First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

Responsorial Psalm: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: You have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 6:60-69

YEAR OF GRACE—PRAYER

Gracious God,
You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people.
We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh from Christ.
You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a
new wave of grace, and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives.
Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church
may be transformed, our relationship be healed, and our nation grow in
compassion and justice.
We make our prayer through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us
new ways of living the Gospel.
Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.
www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au/

MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mass, including Children's Liturgy Confirmation Mass</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Mass, including Children's Liturgy Confirmation Mass</td>
<td>10.00am</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>11.30am</td>
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Baptisms:
Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

Marriages:
(6 months notice) Arranged by appointment. [Enquiries and information brochure available from Parish Office]

Reconciliation:
Celebrated at 5.30pm on Saturday or by appointment with the Priest.
**COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**
This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

**WE PRAY FOR...**
Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick, especially Sr Mary Austin, Vincent Kelly, Shannon Hanah-Merrit and Margaret Holgate and all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them. We pray today for all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries are at this time, especially Martin Healy and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God. May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

**PRIVACY LEGISLATION**
In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals. The Parish of St. Ambrose is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation. A copy of the Parish's Privacy Policy is available to any Parishioner by contacting Bernadette at the Parish Office.

**MEDITATION**
Please remember if you are cleaning or arranging flowers on Saturday morning that the Christian Meditation Group will be in the Church from 11am until 12 noon.

**COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**
This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

**CHURCH ROSTERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readers</th>
<th>August 25th</th>
<th>August 26th</th>
<th>Sept 1st</th>
<th>Sept 2nd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frank Donavan</td>
<td>Martin Prior &amp; John Connor</td>
<td>Trish Cairns</td>
<td>Julian Fraser &amp; Allan Hebb</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Ministers</th>
<th>August 25th</th>
<th>August 26th</th>
<th>Sept 1st</th>
<th>Sept 2nd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton</td>
<td>Patty McKibbin, Eileen French &amp; Mary Welch</td>
<td>Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton</td>
<td>Rhonda Loret, Martin Prior &amp; Kate Mason</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Cleaning</th>
<th>August 27th</th>
<th>Sept 3rd</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish Office</td>
<td>Chris Van Order</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Flowers</th>
<th>August 31st</th>
<th>Sept 7th</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruna Bombig</td>
<td>Anne Wright</td>
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**COLLECTIONS**

**Presbytery Collection (1st collection)**
[This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.] $416

**Church (envelopes) collection**
[This collection covers the Church capital costs, and ongoing maintenance.] $629

**ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES**
These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had much wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’s world.

*Keep young as long as you can. 1874*
*The Little brown book by Sue & Leo Kane*

**VOCATION VIEW**
Jesus teach us about life everlasting. “Your words are spirit and life…” It is this that gives us hope when we despair, a way of living when we stray from God’s way. “The words I have spoken are spirit and they are life.” It is God’s words that we need to hear to lift our spirit and give life.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**
When we commit to serve the Lord, we must be willing to become a partner in the work of the Lord. A partner is a person who invests time, talent and treasure. If we say we serve God, we must actually do something!

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**
For four weeks we have heard Jesus explaining his life-giving presence with us through his body and blood. Many objected to this teaching and stopped going with him. Jesus left them free to choose. He even asked the Twelve if they wanted to go away too. Peter answered for them and for us: ‘To whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe.’

**MONDAY AT THE MANOR**
Call in at Judy and John Will’s house at Lot 6, Adam Close, around midday this Monday for a sandwich and a chat.
Everyone welcome. Anyone needing transport can call Judy and John on 54272827.
**ST MARY’S ANGLICAN CHURCH GUILD, WOODEND**

**“Prizes, music & lunch” Fundraiser**
Join St Mary’s for a mystery parcels raffle, live entertainment and a light lunch. Fun event for all at the new Norma Richardson Hall.
Wednesday, 5th September 11am to 2.45pm
Lunch and two raffle tickets $10, extra raffle tickets $1.
Contact Norma Richardson 54272315 or email woodendanglican@gmail.com
RSVP by September 1st

**ST AMBROSE FAMILY DAY MASS**

**Sunday September 9th, 10am**
A children’s Liturgy will be included during the Mass and a cup of tea afterwards. Children from the St Ambrose Choir have been invited to sing at this Mass. This will be a regular event every 2nd Sunday of the month. We thanks the co-ordinators Denise Lawrence and Jane Gibson.

