

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

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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 30th August 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*)

A Reflection from the Prophet Jeremiah: Faithfulness and Popularity

'Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: "Violence and ruin!" The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.' (*Jer 20:8*) The prophet Jeremiah's words from our First Reading remind us that being true prophets, God's faithful messengers, will always mean a degree of opposition and unpopularity.

This is because God's message to humanity, while a message of unparalleled joy for those who fully accept it and try to live by it, is also a message of challenge and even warning. The path of life, of obedience to God's word, always passes by way of the Cross, as Jesus tells us so powerfully in our Gospel: to reject sin means to renounce ourselves. (*Cf. Mt 16:24*) Alongside those who heed the warning, there will always be those who resist and resent it.

Jesus tells us, 'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.' (*Lk 6:26*) 'If the world hates you, remember that it hated me before you.' (*Jn 15:18*) We are easily tempted to deliver only the 'positive' aspects of the message and remain silent about the 'negative' – so as to avoid unpopularity. We think, 'If people are going to listen to us as we deliver Christ's message, it's important that we be liked, that the Church have a good public image.'

There is a certain truth in this – if the messenger repels, the message is unlikely to get far; and the primary accent in our teaching does have to be on the positive. But if we

take this so far as to hide or change parts of Christ's teachings as handed on by his Church, so as to stay popular, then it is no longer Christ's actual message that we are delivering anyway. We are promoting a false Christ of our own fashioning. We easily slip from, 'I must be liked, so that people accept Christ's message from me' (already a double-edged sword), to the simple imperative, 'I must be liked!' Popularity becomes the idol.

This idolisation of popularity can then lead to the claim that the Church 'drives people away' by her 'harsh' teachings. Now, doubtless it can happen that people are driven away at times by our un-Christian behaviour, or by our faulty communication of the Gospel message. But it also happens that people simply choose to reject even the *faithful* communication of the Gospel message. As Pope Francis reminded us in *Evangelii Gaudium*, 'We will never be able to make the Church's teachings easily understood or readily appreciated by everyone. Faith always remains something of a cross...' (42)

So we must reject the false idea that 'Since the message hasn't been accepted by the wider world, we therefore need to change the message'. In that approach, 'being accepted' has become the ultimate goal, not sharing the life-giving truth that God has entrusted to us.

In the end, it is about love. We teach the whole gospel message without compromise, not because we want to be 'hardline' or because we are more interested in 'rules' than compassion (some standard slurs one hears) – but because we firmly believe that the teaching of Christ is always in the end
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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 31st Aug	11:00am (<i>Mentone</i>)
Tue 1st Sept	9:15am (<i>Mentone</i>) (<i>School Mass</i>) 9:15am (<i>Parkdale</i>) (<i>School Mass</i>)
Wed 2nd Sept	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Thu 3rd Sept	Memorial: St Gregory the Great 9:15am (<i>Mentone</i>) 9:15am (<i>Beaumaris</i>) (<i>Class Mass</i>)
Fri 4th Sept	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Sat 5th Sept	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Beaumaris</i>)

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*).

Parish Baptism Program 2026

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



Recently Deceased:

Kevin Curran, Yolanda Bactol, Luis Valenzuela

Anniversaries:

James Brennan, Antonia & John Razga, George Clifton

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

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, 6th September.

Morning tea at Stella Maris next Sunday
6th September, following 10:30 Mass.

All Welcome.

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 5/6 September 2026

St Patrick's - Mentone

6:00pm	Commentator/Reader	P Mount
	Extraordinary Minister	B Razga
11:00am	Commentator/Reader	S Tobin
	Extraordinary Minister	A Earle
5:00pm	Commentator/Reader	J Renden
	Extraordinary Minister	C Giosis

St Joseph's - Black Rock

8:00am	Reader/ Commentator	L Brick
		J Shannon
	Extraordinary Minister	M Lindstrom

St John Vianney's - Parkdale

9:00am	Reader	M Webster
	Commentator	R Tregonning
	Extraordinary Minister	G Sullivan
	Extraordinary Minister to the Sick	N Perazzo
	Flowers	S Stewart
	Pilgrim Statue	T Williams

Stella Maris - Beaumaris

10:30am	Commentator/Reader	G Lynch
	Extraordinary Minister	D Lynch

Readings next week: 23rd Sunday OT - Year A

Ezekiel:	33: 7-9
Romans:	13: 8-10
Matthew:	18:15-20

PARISH YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHOIR



Our Parish Young People's Choir is
singing today, **30th August**, at 5pm
Mass. Rehearsals are Wednesdays,
3:30pm in the Parish Choir Room,
Mitchell Street Mentone. New
members from Year 3 & above most welcome to join.

