

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

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

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 27th September 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*)

What we have been and done in the past does not determine what we will be and do in the future: people can change in their moral lives - both for better and for worse.

The first reading from the prophet Ezekiel speaks of 'the upright man [who] renounces his integrity to commit sin' and dies because of the evil he has chosen. But the reading also encourages us that 'when the sinner renounces sin...he shall certainly live; he shall not die.' (*Ezek 18:25-28*)

On similar lines, Jesus' parable in the Gospel tells of two brothers, one of whom says he will obey their father, but then does not; the other of whom refuses to obey, but then thinks better of it. (*Mt 21:28-32*)

The common theme: sinners should not despair of changing, by God's mercy and grace; whereas those who presently seem to be living faithfully should not rest on their laurels and complacently presume their continued goodness.

The virtue of hope leads us to focus primarily on God and his help, rather than on our own past - be that our supposed goodness, or our sins. Hope in a Christian context is not just a vague optimism: it means hope *in God* – making union with him in heaven the goal of our lives, and trusting not in ourselves but in *his grace* to lead us there.

We can better understand the virtue of hope from the two ways of sinning against it - *despair* and *presumption*.

Despair focuses on our own sins to the exclusion of God's grace and mercy - imagining God cannot save us, or does not want to. To give in to despair of salvation is a very dangerous state of soul: we give up trying. (This refers to

deliberate despair – we are only guilty of sin in any thought or feeling to the extent we freely consent to it.)

The sin of **presumption**, at the other end of the scale, means thinking we can be saved without God's grace, or can receive forgiveness without repenting our sins and resolving to sin no more (with God's help). One path to presumption is a self-satisfied focus on our own supposed good deeds and character, instead of on God's grace.

The teaching of the Church speaks of **two pivotal graces we cannot earn or merit by strict right through any good works, but which are gifts of God's mercy**. The first is the grace received by the sinner coming to repentance and forgiveness, as Ezekiel describes. (cf. Council of Trent: DS 1532)

This is the transition St Paul calls **justification**, (cf. *Rom 3:21-28; 4:25; 5:1-2; Gal 2:15-16*) when we are raised from spiritual death to spiritual life, passing from a state of sin to the state of God's friendship: sanctifying grace, the seed of heavenly union with God, now abides in the soul. (God standardly confers this grace of justification in Baptism, or restores it in Reconciliation if it is lost by mortal sin.)

The other pivotal grace that we cannot merit relates to the 'upright man who renounces his integrity' that Ezekiel speaks of. We must *continue to the end* in the grace once received, persevering in doing God's will. (cf. *Mt 10:22*) This is the incomparable grace of **final perseverance**, by which we die in God's friendship and so actually *reach* salvation.

As with the grace of justification, we cannot earn this grace of final perseverance as a 'right'. (cf. Council of Trent: DS 1541) There is never a time that we can [continued p.3]

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 28th Sept	NO MONDAY MASSES UNTIL 12 OCTOBER
Tue 29th Sept	Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels 9:15am (<i>Mentone</i>)
Wed 30th Sept	St Jerome 9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Thu 1st Oct	St Therese of the Child Jesus 9:15am (<i>Mentone & Beaumaris</i>)
Fri 2nd Oct	The Holy Guardian Angels 9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Sat 3rd Oct	9:15am (<i>Beaumaris</i>) NO MORNING MASS AT MENTONE UNTIL 10 OCTOBER

**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*).

**NO SATURDAY MORNING CONFESSIONS AT
MENTONE UNTIL 10 OCTOBER**

Parish Baptism Program 2026

Please contact the Parish Office
for information, registration
forms and bookings. 9583 2103.
mentoneparkdaleeast@cam.org.au



Recently Deceased:

Rudi Bruckner, Barbara Hickey, Peggy Callahan

Anniversaries:

John McNamara, Caterina Valastro, Wilfred Gunasekera,
Patrick McCarthy

We pray for those who are sick:

Ching Price, Nick Bond, Francis Archer, Jim Lacey,
Janis Williams, Alan Laver, Michael Papworth,
Kaye McCall, Mirella Townsend, Aliai Coyle-Madut,
Albert Ricardo, Barry Martin, Dean Bevis, Amelia Martin

BANKING DETAILS For direct credit to Parish accounts:

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

ROSTERS 3/4 October 2026

St Patrick's - Mentone

6:00pm	Commentator/Reader	K Ady
	Extraordinary Minister	T Dillon
11:00am	Commentator/Reader	K Phillips
	Extraordinary Minister	S Mathias
5:00pm	Commentator/Reader	J Renden
	Extraordinary Minister	C Giosis

