

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

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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 20th 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*)

Merit and Reward – Grace and Mercy: A reflection on today's Gospel

There is a solid Christian belief, taught again and again by Jesus, that eternal life is a 'reward' for good works done here on earth:

'Rejoice...your reward is great in heaven.' (*Mt 5:12; Lk 6:23*)
'Your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.' (*Mt 6:4*) 'Lay up treasures for yourselves in heaven.' (*Mt 6:20*) 'Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose the reward.' (*Mk 9:41*) 'The measure you give will be the measure you get back.' (*Lk 6:38*)

The parable of the talents (*Mt 25:14-30; Lk 19:11-27*) shows the differing rewards given to the different servants, depending on how they have used their talents. St Paul repeats the same teaching: 'Each will receive wages according to the labour of each'; (*1 Cor 3:8*) 'The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly'. (*2 Cor 9:6*)
The infallible dogmas of Catholic faith reflect all this when they speak of 'merit', and of different degrees of heavenly glory according to our merits. (Ecumenical Council of Florence, DS 1305; Ecumenical Council of Trent, DS 1582)

Each person in heaven will be happy to the utter fullness of his or her capacity, but that very 'capacity' of our hearts to enjoy the divine presence will vary according to how much we have allowed God to 'expand our hearts' while on this earth. It makes sense then, even from the motive of legitimate self-interest, to live a life as rich as possible in love, holiness and good works (though of course, love of God must be our supreme motive).

Yet we must never forget – our very 'merits' are only there because God's free gift of grace, working *within* our free will, has enabled us to do the good works: 'God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.' (*Phil 2:13*) So God's grace and our personal works of love are both real, but we might say that grace is the 'deeper' reality.

In the end, there is no good in us that does not ultimately and primarily come from God. Further, our works only merit heavenly reward if they flow from Christ, already living and active within us – and that very presence of Christ is undeserved gift.

So we see how in the end eternal 'reward' is itself pure gift: 'You are praised in the company of your Saints and, in crowning their merits, you crown your own gifts.' (*Roman Missal*, Preface of Saints, citing St Augustine) All this is the great truth at the heart of the Protestant insistence on 'grace alone', which (rightly understood) is also Catholic teaching.

These concepts of merit and grace help us make sense of the parable in today's gospel, in which the landowner (God) hires workers for his vineyard at different times during the day, but ends up paying the same to those who only started working at the last hour, as he pays to those who worked all day long.

Those who worked all day then complain that the landowner is unjust. Yet the landowner has paid them exactly what had been agreed – what is truly upsetting them is his generosity to the latecomers.

Jesus' point is not that heavenly reward is equal in every possible way for all those who receive it [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 21st Sept	NO MONDAY MASSES UNTIL 12 OCTOBER
Tue 22nd Sept	9:15am (<i>Mentone</i>)
Wed 23rd Sept	St Pius of Pietrelcina 9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Thu 24th Sept	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Beaumaris</i>)
Fri 25th Sept	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Sat 26th Sept	9:15am (<i>Beaumaris</i>) NO SATURDAY MORNING MASSES 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 (*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:

Gerald Stutterd, Ariel Reyno

Anniversaries:

Mary Taylor, Antoinette Freris, Joe Hirst, Mary Cassar, William Rowe, Sylvia Edwards, Florence Kelly, George Kelly

We pray for those who are sick:

Vern Morgan, 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

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

ROSTERS 26/27 September 2026

St Patrick's - Mentone

6:00pm	Commentator/Reader	P Mount
	Extraordinary Minister	B Razga
11:00am	Commentator/Reader	L Freeman
	Extraordinary Minister	S Tobin
5:00pm	Commentator/Reader	J Hughes
	Extraordinary Minister	-

St Joseph's - Black Rock

8:00am	Reader/ Commentator	A Trajer
	Extraordinary Minister	J Short

St John Vianney's - Parkdale

9:00am	Reader	N Perazzo
	Commentator	B Fitchet
	Extraordinary Minister	M Webster
	Extraordinary Minister to the Sick	D Kidner
	Flowers	J Brantner
	Pilgrim Statue	S Stewart

Stella Maris - Beaumaris

10:30am	Commentator/Reader	M Khong
	Extraordinary Minister	Sr Patricia

Readings next week: 26th Sunday OT - Year A

Ezekiel:	18: 25-28
Philippians:	2: 1-11
Matthew:	21: 28-32

St Patrick & the Holy Angels 2026 Organ Series

Music Inspired by Gregorian Chant

3.30PM SUNDAYS

21ST JUNE:

REUBEN JOHNSON (NEWMAN COLLEGE)

19TH JULY:

RHYS ARVIDSON (ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL)

16TH AUGUST:

DION HENMAN (ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL)

20TH SEPTEMBER:

DR ALAN COOK (DIRECTOR OF MUSIC ST PATRICK'S MENTONE)

FREE ENTRY

(DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED) - NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED

'MUSIC INSPIRED BY GREGORIAN CHANT'

Today, **Sunday 20th September**, our Director of Music at Mentone-Parkdale, **Dr Alan Cook**, presents the **final** in our series of **free** Organ recitals, at 3:30pm. No bookings required, donations accepted at the door.

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Merit and Reward – Grace and Mercy]

(which would contradict quite a few of his other teachings, as referred to above).

Rather, his point is divine generosity.

Those who worked all day long fail to recognise that all they have and all they do is divine gift in the first place, for themselves as much as the latecomers.

Sometimes people are cynical when they hear of a ‘deathbed conversion’ – such as that of the good thief, crucified next to Jesus, gaining forgiveness at the last minute after maybe a lifetime of sin.