ST PATRICK'S PARISH GARDENS WORKING BEE

The next working bee is on **Saturday 12th September**.
Meet at the Parish Centre **10am - 12 noon**.
BYO hat, gardening gloves and water bottle.
All welcome, no experience necessary.

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*

St Augustine, most influential of ancient Church Fathers, was born on 13 November 354 at Thagaste in North Africa [*present-day Souk Ahras, eastern Algeria, then in the Roman Empire in its later days*].

Raised Catholic by his mother St Monica, as a teenager Augustine turned away from his upbringing both in faith and morals. He joined the Manichean religion and for many years lived with a woman outside marriage, with whom he had a son. But in his *Confessions* he tells how the grace of God, and the prayers of his mother, brought him back to the Catholic Church aged 32. Baptised by St Ambrose in Milan at the Easter Vigil of 387, in 391 he was ordained priest in Hippo Regius [*Annaba, eastern Algerian coast*], then made bishop there in 395.

His writings and sermons cover most of theology, with special influence on such doctrines as the Trinity, original sin, and the nature and cause of evil. Combating the heresy of Pelagius, who denied the need of God's grace for salvation, St Augustine is known as the 'Doctor of Grace'; like St Paul, possibly his personal experience of redemption led to a deeper awareness of this reality.

In 410 the barbarian invasions of the Roman Empire reached Rome itself when the city was sacked (for the first time in 800 years) by Alaric, king of the Visigoths. To place the calamity in the perspective of faith, St

Augustine wrote *The City of God*: ultimately it was the City of God, the Church, that mattered, not the earthly City of the World.

In 430 the Vandals, having crossed into Africa from Spain, laid siege to Hippo; and on 28 August, in the third month of the siege, St Augustine died. The Vandals would go on to sack Rome itself in 455, and the Western Empire would finally collapse in 476. But from its ruins would rise the Catholic civilisation of the Middle Ages, built intellectually upon the foundations St Augustine had helped to lay.

Apart from Scriptural authors, only St Thomas Aquinas (1225-74) has comparable influence on Catholic theology, and Aquinas himself was much influenced by Augustine. Even the Protestant reformers respected and were influenced by Augustine with his emphasis on divine grace.

Since the Middle Ages, Augustinian orders have followed Augustine's semi-monastic *Rule* of living. Tradition named him Doctor of the Church, along with Saints Ambrose, Jerome and Gregory the Great. In 1567 St Thomas Aquinas was the first to be added to their number, and today there are 38 Doctors.

[There are two ways of pronouncing his name in English considered legitimate: aw-GUST-in or AW-guh-steen. Pope Leo XIV, for many years the Prior General of the Augustinian order around the world, uses the former.]

St Augustine's 'Confessions', the world's first psychologically introspective autobiography, tells the story of his early life, far from God and searching for happiness in created things, learning in the end that only the Creator fulfils our desire. We quote two of its most famous passages - the book's opening paragraph; and from Book 10.

*You are great, O Lord, and greatly to be praised:
great is your power and your wisdom is without measure.*

*And man, so small a part of your creation,
wants to praise you: this man, though clothed
with mortality and bearing the evidence of sin
and the proof that you withstand the proud.*

*Despite everything, man, though but a
small part of your creation, wants to praise you.
You yourself encourage him to delight in your praise,
for you have made us for yourself,
and our heart is restless until it rests in you.*

*Late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient and so new;
late have I loved you! For behold, you were within me,
and I outside; and I sought you outside and in my ugliness
fell upon those lovely things that you have made.*

You were with me and I was not with you.

