

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

Sunday 20th July, 2025

First Reading Genesis 18:1-10

A reading from the book of Genesis

Lord, do not bypass your servant.

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My lord,' he said, 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.'

Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry,' he said, 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'She is in the tent,' he replied. Then his guest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail and your wife will then have a son.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?
He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue. (R.)
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)

Second Reading Colossians 1:24-28

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

The mystery hidden for centuries has now been revealed to his saints.

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church.

I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation See Luke 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 10:38-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Martha took up the duties in the house. Mary chose the better part.

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'



The Gospel of the Lord



St. Joseph's Wonthaggi & Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch

St Joseph's, Wonthaggi

27-29 Dowling Street
WONTHAGGI VIC 3995

St Joseph's School Principal:

Joanne Coldebella
56 721 052

Parish Priest: Fr Darren Howie 56 722 923

Parish Secretary: Ann Hemming
Parish Safeguard Officer: Kaye Carew
PO Box 70 Wonthaggi 3995

Telephone: 03 56 721 111

Email: wonthaggi@cdsale.org.au

Hours: Wednesday & Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

After Hours Emergency Phone

03 56 722 923

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch

Scarborough Street
INVERLOCH VIC 3996

Mary MacKillop College Principal:

John Freeman
56 624 255

WEEKEND MASSES

Wonthaggi

Saturday 6.30pm
Sunday 10.30am

Inverloch

Sunday 9.00am

Weekday Mass or Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion Times

Inverloch

Tuesday	Mass	11.00am
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Wonthaggi

Wednesday	No Mass or Liturgy
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Friday	Liturgy	9.30am
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Please Pray for:

Anniversaries: Tony Westblade

For 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."

We pray for the sick, lonely and those suffering from illness and pain. May God's merciful love shine on them.

PARISH ROSTERS

WONTHAGGI:	26th July	27th July
Greeting/Reader	Janice Coldebella	J Bordignon
Sacristan:	K Carew	C Gow
Special Minister:	K Carew	D Gardner
Offertory:	P Sudham	M O'Callaghan
	N Kubale	D Bordignon

INVERLOCH: Sunday 27th July

Reader: F Kisvarda
Special Minister: G Heffernan

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

St Joseph's Parish:

Presbytery (1st Collection)	\$1,227.50
Planned Giving envelope (2nd Collection):	\$1,064.00
<i>(planned giving pledge per week \$1,968)</i>	
Loose cash (2nd offering)	\$ 388.20

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Wonthaggi: Before 6.30pm Mass on Saturday and upon request

Inverloch: Sun before 9.00am 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 the Parish Child Safety Officer. The officer can be contacted through the Parish Office. 03 56 721 111

Newcomers or Update Details

Welcome and thanks for worshipping with us at St Joseph's Wonthaggi and Our Lady Star of the Sea Inverloch.

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 ☐

JUBILEE OF PRAYER GROUPS



Saturday 16th August 2025

Our Lady Star of the Sea

(16-18 Scarborough Street Inverloch)

3:00 pm-4:00 pm

Welcome Fr. Darren
Stations of the Cross
Rosary and Exposition
Benediction
Jubilee Hymn
4pm cuppa

St Joseph's

(27-29 Dowling Street, Wonthaggi)

5:00 pm-6:00 pm

Prayer Group displays around Church and Foyer
6pm Night Prayer of Church
6:30pm Mass

Pilgrims are invited to begin their pilgrimage at Inverloch with the Rosary and Stations of the Cross, before continuing on to Wonthaggi for the 6:30 pm Mass.

RSVP, 13th August at 56721111
or Wonthaggi@cdsale.org.au

Our Lady Star of the Sea—Inverloch

Cuppa after Mass will be held after mass on the First Sunday of the Month

Keep the date free—Ladies Retreat with Fr Martin Dixon in Inverloch Monday 20th October 2025 10am—3pm. Shared lunch with Tea & Coffee Provided. More detail to follow soon

St Joseph's Wonthaggi

Cuppa after Mass will be held on the first Saturday and Sunday of the Month

Parish/Diocese News

Fr Darren will be away on Annual Leave from 21/7—8/8

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>

Jubilee of Prayer Groups - as part of the Jubilee celebrations, St Joseph's Parish Wonthaggi will Host this event on Saturday 16th August 2025. This will begin at Inverloch Church for Rosary and Stations of the Cross at 3pm followed by a Cuppa. Pilgrims will then travel to Wonthaggi Parish for prayers and chat with different Prayer Groups, followed by the evening mass at 6.30pm. More details to follow but please mark your calendars now for this Diocese of Sale Event

Prayer Group meet on Monday's at the Wonthaggi Church from 1.15pm

Parish Luncheon will be held on Sunday 27th July Midday at Taberner's Hotel. Please place your name on the list that are at both churches. More information please contact Denise Jeffries 0419 721 433 Julie De Bondt 0407 535 032 or Maureen Maartensz 0407 055 447

The Prayer Shawl Group Ministry operates in many parishes throughout Australia and indeed the world. Our Parish group was formed about 8 years ago. We gather for friendship and commence with a prayer. We then enjoy a cuppa while creating shawls and rugs that are later blessed at a Mass after which they are wrapped with a special prayer card ready to be given to those struggling with life in any way.

