



The Parish of St Paul of the Cross - Glen Osmond/Parkside

15th - 16th November, 2025 ♦ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

We are an inclusive Catholic Community connecting people to God and to one another.

Today's Theme:

THE TRIUMPH OF GOD

The day is coming when all that is evil will be brought to nothing. Already Christ has given us the strength to overcome evil: we receive it in the Eucharist.

Entrance Antiphon: The Lord says: my plans for you are peace and not disaster; when you call to me, I will listen to you, and I will bring you back to the place from which I exiled you.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.



SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

The November Remembrance Day books are placed on the two Parish church altars during Masses in November, for deceased families and friends.

Please add names in the booklet found at the entrance to the church. November Mass offering envelopes will also be available at the entrance to the church.

Parish Pastoral Team

Parish Priest:

Fr Tom McDonough cp

Assistant to the Parish Priest:

Fr Tony Simbel cp

Fr Cao Anh Phi cp

Fr Pastor Mumburi cp

Pastoral Associate:

Sue Schulz

Parish Secretary:

Carmela Pannunzio

Admin Assistant:

Claire Hamlyn

WHS Co-Ordinator

Donna Cooper

Child Safe Contact Person

Sue Schulz

Parish Pastoral Council

Mr Peter McLoughlin

Finance Chair:

Mr Brian Lilley

Passionist Community

Members:

Fr Tom McDonough cp,

Fr Tony Egar cp,

Fr Tony Simbel cp,

Fr Cao Anh Phi cp,

Fr Pastor Mumburi cp,

Fr Paul Kien cp,

De Pham Quang Vinh,

Bro. Mark Wells cp.

Passionist Sisters:

Sr. Shiji (Community Leader)

Sr. Jasmine, Sr. Nithya,

Sr. Mary Jasmine

Parish Office Hours

9am – 4pm Monday to Friday

Phone: (08) 8338 1277

Address

St. Paul's & The Monastery

15 Cross Rd. Urrbrae 5064

St. Raphael's, Young St.,

Parkside 5063

Email

parish@themonastery.net.au

Website and Facebook

themonastery.net.au

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsRetreat/)

StPaulsRetreat/

Holy Spirit Province website:

<https://www.passionists.com/>

St Raphael's Primary School

114 Glen Osmond Road,

Parkside

Ph: 08 8274 4900

Mrs Emma Fowler (Principal)

MASSES FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK 15th - 21st November, 2025

	St Raphael's	St Paul's
Saturday	5:30PM	6:00PM
Sunday	9:30AM	8:00AM 10:30AM 5:00PM
Monday		9:30AM
Tuesday		9:30AM
Wednesday		9:30AM
Thursday	9:30AM	
Friday	9:30AM	

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St Raphael's Church

Thursday	10AM until 1.30PM
Friday	10AM until 1.30PM
Saturday	12:00PM until 3:30PM
Sunday	10:30AM until 4:00PM

Next Sunday's readings:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

1st Reading: 2 Sam 5:1-3

2nd Reading: Col 1:12-20

Gospel: Lk 23:35-43

MASS FOR THE UNBORN

On the 25th of November at St Paul of the Cross Church, Urrbrae there will be a Mass celebrated at 7pm to remember the children that have been lost through miscarriage, stillbirth or have been lost in infancy.

Everyone is welcome and a cup of tea or coffee will be provided afterwards in the Sebastian Centre.

Roster for Next Week:

22nd - 23rd November, 2025

St Paul's

St Raphael's

Readers

6:00pm Marie D.

8:00am Michelle C.

10:30am Diana G.

5:00pm Sue C.

EOMHC

6:00pm Alison Goss

8:00am George P.

10:30am Marie O.

5:00pm Trish W.

Readers

5:30pm Samuel C.

9:30am Irma S.

EOMHC

5:30pm Eleanor L.

9:30am Rosa F.

Altar Society

Melanie

Count Team - 3

GIVE EASY

Please scan the QR code for a link to our collections:

1st Collection
Support of Clergy



2nd Collection
Support of Parish

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our parishes, communities and offices stand and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We commit ourselves to actively work alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice.

LET US REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Sick: John McAuley, Amritha, Lucy, Anthony Caruana, Gloria Phillips, Amalie Leditschke, Anton Sylvester, Amy & Jude, Chris Harwood

Recently Deceased: Frantisek Michalovic, Maria Saliba, Stephanie Gotowicz, Robert Kidman

Anniversaries: Irene Pannunzio, Jura Goricki, Fr Pat Cooper CP, Joan Coonan, Patrick & Irene Lonergan, Monsignor Robert Aitken, Fr Michael Doherty

Empathy: The Radiance Between Us

Empathy, we said last time, is the slow work of God. It begins as listening, as sympathy, but grows into a vulnerability that ripens into the quiet sharing of life itself. Yet even that is not the end. When two hearts open to one another, something larger stirs. A radiance passes between them - not a sentimental glow, but divine energy moving through fragile efforts. Empathy reaches out beyond two people, opens itself to the suffering of the world, or to its beauty, and its goodness. But even if it remains simple, and personal, that's enough to change the world.