We must be careful not to resent God’s generosity, which equally gives the same heavenly face-to-face vision of himself, with the same eternal duration, to all those who at least die in his grace, regardless of what has gone before.

The more we allow an attitude of generosity to grow in our own hearts, the more we recognise God’s utter mercy both to ourselves and to others, and the more we rejoice in both.

Social Services Sunday

Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) is the peak body representing over 40 Catholic social service and community organisations across the state. Member organisations total over 7,500 staff and over 15,000 dedicated volunteers, supporting over 300,000 people each year, working from across more than 388 sites.

They accompany people through many different circumstances, including homelessness and housing insecurity, family and domestic violence, disability, poverty, displacement, and challenges experienced by young people and families. CSSV’s mission is to work with the Catholic Church to answer the Gospel call to stand in solidarity with the disadvantaged and marginalised, and to create a more just, equitable and compassionate society.

WHAT MIGHT I DO TO HELP?

- Consider the particular needs in our local community and ask: How can we respond? What can we do together? How can we better love and serve our neighbours?
- Connect with Catholic social service organisations in our area. Read the list of CSSV member organisations - <https://css.org.au/service-providers/> Learn more about their work and how you can support them.
- Act by volunteering your time, sharing your skills, making a donation, or advocating for people experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation.
- Pray for those people experiencing hardship, and for the staff and volunteers who accompany and serve our communities.

From Church teaching – Grace and Merit

2007 With regard to God, there is no strict right to any merit on the part of man. Between God and us there is an immeasurable inequality, for we have received everything from him, our Creator.

2025 We can have merit in God’s sight only because of God’s free plan to associate man with the work of his grace. Merit is to be ascribed in the first place to the grace of God, and secondly to man’s collaboration. Man’s merit is due to God.

2009 Filial adoption, in making us partakers by grace in the divine nature, can bestow *true merit* on us as a result of God’s gratuitous justice. This is our right by grace, the full right of love, making us ‘co-heirs’ with Christ and worthy of obtaining ‘the promised inheritance of eternal life.’ (Ecumenical Council of Trent, ‘Decree on Justification’ (1547) DS 1546) The merits of our good works are gifts of the divine goodness. (ibid., DS 1548) ‘Grace has gone before us; now we are given

what is due... Our merits are God’s gifts.’ (St Augustine, the ‘Doctor of grace’)

2010 Since the initiative belongs to God in the order of grace, *no one can merit the initial grace* of forgiveness and justification, at the beginning of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit and by charity, *we can then merit* for ourselves and for others the graces needed for our sanctification, for the increase of grace and charity, and for the attainment of eternal life. Even temporal goods like health and friendship can be merited in accordance with God’s wisdom. These graces and goods are the object of Christian prayer. Prayer attends to the grace we need for meritorious actions.

2011 *The charity of Christ is the source in us of all our merits* before God. Grace, by uniting us to Christ in active love, ensures the supernatural quality of our acts and consequently their merit before God and before men...

Catechism of the Catholic Church (1992)

HYMNS:

Mentone 6pm Vigil Saturday

Parkdale 9am Sunday Mentone 5pm

Mass Setting: *Mass of Our Lady, Help of Christians*
Entrance: 325 My Song Is Love Unknown (vv. 1,2,7)
Offertory: *organ solo*
Communion: 624 There's A Wideness In God's Mercy
Recessional: 586 Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

Mentone 11am Sunday

Mass Setting: *Mass of Our Lady, Help of Christians*
Entrance: 325 My Song Is Love Unknown (vv. 1,2,7)
Offertory: Antiphon: *Si ambulavero* - chant
Communion: Motet: *Ego sum pastor bonus* - G B Matucci
624 There's A Wideness In God's Mercy
Recessional: 586 Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

Black Rock 8am Sunday

Entrance: 792 Praise To The Lord The Almighty
Offertory: 802 Seek O Seek The Lord
Communion: 738 Lord Of All Hopefulness
Recessional: 840 This Day God Gives Me

Beaumaris 10:30am Sunday

Entrance: Glory And Praise To Our God
Offertory: Centre Of My Life
Communion: Lord Of All Hopefulness
Recessional: This Day God Gives Me

Readings this week: 25th Sunday OT - Yr A

Isaiah: 55: 6-9
Philippians: 1: 20-24 27
Matthew: 20: 1-16

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is near to all who call him.
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!
Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.



This month the under-18's Youth Group is meeting on **Sunday 20th September** (tonight),
6:00 - 7:30pm in the Mentone Parish Centre, 3 Mitchell Street.

Parents are required to drop off and pick up their child.

A registration form is also required for each child to ensure the safeguarding of our youth.

stpatrickycg@gmail.com



Deacon Nigel McBain

Today we welcome Rev. Nigel McBain at his first weekend in our parishes. As Deacon, he will minister in our parishes in September and October, as he prepares for Priestly Ordination for the Ordinariate in December. As Deacon, among other ministries he will read the Gospel, sometimes preach the homily, and conduct Baptisms.

L'Arche Melbourne Presents

**Friday 25th September 2026
5pm - 8pm**

Building Community through story-telling with Hazel Bradley of L'Arche UK

Where?
Charman Uniting Church
313 Charman Road,
Cheltenham VIC 3192

Please bring a meal to share!

Come join L'Arche Melbourne's Community and hear our stories from around the world how people with and without intellectual disabilities are building Communities of belonging, hope, and peace

Community & Storytelling

Join us!

PLEASE BRING A MEAL TO SHARE!



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 completely free, we just ask you book in advance for yourself, family or group using the QR code.



trybooking.com/events/landing/1626138

Our march is a **family-friendly** event with a peaceful police presence. Wear **pink** or **blue** for the babies!

marchforthebabies.com