



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Year C - Sunday, 14th September 2025

Entrance Antiphon Cf Galatians 6:14

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection,
through whom we are saved and delivered.

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers

When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7

(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching;
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **(R.)**
2. When he slew them then they would seek him,
return and seek him in earnest.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer. **(R.)**
3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery;
they lied to him with their lips.
For their hearts were not truly with him;
they were not faithful to his covenant. **(R.)**
4. Yet he who is full of compassion
forgave their sin and spared them.
So often he held back his anger
when he might have stirred up his rage. **(R.)**

Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself, therefore God had exalted him.

The state of Jesus was divine,
yet he did not cling to his equality with God
but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was
humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high and gave him the name
which is above all other names so that all beings

in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who came down from heaven,
the Son of Man who is in heaven;
and the Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life
in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon John 12:32

When I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.

Reflection

What are these Christians about, exalting an instrument of torture?

First, we rejoice that something so terrible should have been transformed into a means of redemption for the whole human race.

Second, we remind ourselves of the fact that Christianity is not an abstract and spiritual religion. It springs from God's direct intervention in the affairs of the world, a real historical event involving real people and, in the end, a real execution on a real cross. We may theorize and theologize all we like; but all our theorizings and theologizings are nothing without the history on which they are based. Take away that history – take away the Cross – and Christianity is nonsense

St. Laurence O'Toole, Leongatha and St. Joseph's, Korumburra

St Laurence O'Toole Leongatha

St Kevin's Meeniyan

St Joseph's Mirboo North

St Andrew's Tarwin Lower

Parish Safeguard Officer: Sam Wright

Parish Priest: Fr Stanly Devasia

Parish Secretary: Ann Hemming
37 Ogilvy St. (PO Box 166) Leongatha 3953

Telephone: 5662 2020

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs 8.30-4.30

Closed All Day Wednesday & Friday

Email: leongatha@cdsale.org.au

After Hours Emergency Phone 5662 4053

St Joseph's Korumburra

PO Box 90 Korumburra 3950

Telephone: 5662 2020

email: leongatha@cdsale.org.au

Parish Safeguard Officer: Pamela McKillop



Find us on:
facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576079216409>



Find us on:
facebook

WEEKEND MASSES

Leongatha

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 11.00am

Korumburra

Sunday 9.30am

Tarwin Lower

Mass— Mass on Saturday before 3rd Sunday at 4.00pm

Liturgy with H/C Saturday 4pm before 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sunday.

Mirboo Nth

Mass— Mass 1st Sunday at 4.00pm

Liturgy with H/C 9.30 Sunday 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th

Meeniyan

Mass— Mass Saturday before 2nd & 4th Sunday at 4.00pm

Liturgy with H/C 9.30am on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday's

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Baptism: Patrick Robert O'Keeffe

Recently Deceased: Fr Andrew Wise, Stefani McDonald

Anniversaries: John McDonald, Thomas Joseph,

The deceased Clergy of the Diocese of Sale

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."

PARISH ROSTERS

LEONGATHA:

20th Sep

21st Sep

Flowers:

E Stephens

Cleaning:

M Dortmans

Greeting:

T Murphy

N Dudman

Reader:

K Blencowe

J Salvatore

Special Minister:

M Murphy

M Holloway

A Hemming

N Hawkins

B Mathew

K Joseph

KORUMBURRA:

21/9 Cleaning: V&T Ferrone

21/9 Greeter: B Hosking

September

Reader:

K Loughnan

Commentator

F Preston

Special Minister

Maree, Frank, D'Souza Family

Laundry:

M Trewin

Flowers:

A Whiteside

Weekday Mass or Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion Times

KORUMBURRA

Wednesday	Mass	9.30am
LEONGATHA		
Tuesday	Funeral Mass —Stefani McDonald	11.00am
Thursday	Parish/Class Mass	9.30am
Friday	Parish/Class Mass	9.30am

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Leongatha: Friday after 9.30am Mass & before or after 5.30pm Mass on Saturday .

Korumburra: Sun before 9.30am Mass

We are a child safe parish. Any children, young persons and adults at risk have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you are concerned about any form of abuse, or believe that someone is at significant risk, you should immediately raise your concerns with one of our Parish Child Safety Officers. They can be contacted through the Parish Office. Telephone 03 56 622 020

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Triumph of the Cross

What other religion would have as its central symbol two rough hewn planks of wood fashioned into an instrument of torture on which our Founder, Jesus of Nazareth, was cruelly done to death?

And yet, today, we speak of 'The Triumph of the Cross'. Where is the triumph?

Let us rid ourselves of one terrible answer: that our heavenly Father willed that Jesus Christ should suffer that tortured death. What sort of cruel despot would I be called on to worship if that were the case?

What his Heavenly Father willed was that Jesus Christ should remain steadfast in the face of adversity, should remain true to his mission to teach and embody the mercy, the forgiveness, the all-inclusive love of God for every human being.

