

GOSPEL

Mt 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2159. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

6 SEPTEMBER 2026

SEEK RECONCILIATION

Last Sunday reminded us that following Jesus is not free from struggle. Challenges, even misunderstandings, will be part of the disciple's vocation. This Sunday, the evangelist moves deeper to highlight further concerns that beset the community of disciples—internal struggles, tensions, even rejection.

The evangelist draws on the wisdom of Jesus to address these realities and suggests a three-step process towards reconciliation. It begins with personal dialogue. The one wronged seeks to invite the wrongdoer to reconciliation. If this fails, witnesses to what has happened verify the authenticity of the issues and encourage resolution. If this fails then the whole faith community, the *ekklesia*, witness to the wrong that has created the division, inviting the wrong doer to a change of heart and reconciliation.

Even if this third step fails then Matthew advises to treat the wrong doer 'like a pagan or tax collector.' In other words, as Jesus welcomed strangers and invited a tax collector to become one of his disciples, the door must always be left open. The final words of the Gospel contain Jesus' assurance that he is always present to even a small discipleship gathering, of even two or three, no matter what they are dealing with.

Today's Gospel is as relevant for our day as it was in the time of Matthew. No faith community is tension free. Disagreements arise and, sometimes, are not easily resolved by faith leaders. Rather than gossiping or character assassination, personal approaches that invite conflict resolution and community building are essential. In everything, Jesus is present.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Ezek 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

**R. O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia! / God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; / and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. / Alleluia!



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)
Rafelina De Donato (Sacristan & Parish Office Assistant)
Virginia Carter (Parish Secretary)
Natalia Tawaf Molini (Faith Formation Coordinator)
Jason Vu (Website Content Manager)

Parish Office:

Phone: 03 94817333 | Email: office@olsc.org.au

Website: olsc.org.au | Facebook:

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

We welcome any suggestions or comments from our Parishioners.

It helps us 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 with Fr Cassius, or one of the Salesians of Don Bosco seminarians, 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.

Archbishop's Campaign 29-30 August 2026:

St John's: \$702 | St Joseph's: \$845

Pledges Envelopes also received

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 5-6 SEPTEMBER YEAR A

For All Those We Remember

Condolences: We pray for all those who have died recently, and for their loved ones.

Anniversaries: We pray for Carmine De Donato, John Francis Kane, and Krystal Lanza.

Mass Intentions: We pray for all our fathers, father figures, and clergy with us today, and deceased.

We pray for Giuseppe Giorgio, Domenico Nocita, and Salvatore Giorgio.



Prayers for Healing

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rachel Bartolo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Greg Andrews, Paul Sutherland, 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.

Becoming a Catholic: A Journey of Faith

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic or deepening your understanding of the Catholic faith?

Our parish community invites you to begin this journey of discovery, prayer, and companionship.

The journey together begins: Thursday, 1 October 2026 at 7.30 pm, St John's Parish Hall.

This gathering is for anyone who feels drawn to explore the Catholic faith—whether you are seeking Baptism, wishing to complete your Sacraments, or simply hoping to understand the Church more deeply. You will be welcomed, supported, and accompanied at every step.

Baptised with Water and the Holy Spirit



Please pray for Hailey Nguyen who receives the Sacrament of Baptism from Fr Anthony Quang Nguyen sdb this Saturday, 5 September 2026.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful
6 Sep	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Michael Black	Nadia Batticiotto	Chau Nguyen
5pm	Darcy Manickam	Eliza Manickam	Julia Manickam
13 Sep	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Salesian Yout Club	Salesian Youth Club	Salesian Youth Club
5pm	Lorraine Lipson	John Andrews	Gabrielle McMullen

For our Beloved Fathers

Heavenly Father,
you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary,
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.

Bless all the fathers, grandfathers
and father figures in our lives.

Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness
and patience; support them in the work they do for
those who look to them, as we look to you for
love and salvation, through Jesus Christ
our rock and defender.

May we flourish in our faith, joy and virtue,
from their love, guidance and protection.

We pray for those in heaven, for the men
who long to be fathers, and those for
whom this day is difficult. Amen.

By Natalia

An Extraordinary Visit

We thank Rev Fr Fidel Orendain sdb for his visit to our Parish from Rome last week.

The Salesian Superior spent a fruitful time with clergy, seminarians, the pastoral council, and parishioners, as part of his official visit to the Salesian Australia-Pacific province.

It was a time for Fr Fidel to connect with us, and to guide us, as he truly listened to what we do in our Parish life and ministries.

We also thank our Parishioners for attending the masses Fr Fidel celebrated last weekend, and for welcoming him and sharing a cuppa after mass.

Appealing for Help, Nepal Flood Disaster

As the Nepal floods emergency continues, the Nepal Don Bosco Society emergency response team is working with local communities and officials to assess needs and help guide longer-term recovery efforts.

The Salesian Mission Australia have launched an appeal, and your support will help local Salesians accompany displaced families and communities as they begin the long process of rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.

The mission will we will continue to share updates from Nepal and how the Salesians are responding to local needs, via their website (see below). If you can help in their vital mission, please use the QR code on the poster on the church noticeboard, or visit:

salesianmissionaus.org.au/emergencyappeal-nepal-floods/

Love that Wins Back

In 1884, while Don Bosco was in Rome, he had two dreams that he later transcribed into a letter for his beloved sons and boys in Valdocco, Turin. This letter, composed by Don Bosco's secretary, Fr John Baptist Lemoyne, is known as *The Letter from Rome*. He begins with these tender words: "Near or far I always think of you. Only one is my desire: to see you happy in time and in eternity."

These warm opening lines reveal his deep fatherly love for his sons. Yet, in what follows, he gently warns them of the danger of losing the truly "Salesian" spirit of being present among young people and helping to transform their lives. He did not hesitate to point out their shortcomings and urge them to be a loving, active presence in the midst of the young, for he believed: "Those who know they are loved give love in return, and those who are loved get everything, especially from young people." Don Bosco was able to touch and transform the lives of countless young people because they felt loved, valued, and cared for.

Every parent, teacher, priest, and all who are entrusted with the care of children or young people know that their responsibility is not only to affirm and encourage what is good in another. It also requires the courage to gently challenge them when they begin to stray from the right path. This second task is often the harder one, yet it is essential for anyone who seeks to be a truly good and faithful carer.

While this weekend's first reading from Ezekiel reminds us of our responsibility to challenge or warn those who are drifting from God's way, the second reading (Romans 13:8-10) and the Gospel (Matthew 18:15-20) focus on *how* to do it and they draw our attention to the deeper purpose behind such correction: to win back our brother, sister, friend, or community member. They invite us to see fraternal correction as *an act of love* – a way of restoring communion, healing relationships, and helping one another walk again in the light of Christ.

It is essential in every relationship that we do not allow the other to slip away from us. This reflects the very heart of God, and we see it beautifully in Jesus, who never abandoned those whom society dismissed as lost or sinful. He sought them out with patience and compassion, approached them with a love that restored their dignity, and opened a path of new life before them. In the light of such love, they found the courage to respond, to change, and to embrace the values he offered.

As we celebrate Father's Day, this becomes a gentle reminder to every dad of his sacred vocation: *to love, and to make himself loved* after the heart of the Lord.

Fr Cassius Correya sdb

"Happy Father's Day"