Teilhard de Chardin called this the slow fire of evolution, God loving the world into its future. The Irish theologian **Diarmuid O'Murchu** writes that *"Divine radiance is not light descending from above, but life welling up from within."* It is the same mystery that **Sr Ilia Delio** calls *"the Christic energy of love at the heart of matter."* When empathy deepens, we begin to feel that current moving through everything - not only between people, but through soil, sea, breath, and being itself.

1. The Groaning of Creation

St Paul said that *"all creation has been groaning in labour pains until now."* **O'Murchu** reminds us that this groaning is not anguish; it is birth. The universe aches toward consciousness, toward communion. When we weep with someone, when we share joy until it overflows, we are taking part in that great labour - God's own longing to be born again in us.

Once, after a funeral, **Diarmud** reflected, *"Every tear reminds us, the stars are weeping too."* It sounded fanciful at the time, but I think it was more than that. **Our tears are not echoing the universe's pain; they are the universe's pain, finding voice in us.** When we love, when we ache, when we forgive, the cosmos is coming to consciousness through our fragile hearts. We are not spectators of creation's longing - we are that longing, incarnate and awake. And so, the world is changing.

2. Beyond you and me

Empathy is never abstract. It is a hand on a shoulder, a silence held, a willingness to stay. Yet beneath these gestures something vast is taking shape. **Ronald Rolheiser** says that real spirituality is not escaping the world but *"remaining within it with compassion and joy."* That is empathy's vocation - to remain, to be and to feel blessed.

If we can just 'be', without judgement or hurry, we each become a small chalice of divine compassion. Our presence speaks: *You are not alone in the universe.* And when we sense that presence is 'at home', even for a moment, then a small resurrection occurs. Hope breathes again; the stars, for a heartbeat, burn brighter.

For we do not have to change the world. The world changes each time love makes its voice heard, its presence felt. It may be as simple as a touch on the shoulder, a murmured 'Yes, I know, I've been there too'; a whoop of delight; someone getting up to offer you their seat. These are acts of divine radiance, disguised as random kindness. **Teilhard** wrote, *"There is nothing profane here below for those who know how to see."*

Empathy is this way of seeing, this way of being, the very dailiness of it, is the realisation that we are being held - the sacramental vision that knows God hides in the ordinary. Each gesture becomes a fragment of light. Gathered together, they make a constellation of grace. The universe is redeemed by a million unnoticed mercies.

3. Holding the World Tenderly

Ilia Delio says that to follow Christ today is to *"build communion in an evolutionary world."* That communion begins whenever one person chooses tenderness over indifference. When we allow another's pain to enter our prayer or let gratitude flood us at the sight of dawn, we are joining that slow evolution of love.

Sometimes empathy hurts; sometimes it exhausts. Sometimes it's a moment of soul satisfying joy or unspeakable beauty. This is the cost of incarnation. When we dare to feel, we become part of the universe's own story of becoming - God breathing through human vulnerability. The radiance does not come after the struggle; it glows within it.

So yes - without every tear, the stars are weeping. And in our willingness to be open and vulnerable, we become what the universe has been yearning to be from the beginning: hearts through which love can finally see itself.

TakeAway Activity (TAA): The Radiant Exchange

Pause – Notice one small act of kindness offered to you today — perhaps a glance, a word, a silence.

Receive – Let it dwell in you for a moment. Feel its warmth spread beyond you.

Return – Offer that same radiance to someone else before the day ends.

At night, write a single line beginning, "Today love passed through me when ..."

Over time, these sentences become a map of light — evidence that God's slow work continues in and through us.

Scan the QR code below:



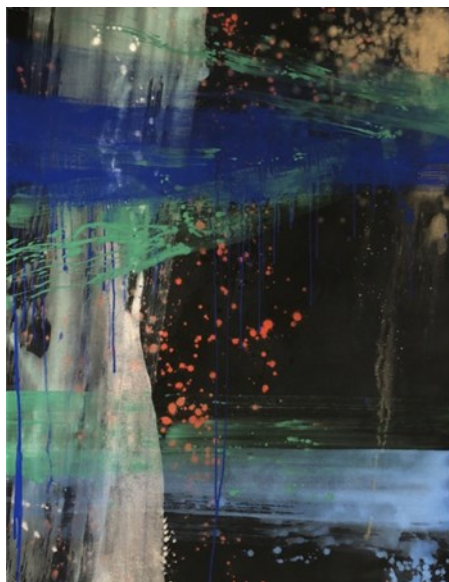
or head to:

<https://linktr.ee/GlenOsmondParksideParish>
to find all of the links for this week's media reflections from **Fr Tom Writes**.

