading away and another beckoning ahead, the liturgy invites us to be aware of people and events surrounding us, summoning *wisdom* to see and *decision* to confront radical and sometime crucial decisions and personal choices.
Taking his cue from a wedding celebration, Jesus challenges our claim to faith and our relationship with each other highlighting three elements: (1) alert *awareness* of the reality at hand, (2) *wisdom* to assess the demands of the situation in the here and now, and (3) a courageous *readiness for action* for the future ahead.
The feast would begin with bride and groom escorted into the wedding banquet by a party of young girls, but when an unexpected delay stretched the wait into the night, some wise members of the bridal party, forestalling precisely the unplanned, had provided themselves with oil lamps. Others, instead, unaware of any personal responsibility never contemplated anything beyond enjoying the immediate occasion, failed to equip themselves for the unexpected. All that mattered to them was the "here and now", and so in the dark they became the "unknown" left out in the cold.
The key to faith and life is the wisdom that sees and captures the opportunity for discovering and accepting God and energise us into transforming action on behalf of the world, even in the dark night of life. The waiting of loneliness and the discomfort of suffering, the company of friends and the hassles of daily humdrum, the concern for a child and the word of understanding from a partner – these are the unplanned and most often unexpected experiences of our lives, the wisdom-moments when our Bridegroom -God invites us to join his *banquet of life* even in the night of the situation. To be prepared means to become actors for transformation and instruments of God-presence, to counter apathy and individualism, so that the world will not be lost in the darkness of the night and the lamp of love will not die because of our negligence or self-seeking. To be prepared places us inescapably alongside others, events and situations that enter and shape our stories, journeying along the same road as we do, and rejoicing and struggling with us and like us.

Fr Peter Varengo sdb