When Jesus persevered (not my will but thine be done), the Cross was the inevitable result. Death appeared to have won the battle to ensure a death dominated world.

But three days later, our Lord appeared to St Thomas bearing the marks of the wounds of the Cross but now indelibly imprinted on his resurrection body.

That is victory, that is triumph. A victory and a triumph in which we are all called to share.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

St Laurence's Parish:

Stewardship envelope:	\$485.00
Stewardship cash (1st offering)	\$184.60
Presbytery (2nd offering)	\$779.10

St Joseph's Parish

Stewardship envelope:	\$56.00
Stewardship cash (1st offering)	\$201.45
Presbytery (2nd offering)	\$275.15

Newcomers or Update Details

Welcome and thanks for worshipping with us at Korumburra and Leongatha Parishes.

If you are new to the Parish or have changed your details or need Thanksgiving Envelopes, please complete your details and drop the form on a Collection plate or drop off to the Parish Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

New Parishioner ☐ Change of Address or Phone # ☐

Thanksgiving: Envelopes ☐ or Electronically ☐

St Laurence's Parish and St Joseph's Parish Census

Both Parishes will be conducting a Parish Census on this weekend and the 20th & 21st Sep.

The Parish census will be conducted following the Homily at all Masses on these two weekends.

Please complete a card that is provided to you. The census enables us to update our parish record by adding new members of our community and noting changes with addresses, emails and phone numbers.

Census cards and pencils will be provided and time will be given to complete the card.

Please note that all information collected is private and confidential and Ann Hemming, our Parish Secretary, will update the records accordingly

Your assistance with this important process is very much appreciated.



St Joseph's Parish Wonthaggi

Ladies Retreat

Presenter: Fr Martin Dixon

**Held at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
Inverloch**

Monday 20th October 2025 10am – 3pm

**Please bring a shared lunch
Tea & Coffee Provided**

For more information contact Mary Nadler 567401367 or email marynadler1@gmail.com

Parish/Diocese News

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Priests' Welfare Foundation. The amount given was \$735.15 for Leongatha Parish and \$567.90 for the Korumburra Parish.

Stay Updated on Diocesan Events: There are many **exciting events** happening across our **Diocese!** Stay informed and up to date by visiting the **Diocesan Events Page**. It's a great resource to find details on upcoming celebrations, gatherings, and important dates. **Visit:** <https://www.cdsale.org.au/events>

Fr Peter Bickley will be celebrating his 80th Birthday on the 19th September, 2025. There is a Card in the Foyer at the Leongatha & Korumburra Churches, this weekend if you would like to sign it.

LEONGATHA PARISH:

Safeguarding Update

Dear parishioners,

As an update to our processes required by the Diocese Office, volunteers to each Mass will be required to sign the 'helper' attendance sheet and the end of Mass in foyer. All parishes across the diocese are required to have this in place. Sam Wright—Safeguard Officer

Vinnies Store Leongatha are looking for Volunteers to help over the weekends. Please make contact directly at the Store.

Gospel Reflection Group meets on Mondays during the school term from 1.30-3pm in the Parish Centre. This is a small friendly group that reads the coming Sundays Gospel then discusses and relates it to their everyday life, finishing with a cuppa. Everyone is most welcome.

Wednesday Adoration and Prayer: we invite you to come and join our Hour of Prayer on Wednesdays 11 to 12 noon in St Laurence's church. We will say the Rosary and sing hymns but there will be lots of time for quiet personal prayer where you can just sit with the Lord or read the Scripture, etc.

St Laurence's Mothers' Prayer Group - prayer group for those wanting to pray for their children, grand-children or nieces and nephews etc. To be held after 9.30 Mass on the second Friday of the month in the Parish Centre. You are most welcome to join this group united in prayer to save our children.

To subscribe to the weekly bulletin please use the link to join. <https://www.catholicparish.app/subscription?id=001OI00000B2zMFI&req=subscribe>

Safeguarding Note:

It is great to have children attend Mass and being social and playful after church however, parents please be vigilant in keeping an eye on your children playing around the building after Mass especially in the early evening when dark.

KORUMBURRA PARISH:

Cuppa after mass first Sunday of the Month

To subscribe to the weekly bulletin please use the link to join <https://www.catholicparish.app/subscription?id=001OI00000B2zMDIA&req=subscribe>

Vocation Prayer 2025

HEAVENLY FATHER, Lord of the harvest, we earnestly ask you to bless our diocese and the Church with many priests, deacons and religious who will love you fervently, and gladly and courageously live their lives in service to your Son's Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Bless our families and parishes that we may be given the grace and strength to live our baptismal vocation to be holy, as You are. Bless us that we will respond to your invitation to be living witnesses and disciples of hope as we discern our life in your son, Jesus Christ.

Bless young men and women to respond openly and generously to your invitation to become ministers of your Word and Sacraments, or to serve You faithfully in the covenant of Marriage, or the dignity of single life.

Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say "yes" to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation.

AMEN

"For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory."

Matthew 16:27