OCTOBER 25, 2026

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A

Parish Newsletter



Relational in God, our Father

Our common bonds of love

Outside Rome's Gemelli Hospital, there is a large statue of St John Paul II. In recent weeks the base of that statue has become something of a makeshift shrine, not to him, though, but to our present Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

Over the past few weeks, millions of Catholics around the world have united in prayer for our Holy Father, as we received news, first of lung surgery and then a cancer diagnosis. The surgery seems to have been successful, but I encourage you to continue to pray for his good health.

In light of our Gospel this week though, I'd like to focus on the *fact* of this global outpouring of concern. Why is it that, when we hear of the injustice and misery of others, we care? Psychologists, social scientists, anthropologists, teachers and so on, would all say something along the lines of; that we are social creatures, we've lived in tribes for thousands of years and seek identity and meaning in relationships etc. But what does our faith teach us?

We believe that the basis for human dignity is that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. Through Jesus, it is revealed that this God, is the God of relationship. The God who in himself is a communion of relationships; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is the deepest meaning of 1 John 4:8; "God is love". The uniquely Christian claim is that not only is love what God does, it's also what God is. There is no love without relationship. So there is a lover, the beloved and shared love. There is the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We are created in the image and likeness of this God; of this divine love. So, even though we may not be Christian, there is in the deep recess of our being some connection, a relational sense, to others. Often the plight of others (and for us Catholic's, our Holy Father in particular), stirs at this foundational connection. P.T.O

Photo Above: Tributes to Pope Leo lie at the foot of the statue of St Pope John Paul II at Rome's Gemelli Hospital. OSV News/Remo Casilli Reuters.)

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH
- ALTONA -

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10AM - 2PM

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SUNDAY MASS TIMES
Vigil (Saturday) 6pm
Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES
Tuesday 5pm
Wednesday - Saturday 9:15am
(followed by the Rosary)

RECONCILIATION
Saturday 9:45am
(& by request)

BAPTISM & MARRIAGE
By appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
By appointment

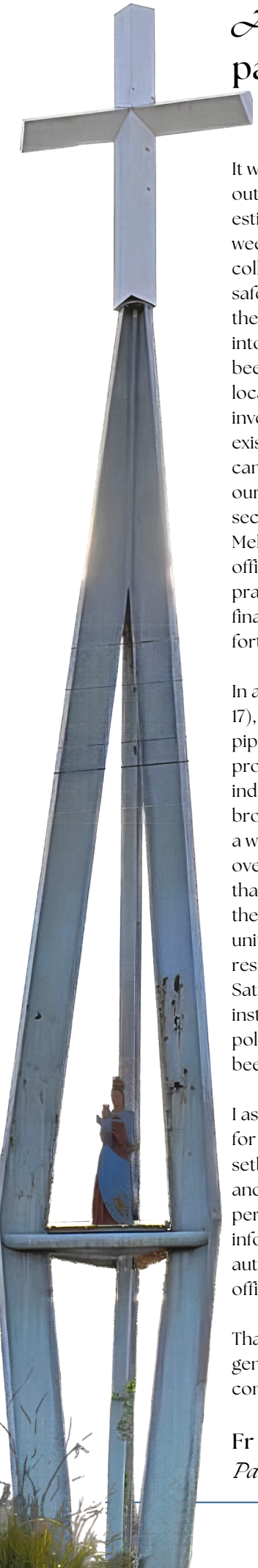
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
Fr Samuel Pearson

PRIEST IN RESIDENCE
Fr Deonildo de Andrade

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Sonia Riccardi
9398 4842

PARISH OFFICE STAFF
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Linnet Matthew

PARISH SAFEGUARDING
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An update *on the* parish thefts

It was quite a shock for all of us to find out about the theft last week. We estimate that about three or four weeks ago, two weekend's worth of collection money was stolen from the safe, without any signs of damage to the safe, or any kind of forced access into the church. A police report has been filed, and we are working with local authorities to assist in their investigation. We are also reviewing existing security measures, canvassing means of strengthening our financial oversight and physical security and have consulted with the Melbourne Archdiocese finance office, for guidelines on parish best practice. More information on these financial safeguarding matters will be forthcoming.

In addition to this, last Saturday (Oct 17), in a separate incident, the copper pipe and water main to our church property, was stolen. Initial reports indicate that this brazen theft (in broad daylight, it seems!), was part of a wider pattern of theft in the area over the same weekend. This meant that there was no access to water in the church, nor the assisted living units. Greater Western Water restored water to the premises late Saturday night and a local plumber is installing a new water main. Another police report about this incident has been made to local police.

