

Let us remember in our prayers ...

Recently deceased: Carlysle Lewis, Des Dwyer, Claire Wayne, Monica Russell

Anniversaries: Margaret Jacobs, Loretta Jennings, Bill Fahey, Peter Abate, Francesco Barilla, Todd Bennett

Sick: Beula Reddy, Ken Metcalf, Tom Brennan, Yvette Henderson, Sr Deidre Brown CJ, Julia Audino, Alberto Audino, Liam Brady, Jason, John Audino, Abigail Fells, Cate, Anne Hutchins, Veronica Kong, Helen Hawkes, Paddy Walker, Danielle Hewitt, Greg Gee, Sue, Sr Veronica OSB, Noreen Willett, Marcelle Ranasinghe, Noreen Willcocks, Sr Terri Emslie PBVM, Tan Ngiap Choo

PRAYER THE WINNING STRATEGY AS NFL MAKES ITS AUSTRALIAN DEBUT

By Melbourne Catholic

Much has been made of the opposing pre-game strategies employed by the San Francisco 49ers and the Los Angeles Rams ahead of their blockbuster match in Melbourne. More than 100,000 spectators filled the hallowed grounds of the Melbourne Cricket Ground and millions more watched on TV and online as the teams went head to head in the inaugural regular-season NFL match in Australia. The San Francisco 49ers arrived a week ahead to allow their players to acclimatise to the local environment. The Los Angeles Rams arrived some 28 hours before kick-off, aiming to keep their players’ body clocks as close as possible to their home time zone. But it may have been another ‘strategy’ that helped seal the 49ers’ opening win of the season, and one a lot less complicated: prayer. Ahead of their Friday morning clash, a group of players from the San Francisco 49ers joined Melbourne’s Archbishop Peter Comensoli for a pre-game celebration of the Eucharist. The Mass was organised through the team’s coaching staff and allowed players like star running back Christian McCaffrey, a Catholic, to partake in a different kind of preparation before the big game. McCaffrey has previously spoken of the centrality of his Catholic faith and often posts verses from the Bible on social media. In a 2024 interview McCaffrey was quoted as saying, ‘My faith is very important to me. When you have a bunch of people chanting your name, it’s important you give the honour and glory back to the person, God, that’s allowing me to do this.’ Faith and football have long been closely intertwined in the NFL, and it’s not uncommon to see players praying publicly on and off the field, win or lose. It’s believed the first post-game ‘prayer huddle’ happened in 1990, with players from the New York Giants and San Francisco 49ers - two of the league’s top teams at the time - taking a knee in communal prayer. That tradition continues today across the league, and many watching Friday’s game were pleasantly surprised when the camera panned to a group of players from both sides huddled in prayer after the game. Prominent in frame was Brock Purdy, the leading quarterback from the 49ers and a devout Christian. ‘I love it. Teams should do this more often after games,’ one user commented on ESPN’s TikTok account. ‘I thought this was awesome. Wonderful role models not being afraid to take a knee and pray,’ another wrote. The unrelenting pressure of professional sport and the fame that comes with it are things with which faith and pastoral support can help, said Fr Peter Fitzsimons, who celebrated Mass for the Los Angeles Rams during their visit to Melbourne. The team had contacted the parish of St Mary’s West Melbourne in the lead up to the match. ‘They had a pretty tight schedule,’ Fr Peter explained. ‘I was in contact with one of the assistant coaches. They rang and were looking for Mass to be celebrated the night before the game.’ Fr Peter went to their hotel and was joined by a group of Rams’ players and coaches for the Mass. ‘They had arrived that morning and hadn’t slept. You could see they were tired, which was completely understandable. But they made the effort to come.’ The Rams may have lost their match in Melbourne, but Fr Peter said it was encouraging to see the team - and the league - make prayer and pastoral support an important part of the game. ‘I think part of it is just caring for the players ... for the spiritual welfare of the players,’ he said. ‘They’re role models ... everyone looks to them, and they’re in a high-pressure environment. I think the coaching staff have worked out if they can support these people spiritually, then they’re probably going to get into less problems themselves, and it’s helpful for the team’s morale. ‘You’ve got a lot of pressure on you, and if you’ve got the support of faith, it helps you to be humble. ‘And if [the team] can keep them on the straight and narrow while they’re playing football, then it’s basically it’s a win for everyone.’

Published by Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne on 13 September [Read more at melbournecatholic.org/](#)

THE RISK OF FREEDOM: FROM GENESIS TO PAUL AND IGNATIUS

7.30 – 9.30pm, 1 October, John XXIII College

Join Fr Brendan Byrne, SJ, Australian Jesuit priest and New Testament scholar, as he discusses the concept of freedom – as a prerequisite for human beings to have a love relationship with God – from the creation story in Genesis through St Paul’s teachings and the Ignatian understanding of freedom in the service of mission. To be held in the Thomas More Exhibition Centre, John XXIII College, Mt Claremont. This is a free event but booking is essential at [trybooking.com/events/landing/1612310](#)

NEW NORCIA STUDIES DAY 2026

9am, Friday 2 October

The Studies Day this year represents an exciting milestone as it will be the 30th Studies Day since its inauguration in 1991. The program will include a review of the second published volume of the Santos Salvado letters; news on the restoration works at New Norcia, and an audio-visual presentation about Bishop Griver correspondence. There will also be two musically-themed papers, one about research into Bishop Salvado’s music; the second will be on Gregorian Chant. Morning and afternoon teas, lunch and entry to the museum and art gallery included in admission. For tickets and more information visit [shop.newnoria.com.au/collections/special-items](#).