Art Reflection

Right - "The tears of Light" - M. Fujimura

Far right - "Come Home!" - A. Goetze



BROTHER MICHAEL CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL 2025 DIARY DATES

Gift wrapping night: Wednesday 19th November at 7pm in the Brereton Room, St. Raphaels Church.

Grocery donations by Parishioners:

22/23rd; 29/30th November; 6/7 December

Grocery donations for next weekend 22/23rd November:- Vegemite, jam, instant coffee, tinned vegetables. These can be left at both Churches.

Collection of monetary donations and volunteer

drivers after Masses on 22/23rd; 29/30th November; 6/7 December. Credit facilities available after most Masses. Bank transfer details BSB 105-125 Account Number 030176240.

Packing hampers with food and gifts: Thursday 11th December at 7pm at St Raphael's Church.

Delivery of hampers: Sunday 14th December. Hamper pick up between 11am-1pm from St. Raphael's Church, Parkside.

With thanks from the Br. Michael Hamper Committee

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

You are invited to join the Parish, Conference Centre Team and Passionist Community for light refreshments in the Sebastian Centre on Thursday 20th November 2025 at 6pm.

This gathering recognises your generous gift of volunteering your time and talents in the various Parish ministries.

RSVP for catering purposes by Monday 17th November to 8338 1277 or parish@themonastery.net.au

CHRISTMAS CARD CREW

We're preparing to deliver Christmas cards to residents in care facilities across our parish — nearly 1,000 cards of Christmas cheer! Our first session saw nearly 300 cards written and collated for various aged care facilities.

How you can help:

Volunteer on Friday, 21st November (9:30am - 12noon) in the Sebastian Centre to write, sticker, count and pack cards (morning tea provided)

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

Special Day of Devotion At St Raphael's Church Parkside. There will be a special day of devotion to honour the Kingship of Our Lord Jesus Christ at St Raphael's. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will follow the 9:30am Mass and Holy Hour will take place at 3pm, concluding with Benediction at 3:45pm.

ADULT CHOIR FOR 8PM CHRISTMAS EVE MONASTERY MASS

Do you enjoy singing Christmas Carols? Come and join our St Paul's Adult Christmas Choir!

Practices will be held at St Paul of the Cross Church on Monday evenings, starting 1st Dec, then on the 8th, 15th and 22nd Dec, from 7.30pm to 9pm.

If you are interested, please contact: Justin or Elizabeth Hamra Ph: 0419 868 049 E: hamraclan@bigpond.com or Tom Wilson - Ph:0401 714 344 E: wilson.tom47@gmail.com



PARISH SOCIAL WALKING GROUP

For our final walk for 2025 on Saturday December 6, we are heading to the city for a scenic walk along the River Torrens. Please meet at 9.30am at The Monastery if you would like to car pool, or we will meet you at the Par 3 Café on War Memorial Drive at 10am.

It has been wonderful to have some new parishioners join this group as a way of connecting with our parish. You are welcome to come along for this relaxing walk and coffee and conversation.

RETREAT MORNING WITH FR TOM AT THE MONASTERY

On Dec 6 at 9:00am, join Fr Tom McDonough CP for his first Morning Reflection "*Waiting in Hope*". This morning will reflect on the Season of Advent and how time itself is sacramental, offering different gifts and graces, a different way of living and prayer.

Morning tea will be provided and participants are welcome to bring a packed lunch to enjoy in The Monastery Gardens.

Spaces are limited for this event, please contact The Monastery office to register. Phone 8338 8700 or email officeadmin@themonastery.net.au

More dates to be announced for 2026!

***Suggested donation of \$25.00**

THANK YOU!

The Parish and Conference Centre staff would like to thank everyone who baked cakes/biscuits for the cake stalls and to those who generously donated money to the purchase of the nativity set for St Paul of the Cross Church and installation of 4 new air conditioners at St Raphael's Church.

Our Nativity scene will be on display for Advent soon and the air-conditioners will be installed in coming weeks.

Cake stall total donations:

St Raphael's Cake Stall \$496.85

St Paul of the Cross Cake Stall \$170.65

Separate Donation totals:

Nativity set \$5350.00

Air conditioner \$1740.00

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Do you know anyone who may be eating alone or at a loose end on Christmas Day? There will be a free brunch offered at the Monastery Conference Centre from 10am – 12pm on Christmas Day. Convivial company!