Simple patterns and wool are available. Wool donations (preferably 8ply acrylic) are always welcome.

We meet once a month during the day in the Inverloch Church Annex. There is also a night time gathering in a private home for those unable to come during the day. Our work is on display in cabinets at both of our Churches. People can also be a part of the group by knitting or crocheting at home if unable to attend meetings. Some may prefer to be involved by sewing squares together to create a rug.

If you know anyone who would benefit from receiving a shawl or rug, a free gift, then please contact us. We have been touched by the lovely kind words sent in cards to us from the many recipients of a shawl or rug. New members are always welcome.

For enquiries please contact:

Philippa Warby 0408 331 340

Maureen Maartensz 0407 055 447

Fr Darren's Homily from the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

We heard in this Sunday's gospel how a lawyer, someone who knew God's law, set out to disconcert Jesus by asking a question. the fundamental human question. Teacher what shall I do to inherit eternal life. Our Lord responded by asking him what is written in the law?

To which he responded quite rightly, You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.

We heard how the man was anxious to justify himself and asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' It is easy for someone to have high ideals if those ideals don't make any demands, don't require any action. For example, cynics have made fun of signs on homes which state - Refugees welcome here – because it seems very unlikely that a refugee family will arrive on the doorstep.

According to Pope Benedict in his book on Jesus of Nazareth the standard answer for who a neighbour was, supported by Scripture, was a fellow member of one's people. The Hebrew Scriptures – our Old Testament – insisted upon love for foreigners as the Jewish people had been foreigners in Egypt. Lawyers seem to have a way of cutting people out which brings to mind one rabbinic saying that there was no need to regard heretics, informers and apostates as neighbors.

As Christians we are called to look towards Jesus not lawyers. Regarding the priest and Levite – experts in the Law – they passed without stopping. Pope Benedict wrote in his book on Our Lord that we should not suppose that were especially cold hearted. There are many reasons why they passed by, perhaps they were afraid, perhaps they were afraid that if they touched a dead body, they would be ritually unpure and not able to officiate at the temple. Whatever the case the end result was that a man lay beaten and bruised and lying beside the roadside in need of help. He was metaphorically speaking thrown into the too hard basket.

The Samaritan on the other hand was from a community who were sworn enemies of the Jewish people. The Samaritan was considered to be because of his race a terrible person, from the perspective of the lawyer he would have had no status. It was the Samaritan who fulfilled the law. He did not ask questions about whether he was obligated, he immediately came to the aid of the person in need. Jesus described him as someone whose heart was wrenched open. The Hebrew word used originally referred to a mother's womb and maternal care.

We could debate and speculate about what we should do if we come across someone who is injured and battered by the road to avoid causing further harm. Whatever case scenario if the person is in need of help and there is no one there we are obliged to do something.

We can look at the parable of the Good Samaritan as someone who was on a journey. Our lives are quite literally a journey to ultimate destination of heaven. In our world there are emergency services and government agencies on hand to offer physical help. But what about the need for some care and compassion. One of the scourges of the times we live in is loneliness and the feeling of being disconnected. It is unlikely that will have to quite literally help someone who is lying battered and bruised beside the road.

We are called to love our neighbour as ourselves. One of the greatest things we can do to try and help our brothers and sisters in their faith journey is to realize that God calls everyone, and then to do our best to make them feel supported and welcomed.

A word of encouragement can have profound consequences. The scene comes to mind of 90 000 German soldiers at the end of the battle of Stalingrad in early 1943 being marched off into captivity of which only some 6000 ever came home. At the beginning of the march one soldier lay down in the freezing snow and was going to allow himself to succumb to the elements. The amazing thing is that this man against all the odds stacked against him ended up being one of the 6000 out of the 90 000 who made it home. What changed? He was not given warm clothing and food to sustain him, to lift him. A good Samaritan among the other Germans who was also being led off into captivity came across and gave him a word of encouragement. Come on, get up, you can do it.