ST PATRICK'S, ST JOHN VIANNEY'S, STELLA MARIS & ST JOSEPH'S

Partnered Parishes of Mentone-Parkdale and Ricketts Point (Beaumaris & Black Rock)

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 18th October 2026

St Patrick's, 10 Rogers St, Mentone
St John Vianney's, Cnr Warren Rd & Brisbane Tce, Parkdale
Stella Maris, 2 Charlotte Rd, Beaumaris
St Joseph's, 542 Balcombe Rd, Black Rock

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil:	6:00pm *(Mentone)*
Sunday:	8:00am *(Black Rock)*
Sunday:	9:00am *(Parkdale)*
Sunday:	10:30am *(Beaumaris)*
Sunday:	11:00am *(Mentone)*
Sunday:	5:00pm *(Mentone)*

World Mission Sunday — One Hundred Years

This year marks 100 years since the establishment of World Mission Sunday by Pope Pius XI in 1926. We renew our commitment to support and engage in the Church's mission to bring Christ to all people, and all people to Christ.

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to everyone who promptly collected their Offertory Giving envelopes (Pledge Packs) last weekend. If you have not yet retrieved yours, we kindly remind you to do so this weekend.

For those who wish to submit their filled-out pledge cards, there are several convenient options:

- Place them in the first or second collections during Mass
- Drop them off at the parish office
- Deposit them in the designated box located in the foyer

Your ongoing generosity and dedication to our parish are truly appreciated.
Thank you for your support in strengthening our community and mission.

Farewell for Fr Joe

- Morning tea after 11am Mass, St Patrick's, Sunday 25 October

- Morning tea after 10:30am Mass Stella Maris, Sunday 1 November

'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God' (*Mt* 22:21)

These words of Jesus in today's gospel have always been a springboard for Christian reflection on the relationship between the Gospel and society, politics and religion, Church and State; they remain crucial topics for us today.

'Caesar' is Tiberius Caesar, the Roman Emperor to whom Palestine was subject, but in the deeper meaning of the gospel discussion, he represents the authority of secular governments. The distinction Jesus makes between the things which belong to Caesar and those which belong to God suggests the need for a certain 'balance' between secular and divine authority.

The twist – ultimately everything 'belongs to God'. Yet it obviously was not God's will to reveal to humanity every detail of a perfect society, or the right political decision in every circumstance. And in setting up the Church, he did not set up a 'theocracy' in which Pope and bishops also rule over civil society. He has given us reason and freedom, and he intends us to use them in governing ourselves. So in this sense, some things certainly 'belong to Caesar'. There is no single perfect Christian answer to every political question to which we all must adhere; and there is a rightful autonomy of secular affairs.

But Christians also reject the opposite extreme, of a government that totally dominates every aspect of life in a totalitarian way, interfering in the purely religious activities of the Church such as belief and worship, and even trying to coerce human consciences. Some things clearly do not 'belong to Caesar'.

The early Christians faced this in a stark *[continued p. 4]*

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Justin Ford **Assistant Priest:** Rev Fr Joseph Nguyen
Presbytery: 10 Rogers St, Mentone 3194 **Office:** 3 Mitchell St, Mentone 3194 **Office hours:** 9am-5pm (Mon, Tues and Thurs)
Phone: 9583 2103 **Email:** *mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au* **Website:** *www.sspjv.org*

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon 19th Oct 11:00am *(Mentone)*

Tue 20th Oct 9:15am *(Mentone) (School Mass)*

Wed 21st Oct 9:15am *(Mentone & Black Rock)*

Thu 22nd Oct 9:15am *(Mentone)*
9:15am *(Beaumaris) (Class Mass)*

Fri 23rd Oct 9:15am *(Mentone & Black Rock)*

Sat 24th Oct 9:15am *(Mentone & Beaumaris)*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St Patrick's Mentone every Friday following 9:15am Mass until 4:30 Benediction.

Exposition at Stella Maris Beaumaris every Saturday 9:45-10:15am.

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Wednesdays following 9:15am Mass *(Mentone)*, **Saturdays** following 9:15am Mass *(Mentone & Beaumaris)* and at 5:15pm *(Mentone).*

Recently Deceased: Patricia Moulton

Anniversaries: Anthony Lucas, Attila Belso, George Venuto, Jade Djapri, Lorna Noonan

We pray for those who are sick: Ching Price, Nick Bond, Francis Archer, Jim Lacey, Janis Williams, Michael Papworth, Kaye McCall, Mirella Townsend, Aliai Coyle-Madut, Albert Ricardo, Barry Martin, Alan Laver, Dean Bevis, Amelia Martin, Michael Hannan, Mavis De Silva, John Hannah, Patricia Barbagallo

ROSTERS 24/25 October 2026

St Patrick's - Mentone

6:00pm	**Commentator/Reader**	K Ady
	Extraordinary Minister	B Razga
11:00am	**Commentator/Reader**	S Medeira
	Extraordinary Minister	S Mathias
5:00pm	**Commentator/Reader**	J Renden
	Extraordinary Minister	-