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WEEKLY HYMNS

9am & 5pm, Sunday 20 September

Lyrics are available on the Parish website by using the QR code (right), or by visiting [stjosephssubiaco.org.au/lyrics](#). Hymn books are also available at Church entrances. Please return them at the conclusion of Mass.

Mass	Entrance	Offertory	Communion	Recessional	
Sun 9am	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (283)	Stabat Mater	Pange Lingua Christ Is the World’s Light	Holy God We Praise Thy Name (157)	
Sun 5pm	The Church’s One Foundation (318)	Come to Me All Who Labour (74)	Seek Ye First (294) Come Back to Me (Hosea) (167)	Now Thank We All Our God (243)	

ST JOSEPH’S UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Family Group
29 November

Faith Formation for Little Tots
18 October

Youth Group
15 November

Seniors’ Morning Tea
19 November

UTHANA MISSION: A LITTLE LIGHT CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

24 & 25 October, Uthana Mission Annual Appeal

On one of our visits to India to oversee our **Uthana Mission Projects in Kolkata**, we were fortunate to meet one of the young women we were sponsoring while she was undertaking her Teacher Training Course. At the time, she was living with her grandparents in very humble accommodation — a small basement room in the same building. There were no windows and no natural light. It was a very simple life, but she remained determined to complete her studies and become a teacher. After successfully graduating, we met her again. This time, she proudly invited us to see her new home. It was a small flat a few levels above the basement room where she had previously lived. Her grandparents had now moved in to share this new home with her. With the biggest smile, the first thing she proudly pointed out to us was the windows. **“Look! I have windows. The sunshine comes in!”** Her simple words have stayed with us. At that moment, I was reminded of the words from St John’s Gospel: **‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.’** For this young woman, those windows represented so much more than sunlight. They represented hope, opportunity, dignity and a brighter future — made possible through education and the generosity of people like you. This is what your **Uthana Mission** support, part of **St Joseph’s Overseas Outreach Programme**, can achieve. Your generosity helps provide opportunities that can change lives and give young people hope for a better future. **Thank you, dear Parishioners, for your continued support of Uthana Mission.**Your prayers, encouragement and financial support are greatly appreciated.

RIGHT TO LIFE ASSOCIATION OF WA ANNUAL DINNER

6pm, Saturday 24 October, RAAF Association Cirrus Club Bullcreek

Members and guests are invited to the annual dinner including a three-course meal, entertainment featuring a guest speaker and guest musician and entry in the door prize. Places limited. Tickets \$85 available at [righttolifewa.co](#).

KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION

2.30pm, Sunday 8 November, Carmel Primary School Yokine

The Council of Christians & Jews WA Inc. invites you to the Kristallnacht Commemoration. Speaker is The Hon. Antoinette Kennedy AO former Chief Judge of the District Court of WA. All welcome. RSVP is essential by Sunday 1 November to [ccjwa@aol.com](#).

MASS TIMES *(Subject to change - refer to Parish Diary for latest information)*

Tuesday	5.30pm
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	9am
Saturday Reconciliation	4.30pm
Saturday Vigil	5pm
Sunday	9am & 5pm

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Office	Tuesday - Friday: 9.30am to 4.30pm
Phone	9381 0400
Postal	PO Box 568, Wembley 6913
Email	enquiries@stjosephssubiaco.org.au
Website	www.stjosephssubiaco.org.au

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

First Collection EFT Details	Account Name:	St Joseph’s Presbytery Subiaco
	BSB:	086 006
	Account #:	887 970 525
	Reference:	Name

Second Collection EFT Details	Account Name:	St Joseph’s Church Subiaco
	BSB:	086 006
	Account #:	564 990 302
	Reference:	Name

PARISH DIARY				MONSIGNOR KEVIN
Sunday 20 September		Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time Upper Room: <i>St Vincent De Paul Appreciation Morning Tea</i> Baptism: <i>Zurich & Amalfi Powell and Luca & Siena Ledger</i> Baptism: <i>Benjamin George Wallis</i> Baptism: <i>James Nici</i> Baptism: <i>Vera Lili Morgan Palermo</i> Wedding Service: <i>Angelica Browne & Samuel Sheridan</i>	<i>Monsignor Kevin</i> <i>Monsignor Kevin</i> <i>Fr Oscar Aguilera</i> <i>Fr Oscar Aguilera</i> <i>Fr Garner Vergara</i>	
		Monday, 21 September St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast		
	Tuesday 22 September	4.30pm 6pm Tuesday, Week 25 of Ordinary Time First Reconciliation Upper Room: <i>St Vincent de Paul Meeting</i>	<i>Monsignor Kevin</i>	<i>Lecturing at Catholic Education WA</i>
	Wednesday 23 September	9.30am 5.30pm St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest, Memorial Upper Room: <i>Ladies’ Prayer Group</i> Upper Room: <i>Centering Prayer</i>		<i>Lecturing at Catholic Education WA</i>
	Thursday 24 September	Thursday, Week 25 of Ordinary Time ;		<i>Mercy Day Mass</i>
Friday 25 September	3.30pm	Friday, Week 25 of Ordinary Time Wedding Rehearsal: <i>Dona Peramunugama & Antonio Lumley</i>	<i>Fr Joseph Laundry</i>	
Saturday 26 September	2pm	Saturday, Week 25 of Ordinary Time Optional: Sts Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs Nuptial Mass: <i>Therese Nguyen & Nam Ngoc Anh Vuong</i>	<i>Fr Adalbert Imperial OCD</i>	