



# St Finbar's Catholic Parish

**Parish Priest:**

86 Centre Rd, Brighton East, VIC, 3187

Year A

Fr Ian W Ranson

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**Parish Secretary:**

Mrs Carmel Cristiano

**Office hours:**

**PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED**

**DUE TO STAGE 4**

**RESTRICTIONS**

*Please feel free to email or call Fr Ian or Carmel if you have any special intentions.*

*Please refer to the links on parish website for further information regarding COVID regulations.*

**Telephone:**

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Mr Patrick Berlinger

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## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our attention shifts slightly in these last Sundays of Ordinary Time. We turn from concentration on the character and responsibilities of discipleship to reflection on the import of the end of time. As we move toward the close of the liturgical year, we are invited to consider the final coming of Christ and the last judgment.

The thought of judgment is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. We sometimes experience tension between the idea of divine justice, which requires that the good be adequately rewarded and the evil be appropriately punished, and that of the mercy of God, which we hope will be

generously extended to us. As seen in the readings for this Sunday, the justice of God does not conform to the standards of human justice. It is incomprehensible, because its foundation is mercy. While we might find consolation in this view of divine judgment when it is directed toward us, our hearts do not always seem to be generous enough to rejoice in the mercy extended to others. It is almost as if we feel that we have been cheated in some way, if God is merciful to others. However, divine mercy can work in us to abolish our pettiness and indignation and replace it with generosity of heart. We are called to conduct ourselves with

this kind of generosity, this kind of love, this kind of mercy.

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### Reflection

We are called to prayer, reflection and action towards care of our common home and the planet Earth.

*"Let us protect the heritage that God has entrusted to us so that future generations may enjoy it."*

Pope Francis

**SCRIPTURAL**  
**CONTEXT**  
**Kingdom parables**

*A feature of the kingdom parables that Jesus used is a challenging 'shift' to the unexpected. Jesus only ever uses parables to describe what the kingdom is like, and never says exactly what it is or isn't. In each parable he compares the kingdom of God to something that would be familiar to a 1st century audience but then he twists the familiar and makes the challenging shift by making the familiar, unfamiliar. (This 'shift' is sometimes called a 'discombobulating shift'.) Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God disrupts our normal way of thinking, it turns our expectations upside down and it completely challenges our 'normal' relationships.*



**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Pray for the Sick**

Rita Maguire

**Recent Deaths**

William Avallone

**Anniversaries**

Vivienne Coghlan,  
James Fitzsimmons,  
Nell Oeslner, Tom McMahon,  
Wanda Najdecki



# MASS & PRAYER AT HOME DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS



*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.*

*Amen.*

## Social Services Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September – a time to reflect and give thanks

Today, Sunday 20th September, we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. We are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 45 member organisations, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the 2020/21 Social Justice Statement brought out recently by the Australian Catholic bishops, To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today, and so draw your attention to a recent event hosted by CSSV, Counselling and Therapeutic Support in a Time of COVID, which provided an opportunity to become more familiar with mental health services, and how to practically reach out for or point to assistance.

### Prayer for Courage and Compassion

Compassionate God,  
Your unconditional love for all  
inspires our hearts and empowers our actions  
for those who are most vulnerable.  
May we boldly and humbly serve one another  
and be steadfast in our work for justice for all people.  
Keep our hearts open to the joys and the hopes of our  
world,  
and our ears ready to hear your call  
to truth, justice and reconciliation.  
Let us continue to draw inspiration and strength  
from those, like St Mary MacKillop,  
on whose shoulders we stand.  
We gather in Jesus' name  
to be nourished and to move forward together  
in hope and joy.  
Amen

Easy online *thanksgiving payments* can be made via this link:

<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registant/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&spid=5635700>

Thank you to all those who have continued to support  
St Finbar's Catholic Church during these difficult times.



### Message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/News/ArtMID/416/ArticleID/24619/Our-sacramental-life-Message-from-Archbishop-Peter-A-Comensoli>

General COVID Guidelines for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

<https://cam.org.au/guidance-for-parishes-covid-19/>

International Day of Peace  
21st September



### SEPTEMBER—THE SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY

20th St Andrew Kim Tae-gõn, Priest, St Paul Chõng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

21st St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

25th St Finbarr, Bishop

26th St Cosmas, St Damian, Martyrs