St Joseph's - Black Rock

8:00am	**Reader/ Commentator**	T Warnock
	Extraordinary Minister	J Short

St John Vianney's - Parkdale

9:00am	**Reader**	K Lowe
	Commentator	R Tregonning
	Extraordinary Minister	D Kidner
	Extraordinary Minister to the Sick	D Kidner
	Flowers	P Edkins
	Pilgrim Statue	B McCann

Stella Maris - Beaumaris

10:30am	**Commentator/Reader**	M Shale
	Extraordinary Minister	F Winkelmann

Readings *next* week: 30th Sunday OT - Year A

Isaiah: 45: 1, 4-6
1 Thessalonians: 1: 1-5
Matthew: 22: 15-21

BANKING DETAILS

For direct credit to Parish accounts:

Presbytery:	083347 6808 76937
Mentone-Parkdale - Church:	083347 6815 62913
Nazareth Parish - Church:	083347 6864 78067

Our Parishes are committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all persons. A copy of our Child Safety policy is on the noticeboard in our churches and on our website ***www.sspjv.org***

Offertory Giving - Envelopes & the Presbytery Account

Some people in the envelope system have written on their Pledge Card an intended division between their Church and Presbytery Account donations. Please note that if you are on the envelope system, all cash in the envelope goes to the Church Account. It is not possible to give to the Presbytery Account using your envelope.

If you wish to give cash to the Presbytery Account, please place this loose in the First Collection.

Thanksgiving envelopes

New sets of envelopes commencing 1st November are now available for collection in the church foyers at Mentone and Parkdale, amongst the Offertory Program Packs. Thank you for your support.

The Catenians
Strengthening family life through friendship and faith

THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION
City of Melbourne Circle 292

Annual Wine Challenge

City of Melbourne Catenians invites fellow Parishioners to the Annual Wine Challenge. This is always a great evening and a good opportunity to catchup with fellow parishioners. A good knowledge of wine is not essential to a very enjoyable evening.

Venue : **Stella Maris Church, Charlotte Rd Beaumaris**
When : **Monday October 26th, 2026**
Time : **7:30pm - 9:30pm**
Cost : **$60 person includes, 2 course meal & Drinks**
RSVP: **Please book before Friday 23rd October at**
Trybooking: https://www.trybooking.com/DQPAV

For further details please contact Circle Treasurer, Joe Brick at catenians292@gmail.com

From Church teaching – The State, and politicians, are not independent of God and his law

As Catholics we rightly hold that not only individuals but also societies must be subject to God. People are not independent of their Creator just because they act as a group rather than singly. Each group member must foster the true good.

'All public power must proceed from God...Everything, without exception, must be subject to Him, and must serve him, so that whosoever holds the right to govern holds it from one sole and single source, namely, God... "There is no power but from God." (*Rom* 13:1)'

Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter *Immortale Dei* (1885) 3

'Men living together in society are under the power of God no less than individuals are, and society, no less than individuals, owes gratitude to God who gave it being… Since, then, no one is allowed to be remiss in the service due to God, and since the chief duty of all men is to cling to religion in both its teaching and practice – not such religion as they may have a preference for, but the religion which God enjoins, and which certain and most clear marks show to be the only one true religion – it is a public crime to act as though there were no God.'

Pope Leo XIII *Immortale Dei* 6

'The duty of offering God genuine worship concerns man both individually and socially. This is "the traditional Catholic teaching on the moral duty of individuals and societies toward the true religion and the one Church of Christ." (Vatican II, *Declaration on Religious Liberty*) By constantly evangelising men, the Church works toward enabling them "to infuse the Christian spirit into the mentality and mores, laws and structures of the communities in which [they] live." (Vatican II, *Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People*)'

'The social duty of Christians is to respect and awaken in each man the love of the true and the good. It requires them to make known the worship of the one true religion which subsists in the Catholic and apostolic Church (cf. Vatican II, *Declaration on Religious Liberty*). Christians are called to be the light of the world. Thus, the Church shows forth the kingship of Christ over all creation and in particular over human societies. (cf. Vatican II, *Decree on the Apostolate of Lay People* 13; Leo XIII, *Immortale Dei* 3, 17; Pius XI, *Quas Primas*)'

***Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1992) § 2105**

'The right to religious liberty is neither a moral license to adhere to error, nor a supposed right to error, (Cf. Leo XIII, *Libertas praestantissimum* (1888) 18) but rather a natural right of the human person to civil liberty, i.e., immunity, within just limits, from external constraint in religious matters by political authorities.'

***Catechism of the Catholic Church* § 2108**

'It is unlawful to follow one line of conduct in private life and another in public, respecting privately the authority of the Church, but publicly rejecting it; for this would amount to joining together good and evil, and to putting man in conflict with himself; whereas he ought always to be consistent, and never in the least point nor in any condition of life to swerve from Christian virtue.'

Pope Leo XIII *Immortale Dei* 47

The previous quotes give teaching based on faith in God, Christ and his Church, indicating that the true religion should also be in some manner the State religion (while keeping full equality and due liberty for all individuals). In 2016, after a parliamentary vote, Christ was officially crowned King of Poland. Australia is obviously unlikely to follow suit any time soon; one minimal acknowledgement, at least, that we retain is of the Lord's Prayer opening each day of Parliament.