*I was kept from you by those things, yet had they not
been in you, they would not have been at all.*

*You called and cried to me and broke open my deafness:
and you sent forth your beams and shone upon me
and chased away my blindness: you breathed fragrance
upon me, and I drew in my breath and do now pant for you:*

*I tasted you, and now hunger and thirst for you:
you touched me, and I have burned for your peace.*

HYMNS: Mentone 6pm Vigil Saturday**Parkdale 9am Sunday Mentone 5pm****Mass Setting:** *Mass of Our Lady, Help of Christians***Entrance:** 612 Take Up Your Cross**Offertory:** *organ solo***Communion:** 542 Lord Of All Nations, Grant Me Grace**Recessional:** 616 The Kingdom of God**Mentone 11am Sunday****Mass Setting:** *Mass of Our Lady, Help of Christians***Entrance:** 612 Take Up Your Cross**Offertory:** Motet: *If any man will follow me* - Anon. 1549**Communion:** Motet: *Domine in auxilium* - F X Witt
542 Lord Of All Nations, Grant Me Grace**Recessional:** 616 The Kingdom of God**Black Rock 8am Sunday****Entrance:** 790 Praise The Lord You Heavens**Offertory:** 626 Blessed Jesus At Your Word**Communion:** 739 Lord of Creation**Recessional:** 833 The Lord's My Shepherd**Beaumaris 10:30 am Sunday****Entrance:** Glory And Praise To Our God**Offertory:** Centre of My Life**Communion:** The Summons**Recessional:** The Lord's My Shepherd**Readings this week: 22nd Sunday OT - Yr A**

Jeremiah: 20: 7-9

Romans: 12: 1-2

Matthew: 16: 21-27

Responsorial Psalm: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!**[continued from p. 1 — Faithfulness and Popularity]**

the path of true compassion, love, life, freedom and happiness, even if it passes by way of the Cross. And so we reject the counterfeit love and compassion that denies the Spirit-guided teachings of the Church, justifies sin, and leads to spiritual destruction.

The more we truly love God and neighbour, and the

more we are truly concerned for the deep well-being of others, then the more the words of Jeremiah in our reading today (when he was tempted to remain silent) become our own words: 'There seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.' (Jer 20:9) The true prophet is driven by love to always proclaim, with love, the full Gospel truth of what love means.

From Church teaching – On speaking the full Gospel truth, in love

'The Church, one hears, is lacking in understanding and compassion. But the Church's motherhood can never in fact be separated from her teaching mission, which she must always carry out as the faithful Bride of Christ, who is the Truth in person.

'As Teacher, she never tires of proclaiming the moral norm. The Church is in no way the author or the arbiter of this norm. In obedience to the truth which is Christ, whose image is reflected in the nature and dignity of the human person, the Church interprets the moral norm and proposes it to all people of good will, without concealing its demands of radicalness and perfection.

'In fact, genuine understanding and compassion must mean love for the person, for his true good, for his authentic freedom.

'And this does not result, certainly, from concealing or weakening moral truth, but rather from proposing it in its most profound meaning as an outpouring of God's eternal Wisdom, which we have received in Christ, and as a service to man, to the growth of his freedom and to the attainment of his happiness.

'Still, a clear and forceful presentation of moral truth can never be separated from a profound and heartfelt respect, born of that patient and trusting love which man always needs along his moral journey, a journey frequently wearisome on account of difficulties, weakness and painful situations.

'The Church can never renounce the "the principle of truth and consistency, whereby she does not agree to call good evil and evil good"; she must always be careful not to break the bruised reed or to quench the dimly burning wick (cf. Is 42:3).

'As Paul VI wrote: "While it is an outstanding manifestation of charity towards souls to omit nothing from the saving doctrine of Christ, this must always be joined with tolerance and charity, as Christ himself showed by his conversations and dealings with men. Having come not to judge the world but to save it, he was uncompromisingly stern towards sin, but patient and rich in mercy towards sinners" (*Humanae Vitae* 29).'

Pope St John Paul II, *Encyclical Letter*
'Veritatis Splendor' ('The Splendour of Truth') (1993)