St Joseph's - Black Rock

8:00am	Reader/ Commentator	W Maher
	Extraordinary Minister	M Lindstrom

St John Vianney's - Parkdale

9:00am	Reader	B Atherton
	Commentator	C Beck
	Extraordinary Minister	N Perazzo
	Extraordinary Minister to the Sick	N Perazzo
	Flowers	K Lowe
	Pilgrim Statue	G Costanzo

Stella Maris - Beaumaris

10:30am	Commentator/Reader	D Wendler
	Extraordinary Minister	F Winkelmann

Readings next week: 27th Sunday OT - Year A

Isaiah:	5: 1-7
Philippians:	4: 6-9
Matthew:	21: 33-43

The St Vincent de Paul - East Parkdale Conference
invites you to join with them for **Morning Tea** at **St
John Vianney's**, following 9:00am Mass **next Sunday,**
4th October 2026.



Morning Tea at **Stella Maris** following 10:30am Mass,
next Sunday 4th October
All Welcome.

ANNUAL MISSION FAIR

The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will hold their
Annual Mission Fair on **Saturday 17 October**

9.00 am – 2.30 pm at 154 Cotham Road, **Kew.**

This year the proceeds will be forwarded to the
Franciscan Sisters of St Joseph, Kisumu, for water tanks.
Enquiries Phone: 9817 3715.

Weekly church bulletins are printed Thursdays. Material
for publication must be received by Tuesday afternoon;
recently deceased, anniversaries, sick list by 10am
Thursdays. Bulletins available on our website by Friday:
www.sspjv.org

*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*

[continued from p. 1: Placing all our hope in God]

place our security in our own supposed holiness and good deeds, and leave aside trusting entirely in God and his grace for salvation.

We cannot *earn* the grace of final perseverance, but we *can pray* for it: we must pray - persistently, humbly, confidently - to receive it as a gift of God's mercy. That is why the Church has us say so often in the *Hail Mary*: 'Pray for us sinners, *now and at the hour of our death.*'

Entrusting ourselves to God, with all our past and future, liberates us from being filled with fear about divine

judgement. We can have the greatest confidence in God, much more than we could ever have in ourselves.

That is the true guide for those who might dwell excessively on their past sinfulness or their feared future weakness. A balanced concern regarding our sins is good and necessary: we are always called to conversion. But - all this should keep leading us back to God as our centre.

If anxiety overshadows our spirit, God invites us to stop focusing inwardly on self, and to turn to him. Keeping our eyes fixed on his love, we confidently place all our hope and trust in his boundless mercy.

Catechism of the Catholic Church – The Virtue of Hope

Hope as a 'Theological Virtue', having God as its object (The three Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope and Charity)

1817 Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. 'Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.' (*Heb 10:23*) 'The Holy Spirit...he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.' (*Titus 3:6-7*)

1821 We can therefore hope in the glory of heaven promised by God to those who love him and do his will. (Cf. *Rom 8:28-30; Mt 7:21*) In every circumstance, each one of us should hope, with the grace of God, to persevere 'to the end' (*Mt 10:22*; cf. Council of Trent: DS 1541) and to obtain the joy of heaven, as God's eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ. In hope, the Church prays for 'all men to be saved.' (*1 Tim 2:4*) She longs to be united with Christ, her Bridegroom, in the glory of heaven:

'Hope, O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one. Dream that the more you struggle, the more you prove the love that you bear your God, and the more you will rejoice one day with your Beloved, in a happiness and rapture that can never end.' (St Teresa of Avila)

Hope relies on God, not our own feelings

2005 Since it belongs to the supernatural order, grace *escapes our experience* and cannot be known except by faith. We cannot therefore rely on our feelings or our works to conclude that we are justified and saved. (Cf. Council of Trent, *Decree on Justification* (1547): DS 1533-34) However, according to the Lord's words 'Thus you will know them by their

fruits' (*Mt 7:20*) – reflection on God's blessings in our life and in the lives of the saints offers us a guarantee that grace is at work in us and spurs us on to an ever greater faith and an attitude of trustful poverty.

A pleasing illustration of this attitude is found in the reply of St Joan of Arc to a question posed as a trap by her ecclesiastical judges: 'Asked if she knew that she was in God's grace, she replied: "If I am not, may it please God to put me in it; if I am, may it please God to keep me there."' (*Acts of the trial of St Joan*)

The Virtue of Hope and the First Commandment

2090 When God reveals Himself and calls him, man cannot fully respond to the divine love by his own powers. He must hope that God will give him the capacity to love Him in return and to act in conformity with the commandments of charity. Hope is the confident expectation of divine blessing and the beatific vision of God; it is also the fear of offending God's love and of incurring punishment.