But beyond questions of 'state religion' there are ethical principles and basic rights that can be recognised even by atheists – most basically, the equal right to life of every human being.

The fact that such rights are also taught by this or that religion cannot justify politicians (Catholic or non-Catholic) in authorising their violation, on the grounds of 'not imposing religion'.

In themselves these rights can be known simply by human reason, and no one can appeal to religious liberty so as to violate others' rights. As all countries must ban slavery, so all must protect every human life:

'Those who are directly involved in lawmaking bodies have a grave and clear obligation to oppose any law that attacks human life. For them, as for every Catholic, it is impossible to promote such laws or to vote for them…'

'No Catholic can appeal to the principle of pluralism or to the autonomy of lay involvement in political life to support policies affecting the common good which compromise or undermine fundamental ethical requirements. This is not a question of "confessional values" *per se*, because such ethical precepts are rooted in human nature itself and belong to the natural moral law. They do not require from those who defend them the profession of the Christian faith…'

'The fact that some of these truths may also be taught by the Church does not lessen the political legitimacy or the rightful "autonomy" of the contribution of those citizens who are committed to them, irrespective of the role that reasoned inquiry or confirmation by the Christian faith may have played in recognising such truths…'

'In democratic societies, all proposals are freely discussed and examined. Those who…would view the moral duty of Christians to act according to their conscience as something that disqualifies them from political life, denying the legitimacy of their political involvement following from their convictions about the common good, would be guilty of a form of intolerant secularism.'

Holy See, *Participation of Catholics in Political Life* (2002)

'The common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights – for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture – is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.'

Pope St John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici* (1988) 38

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 18th October 2026

HYMNS:

Mentone 6pm Vigil Saturday

Parkdale 9am Sunday **Mentone 5pm**

Mass Setting:	*Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin*
Entrance:	520 In Faith And Hope And Love
Offertory:	*organ solo*
Communion:	455 Be Thou My Vision
Recessional:	398 Christ Is The King! O Friends Rejoice

Mentone 11am Sunday

Mass Setting:	*Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin*
Entrance:	520 In Faith And Hope And Love
Offertory:	Motet: *Meditabor in mandatis tuis* - J. K. Aiblinger
Communion:	Antiphon: *Domine dominus noster* - chant 455 Be Thou My Vision
Recessional:	398 Christ Is The King! O Friends Rejoice

Black Rock 8am Sunday

Entrance:	789 Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven
Offertory:	397 Lord, I Love Your Commands
Communion:	739 Lord of Creation
Recessional:	755 Now Thank We All Our God

Beaumaris 10:30am Sunday

Entrance:	Glory And Praise To Our God
Offertory:	Spirit of God Within Me
Communion:	Lord of Creation
Recessional:	Now Thank We All Our God

Readings *this* week: 29th Sunday OT - Year A

Isaiah: 45: 1, 4-6
1 Thessalonians: 1: 1-5
Matthew: 22: 15-21

Responsorial Psalm: Give the Lord glory and honour.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!
Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults We are planning to soon commence an RCIA program for adults seeking Baptism at Easter 2027. Baptised non-Catholics seeking to become Catholic and adult Catholics who have not received all their Sacraments can also join with this program. Please email or phone the Parish Office if interested.

[continued from p. 1] **'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God'**

manner when they had to choose between worshipping the emperor – the grave sin of idolatry – or martyrdom. Faced with a conflict between human law and God's law, 'we must obey God rather than men', as St Peter says. (*Acts* 5:29) Obviously the State cannot overrule God – it is only because of God that the State exists in the first place, and the moral requirement to obey human governments also derives ultimately from God.

The hard questions come in the apparent 'overlap' between what is Caesar's and what is God's. It is true that God has not given *the Church* political rulership. But the State, as God's creation, still remains subject *to God himself*. Every politician is also a human being, who may never violate the moral law God has written in every human heart, even on the excuse of serving the people or the nation.

Indeed, the moral requirement to serve people and nation is only one more aspect of the moral law coming from God, and cannot be set in opposition to other parts of this moral law. In any case, true service of others never involves going against God, and his law is always the path for the true good of all.

The law of right and wrong written in the human heart from creation can be known to natural human reason and conscience even prior to supernatural faith, and so is called the 'natural law'. The Ten Commandments gave special expression to it when conscience had been darkened by sin, but in principle this natural moral law binds all people, not just Jews and Christians.

The Church has the special guidance of the Holy Spirit in proclaiming even natural moral law. But when the Church does teach these universal moral principles, it does not mean they are somehow reduced to 'private religious matters' which non-Catholics need not be concerned with – since the principles are still knowable by everyone's natural reason.

So when the State, in view of these principles, acts to protect the natural rights and natural good of individuals and the common good of society from those who would harm these, it is not 'imposing faith' on anyone (even if the Church happens to have taught about these same natural rights and goods, such as those concerning life or the family). Politicians, Catholic or non-Catholic, fulfil their true civic duty in protecting these rights and goods, and so upholding the human dignity of every person.