If you or anyone you know would like to be our guest, with support from the Mitcham Council, please register by calling 8372 8884 or scan the QR code, before December 10th. Free transport is available.



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the Gospel, our Catholic tradition and inspired by the Spirituality of the Passionists we are a welcoming, diverse community with a strong focus on equality for all. We seek God through our gathering to celebrate the Eucharist and to share in liturgies which nurture our stewardship, commitment to social justice and providing spiritual nourishment and hospitality.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE – JULY 2026

Join Simon and Julie Ward and Fr Olek Stirrat (Croydon Park Parish) on a 9-day Sainly Travel pilgrimage to Medjugorje in July 2026. Following the Vatican's Nihil Obstat (Nothing Stands in the Way), it is the perfect time to join this group and share an unforgettable experience. Cost: Approx. \$2,500 per person (twin share) — airfares additional.

Places are limited, so early registration is encouraged. More details: www.sainlytravel.com.au or call Simon or Julie on 0432689772.

WALKING TOGETHER THROUGH ADVENT - 2025 ADVENT REFLECTION RESOURCE

Advent is a time of waiting, watching and preparing for the coming of Christ into our midst – Emmanuel, God with us. As we prepare for the 2026 Archdiocesan Synod, we are invited to listen to the Word of God and to one another. The Advent season offers us time and space for shared reflection. Walking Together Through Advent, is the 2025 Advent group reflection resource from the Archdiocese and is now available at your parish or online at www.togetheronetheway.au/resources.

PROPOSALS FOR THE UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE OF ST RAPHAEL'S CHURCH AND PRECINCT.

Our parish is blessed with two beautiful and historic churches. St Raphael's is the older church begun in 1903 and completed with towers in 1916. St Paul's church was built in the 1932 to replace the original home and chapel of the Passionists. Each church is distinct. Each has its own story, its traditions and ways of praying and celebrating, grown through the years, and love. We need to protect St Paul's and St Raphael's for the years to come.

With the buildings aging, congregations aging and decreasing, it is becoming harder to maintain the expenses of our Churches. Our Parish has been operating at a loss for the last five years and it is not expected we will restore that imbalance for some time. We have managed those deficiencies by drawing on the reserves from previous years and by deferring maintenance where possible.

The revenues for the whole Parish come from Mass collections, interest on deposits, weddings, baptisms and funerals, and rentals-principally the rental of the former parish offices and presbytery at St Raphael's. These provide for the whole parish needs, its churches and support of the priests.

One of the deposits is from the sale of St Paul's church hall. The only scope for improvement in our fortunes is from improved collections or by earning appropriate returns on the rental properties.

A priority at this time is the care and maintenance of St Raphael's Church. We are faced with a need for significant repair and maintenance work at St Raphael's church building beyond our resources. These repairs involve roof repairs, external painting and salt damp. All of these are serious and impact the fabric of the Church property. The repair cost estimates exceed \$150,000.

The property at Parkside consists of the Church, the old presbytery (which contains the Brereton room and rented accommodation) and the Parish Hall on the other side of Young Street which is let to a third party. The hall has not been used for Parish activities of any sort for more than ten years and the rent obtained from the tenant is less than what we might earn if we had an investment of equal size.

We will explore available grants which could assist in a small way, but not sufficiently to solve our problems. When faced with a similar scenario at St Paul of the Cross Church, the Parish Council, in consultation with the diocese, sold the parish hall and established an account where the proceeds were to be used only for the maintenance of the church building. The fund could not be used for operational expenses.

With lengthy discussions beginning with Fr Denis Travers and again with the advice of the Finance Council and the Archdiocese, our proposal under discussion is:

- the sale of St Raphael's Hall once the current tenancy elapses.
- we would set up a similar investment for St Raphael's Church.
- an investment solely for the upkeep of the church.

Although the property is subject to a heritage over the blue stone walls, we expect we could realise a sale price sufficient to carry out the repairs on the Church and invest the rest to earn income to help balance our budget and to provide for future needs of the maintenance and care of St Raphael's Church.

Consultation

Before we finally come to a decision, we would welcome views of all our parishioners. There is much history attached to this building as it was the first Church on site and has housed many activities recalled favourably by parishioners. As a first step in this consultation, **if you have a view or want to contribute to our discussion, please write to the Parish Pastoral Council via email pastoralcouncil@themonastery.net.au or place a letter on the collection plates before the 31st December 2025.**

It is our definite wish to provide a sound well-kept Church in Parkside for our future devotions.

Brian Lilley
Chair, Finance Committee

Fr Thomas McDonough CP
Parish Priest

Peter McLoughlin
Chair, Parish Pastoral Council