I ask that you join in prayer not only for our parish as we navigate these setbacks, but also for the conversion and well-being of the person or persons responsible. If you have any information that might assist the authorities, please contact the parish office.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of our parish community.

Fr Samuel Pearson
Parish Administrator

Cont'd from page 1...

The teaching of Jesus today safeguards this relationality that characterises our humanity; it protects what God has made and helps ensure we live as God has designed us to. So, as we reflect again this Sunday on this iconic teaching of Jesus and paradigmatic Christian perspective on God, humanity and authentic love, let's resolve to ardently live out our belief in the God who is relationship. Let's do it by making present his divine love through our love of God and neighbour, as our selves and let's do it in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Fr Samuel

November - Month *of the* Holy Souls

In the Catholic Church, the month of November is traditionally dedicated to the praying for those who have gone before us and for the the souls in Purgatory.

Sunday November 1 is the Solemnity of All Saints, Sunday masses are as normal.
Monday November 2 is All Souls Day. There will be mass to pray for the faithful departed at 9:15am.

Envelopes for November Masses for the Holy Souls, will be available in church.

Let *us* Pray...

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES WE REMEMBER;
Greg Cuthbert; Patrick Foy; John Matulic; Jean O'Brien; Arna Culinas-Donohue; Ersilia & Laurie Sammut; Olga Micallef, Laurie Paten
FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK;
Trish Aiken; Maura McCabe; Anne Playnsek; Alfred & Jane Farrugia, Frank Zahra

Liturgy Roster *for* November 1, 2026

Mass Time	Lectors	Special Ministers
6:00pm	Stephanie Arquesa	Mary Bartolo
8:30am	Vince Camilleri	Cath Cuthbert
10:30am	Julian Yacono	Paul Bugeja
Linen's Roster	Counting this Week Team 4: 24.10.2026	Counting next week Team 5: 01.11.2026
Allison Hogan	Brian Dalton Joe Farrugia Joe Yacono	Leticia Mauricio Maria Hughes Sarah Petronio

Upcoming Events



Combined Parishes Youth

- First Saturday of the Month (next: November 7, 2026)
- Parish Centre, Williamstown
- 7pm (after youth lead vigil mass at 6pm)

Join Young Catholic's (15-25 years) from around the area for a night of faith, food & fun!



Marriage Retreat

- November 6-8, 2026
- E: vicbookings@wwme.org.au
- W: wwme.org.au

A weekend away, offering married couples, a different kind of "weekend getaway". It is an opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries and more deeply explore the precious nature of your relationship.



St Leo's Parish JP II Novena

- Wednesday October 28, 2026
- 5.00pm–8.00 pm
- St Leo the Great Church 389 Mason Street. Altona Nth

Commemorating the 1986 visit to the parish of Pope John Paul II, each celebration includes Mass, novena prayers and benediction, followed by a time of fellowship.



Timorese led Mass remembering *the* Santa Cruz Massacre

- Sunday, November 15, 2026
- 10:30am Mass

All are welcome to join our Timorese community for the annual commemoration of the Santa Cruz massacre. Lunch will follow afterwards. Please bring a plate.

A few more things *to* note

- On **Saturday November 14, 10am, St Patrick's Cathedral, Deacons Dominic Lawes and Rhys Lowther will be ordained to the priesthood**. Please join us for the Ordination Mass, and pray for these men as they embark on their ministries in the service of God's people. This Mass will also be broadcast live on the Melbourne Catholic YouTube channel and to Community Channel C31 (channel 44 on TV).
- The Catholic Women's League of Victoria invites women to a **Women's Breakfast on Thursday, 12 November at 7.30am, Victoria Hotel**, with Annie Carrett, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Archbishop's Chief of Staff. For more info: trybooking.com/au/event/1648066
- The journey to the synod, announced by Archbishop Comensoli, for the Archdiocese of Melbourne in December this year, continues. It involves bishops, priests and lay Catholics discerning together about matters regarding the life of the church. Through prayer, dialogue, and consultation, a deeper understanding of the Church's mission is fostered. Find out more about the upcoming Archdiocese of **Melbourne Synod** at: www.melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

MELBOURNE SYNOD

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Mary Help of Christian's Parish, Altona is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

PRIVACY PRINCIPLES

Commonwealth & Victorian Governments introduced legislation which deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, store and disclose information including health information collected from individual. The Catholic Parish of Altona is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.