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**ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN MELBOURNE**

**Saturday 8 September, 10am**
Archbishop Denis Hart and Very Rev Fr Harry Entwistle are pleased to announce the ordination of 8 candidates to the priesthood. There will be four ordinands from Corpus Christi College: Andrew McCarter, Benneth Osaogwu, Jerome Santamaria and Kevin Williams. There will also be four men ordained from the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross — former Anglican clergymen who have accepted the invitation of Pope Benedict XVI to come into the Catholic Church under the provisions of Anglicanorum coetibus. These men are Rev Neil Fryer, Rev James Grant, Rev Christopher Seton and Rev Ramsay Williams.
Where: St Patrick’s Cathedral, Cnr Gisborne Street & Cathedral Pl, East Melbourne

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**PASTORAL LETTER**

The Bishops of Victoria together with the Leaders of Catholic Religious Australia and Catholic Religious Victoria have issued a Pastoral letter about the Parliamentary Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other non-government organisations. In the letter the Church Leaders state that they respect the parliamentary process and will co-operate fully with the inquiry. The letter includes a Prayer for Healing which can be used for individual or group prayer. Copies of the Pastoral Letter are available in the church foyer for you to take home.

**OUR LADY OF VAILANKANNI NOVENA AND FEAST**

**30 August – 8 September, 7.15pm each evening**
For nine days leading up to the Feast of Our Lady’s Birthday/ Vailankanni Feast, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Novena Prayers and Holy Mass. This novena will conclude with a special celebration, candlelit procession and solemn Mass on the 8th September for Our Lady’s Birthday/Vailankanni Feast with Bishop Aloysius D’Souza, Mangalore.
Where: St Mary’s Church, 91 Manning Road East Malvern
Contact: Joy Hunt 9509 2207

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**FACES OF JESUS FOR TODAY**

**13 September, 7.30pm**
Presented by Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ, a Lecturer in Theology and Church History at Jesuit Theological College and frequent contributor to “Eureka Street” and “Australian Catholics”.
Where: St Ignatius Parish Hall rear of 326 Church street, Richmond
More Info: St Ignatius Parish Office 8420 6789.

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**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS WITH FIRST CLASS RELIC OF BL JOHN PAUL II PRESENT FOR VENERATION—Sunday 16 September, 1:30pm**
The Combined Societies of Mary invite you to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows and to venerate a first class relic of Blessed John Paul II. 1:30 Adoration and prayers in honour of Our Lady’s Sorrows will be followed by Holy Mass.
Where: St Mary’s, 91 Manning Road East Malvern
Contact: Joy Hunt 9509 2207

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**WYD RIO 2013—LESS THAN A YEAR AWAY**
The theme for WYD Rio, from July 23-28 2013, is ‘Go and make disciples of all nations.’ (Matthew 28:19). Copacabana Beach, named after Our Lady of Copacabana, will be the venue for the opening Mass, the welcoming ceremony with the Pope and the Way of the Cross procession. The Santa Cruz Air Base, on the western side of the city, will be the venue for the vigil on July 27 and the closing Mass on July 28. More than two million young people are expected to gather. See website: http://www.rio2013.com/en/
First Reading  Jos 24:1-2, 15-18
A reading from the book of Joshua
We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God. Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: ‘If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.’

The people answered, ‘We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.’

Second Reading  Eph 5:21-32
A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and his Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation  See Jn 6:63. 68
Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

Gospel  Jn 6:60-69
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, ‘This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?’ Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, ‘Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? ‘It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

‘But there are some of you who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, ‘This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.’ After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘What about you, do you want to go away too?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection
by Greg Sunter

For the last few weeks we have heard a number of readings from chapter 6 of the Gospel of John focusing on the teaching of Jesus that he is the Bread of Life, come down from heaven. This reading is the last in the sequence and shows the reaction to Jesus’ teaching. What Jesus has been saying in this discourse is incredibly confronting to his Jewish audience. Jesus asserts that he has come down from heaven – from the Father – and that through knowing him one can know the Father. Jews were the first people to have a concept of one God. This belief did not allow for any spouse or child of God, nor any personal manifestation. They struggled with what Jesus was saying because his claim to have come down from heaven could be seen as blasphemous. No wonder many of them walked away from Jesus and wanted nothing more to do with him!

Jesus gives an interesting response to them. He tells them that it is the spirit that is important, not his human flesh, and that the spirit is what he has been sharing with them through his words and actions. He is trying to say to these faithful Jews, don’t be hung up about the fact that I’m here in person, listen to my message as you’ve never heard it before. It is an interesting thought for our modern audience as well. How often do we fail to hear the message of Jesus because we are dismissive of the way in which it comes to us; the messenger; or the circumstances in which we hear it? The message is all the more confronting when it comes from an unlikely (or even un-likeable) source. The message of Jesus is to be found in our everyday encounters with everyday people.
Jesus spoke to his disciples about the bread of life. It was hard to understand, but those who had faith continued to follow him. Crack the code to find out what Simon Peter said to Jesus.

Wordsearch
Try to find these words:

- backs
- beginning
- betray
- bread
- eternal
- faith
- one
- Simon Peter
- speak
- Spirit
- twelve
- understand

S t Bartholomew was one of the twelve apostles, but very little is known about him. Scholars believe that he was the man known as Nathanael, who was introduced to Jesus by St Philip. In the synoptic Gospels he is named Bartholomew, which means “son of Tolmai”. Some believe that he may have preached in India, where a Hebrew copy of Matthew’s Gospel was found – believed to have been left by Bartholomew. He is also believed to have preached in Armenia where he was martyred.