2091 The first commandment is also concerned with sins against hope, namely, despair and presumption:

By *despair*, man ceases to hope for his personal salvation from God, for help in attaining it or for the forgiveness of his sins. Despair is contrary to God's goodness, to his justice – for the Lord is faithful to his promises – and to his mercy.

2092 There are two kinds of *presumption*. Either man presumes upon his own capacities, (hoping to be able to save himself without help from on high), or he presumes upon God's almighty power or his mercy (hoping to obtain his forgiveness without conversion and glory without merit).

Act of Hope

*O my God, trusting in your promises, mercy and power,
and in the merits of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,
I hope to receive forgiveness of my sins,
the help of your grace, and life everlasting. Amen.*

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 27th September 2026

HYMNS:

Mentone 6pm Vigil Saturday

Parkdale 9am Sunday Mentone 5pm

Mass Setting: *Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin*

Entrance: 595 Seek, O Seek The Lord

Offertory: *organ solo*

Communion: 649 You Are The Way: In You Alone

Recessional: 566 God, Beyond All Praising

Mentone 11am Sunday

Mass Setting: *Mass in Honour of St Ralph Sherwin*

Entrance: 595 Seek, O Seek The Lord

Offertory: *organ solo*

Communion: 649 You Are The Way: In You Alone

Recessional: 566 God, Beyond All Praising

Black Rock 8am Sunday

Entrance: 710 Holy God We Praise Your Name

Offertory: 850 To You O Lord I Lift My Soul

Communion: 830 The Lord Is My Shepherd

Recessional: 741 Lord Whose Love In Humble Service

Beaumaris 10:30am Sunday

Entrance: Holy God We Praise Your Name

Offertory: To You O Lord I Lift My Soul

Communion: The Lord Is My Shepherd

Recessional: Lord Whose Love In Humble Service

Readings this week: 26th Sunday OT - Yr A

Ezekiel: 18: 25-28

Philippians: 2: 1-11

Matthew: 21: 28-32

Responsorial Psalm: Remember your mercies, O Lord

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.



marchforthebabies.com

Come and show your support and march for the babies at 1.00pm **Saturday, 10th October.**
Treasury Gardens, Cnr Spring St & Wellington Pde, Melbourne.

This is the 17th annual March for the Babies, and every year since 2009, thousands of Victorians have gathered peacefully with grief and hope to remember the ever-increasing number of babies killed by abortion in this state since the Government legalised abortion-till-birth on October 10, 2008.

Attendance is free, we just ask you book in advance for yourself, family or group using the QR code. Our march is a **family-friendly** event with a peaceful police presence.

Wear **pink** or **blue** for the babies! www.marchforthebabies.com



trybooking.com/events/landing/1626138

Daylight Saving commences **next** weekend:

Spring Forward

Turn your clocks **forward** one hour before you
go to bed, Saturday night, **3rd-4th OCTOBER.**



World Day for Migrants and Refugees

We pray that migrants and refugees
may be welcomed and may live here in
peace and harmony, under the protection
of Our Lady Help of Christians,
in this great land of the Southern Cross.

SAINT OF THE WEEK 30 September: St Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church

St Jerome, the pre-eminent Scripture scholar among the saints, was born about AD 340 in the Roman province of Dalmatia, in the city of Stridon (thought to have been in modern-day Croatia, Slovenia or Bosnia). [*'Jerome' in its original Latin is 'Hieronymus'; Italian versions are 'Girolamo' and 'Geronimo'. It derives from Greek and is unrelated to Jeremiah/Jeremy, from Hebrew.*]

Although brought up Catholic, as was then common he was not baptised until adulthood, after a loose life as a student in Rome. He studied in Gaul and Constantinople, and was ordained priest in Antioch about 378. From 382 to 384, he was secretary to Pope

St Damasus I, who entrusted him with revising existing Latin translations of the Gospels. This eventually became part of his translation (completed 405) of nearly all the Bible into Latin from Hebrew and Greek – his most famous work, known as the Vulgate [*meaning 'commonly-used'*]. We also have many letters, works of biblical commentary, theology and history.

From 386 he lived in Bethlehem in a monastery near the Basilica of the Nativity, until his death there on 30th September 420. The Vulgate, used widely in the Middle Ages, was officially made the Church's standard Latin text (1546) by the Council of Trent.