



KYABRAM CATHOLIC PARISH

St Augustine's - Kyabram ~ St Patrick's - Tongala

St Augustine's - Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620

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Parish Priest – Fr Uday Marneni ALCP/OSS

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sunday 14 September 2025



Readings for
this week:

Number 21:4-9
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17



Readings for
next Sunday:

Amos 8:4-7
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:1-13



Liturgical Jottings

Liturgy and Justice II

Liturgy and justice are interconnected aspects of faith, with the former being the public worship of God and the latter being the pursuit of fairness and righteousness in human relationships. Many believe that a truly reverent liturgy should inspire and be informed by a commitment to social justice, while also recognizing that justice-oriented actions should be rooted in a deep understanding of God's call to love and mercy.

Since Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* and Pope John XXIII's *Pacem in Terris* the Church has brought social justice and faith together. The liturgical movement at the same time has recognised that prayer and the liturgy are at the foundation of the Catholic social mission. The Word of God celebrated, reflected upon and prayed about inspire Catholics to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

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Looking at the Readings

The first reading from the Book of Numbers reveals God's ready willingness to forgive and to heal the Israelites by transforming an image of the cause of their suffering and death into the source of healing for them. To look upon the bronze image of the serpent "lifted up" on a pole they were healed.

In today's gospel, In the Gospel of John, the term "lifted up" has a double meaning. First it refers to Jesus being "lifted up" on the cross, lifted up in the cruel and shameful death resulting from the sinful actions and ways of his people. But it also refers to Jesus being "lifted up" in the glory of his resurrection and ascension to God. That "lifting up," he promises Nicodemus and us, will be given to everyone who believes in him. The passage closes with a clear statement meant to relieve any fears or anxiety we might have because of our sins: God sent his Son into the world that through him the world might be saved."

In the passage from Paul's Letter to the Philippians Belief in Christ means embracing that life of self-emptying service for the forgiveness and healing of the sins of our time and our people.

The Gospel passage closes with a clear statement meant to relieve any fears or anxiety we might have because of our sins: "For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." *From Peace with Creation by James E Hug SJ.*

Pope Leo on Creation

With infinite love, God has created all things and given them life. That is why Saint Francis of Assisi could call every creature his brother, his sister and his mother. Only a contemplative gaze can change our relationship with creation and bring us out of the ecological crisis brought on by the breakdown of our relationship with God, with our neighbours and with the earth that is the effect of sin (*cf. Laudato Si', 66*). *Homily Pope Leo XIV, on 9 July 2025*

Prayer for the Day

Lord, holy Father, you placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might likewise on a tree be conquered, Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

On the Lighter Side

Q. Why did St Patrick drive the snakes out of Ireland?

A. It was too far to walk or swim!

Q. What do you call a snake who works for the government?

A. A Civil Serpent!



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Olive McElroy, Frances Corso, Philip Bowman, Kady Mitchell-Treacy.

Recently Deceased: Fr Alex Lim

Anniversaries: Lucy Mangan

(Please email or contact the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list)

ROSTERS

Sunday 21 September 8.30am

Commentator – P Jenner

Lector – C Goode

Special Minister – M Cocks

Saturday 27 September at 5pm

Commentator – W Mulcahy

Lector – J Harris

Special Minister – L Moran

Sunday 28 September 8.30am

Commentator – R Chapman

Lector – M Tesoro

Special Minister – M O'Shea

PLATE AND ENVELOPE COLLECTION

Last weekend Collection: \$ 853.00

Thank you for your generosity and support for our Parish. May God bless you, always.

PARISH DETAILS

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Uday Kumar Marneni ALCP/OSS

PARISH SECRETARY

Vicki Arnel – 0417 147 695

PARISH PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mary Zobec – 0427 190 282

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am-4pm

PRINCIPALS

St Augustine's College - Tim Campbell – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary - Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

MASS TIMES

KYABRAM

Week Day: Tuesday Rosary 4pm, Mass 4.15pm & Thursday 9.15am

Saturday: 2nd and 4th weekend of month: 6pm EDT (5pm EST)

Sunday: 8.30am

TONGALA: First Sunday of month 11.30am

RECONCILIATION: Second Saturday (Weekend) of month 30 mins before Mass in St Augustine's Church.

ANointing MASS: First Thursday of the month at 10am in St Augustine's Church.

WELCOME BACK FR UDAY

This weekend we welcome back Fr Uday from his annual leave. We hope he had a wonderful break back home in India with family and friends.

WORKING BEE

We will be having a working bee around the OLOP garden tomorrow Monday 15 September 9.30am. Parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend to help keep our grounds looking clean and tidy.

THE SEASON OF CREATION

Monday 1 September was World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Pope Leo has issued a message for the day titled "Seeds of Peace and Hope". In it, he encourages us to take action to protect our damaged earth and all those who live on it, especially those who are poor and vulnerable. The full text of Pope Leo's Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation may be found here:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2025/07/02/250702e.html>

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation begins the Season of Creation which runs through to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, October 4. It is an ecumenical celebration of our Christian commitment to caring for earth and all who live on it. The official Season of Creation website offers many excellent resources for use by parishes, schools and individuals during this special time of the year: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL

For retired Priests of Sandhurst. We have 12 retired Priests. Fundraising assists the provision of housing, annual recurrent and everyday expenses. The Foundation relies on the generosity of the priests and people of the Diocese. A special collection will be taken on the weekend of 20th/21st of September and is the major fundraiser of the year. This day is an opportunity to thank God for their ministry and dedication, and to pray for our priests, active and retired. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. Those requiring receipts of donations over \$10 are to please use the envelopes provided. Thank you.

MASS TIME TABLE

Weekly Masses

Sat 13th September - 5pm Mass

Sun 14th September - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 16th September - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 18th September - 9.15am Year 5/6 & Year 7 & 8

Sun 21st September - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 23rd September - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 25th September - No Mass

Sat 27th September - 5pm Mass

Sun 28th September - 8.30am Mass

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Our sacramental children will be receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist on Sunday 21st September at 8.30am Mass. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

DIOCESAN FORMATION GATHERING

Be part of *Building Communities of Belonging* at the Diocesan Formation Gathering on Friday, 11 October at Notre Dame College, Shepparton; a day to learn, connect, and explore how we can strengthen and grow communities of belonging in our parishes. Keynote presentations will reflect on the place of community and belonging in a Catholic parish:

- Why does belonging matter in today's culture?
- How does it shape the mission of our parish and the wider Church?
- What can we do, together, to strengthen it?

With six practical workshops to choose from, the day offers insights and tools to help parishes grow a deeper sense of welcome and connection among parishioners and beyond.

There'll also be opportunities to share ideas and experiences through:

- Round Robin dialogues between parishes
- Plenary conversations with shared reflections
- Parish group discussions

Registrations close 30 September - secure your place now and be part of shaping the future of our parish communities! Register here: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1394762>

MARIAN FESTIVAL 2025:

Pray for World Peace at the 51st Marian Festival – a day of prayer, devotion and community, hosted by the Bendigo Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima with their Chaplain Fr Stephen Bolling. Sunday 12 October 2025 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo. Starting at 11am with Mass celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Les Tomlinson. 12pm BYO Lunch or BBQ available.

- 1.00 pm Festival begins, Scapular enrolment
- 1.30 pm Rosary procession outside Cathedral
- 2.30 pm Guest Speaker, Bishop Les Tomlinson
- 3.00 pm Exposition and Benediction
- 3.40 pm Festival concludes with ringing of the bells and afternoon tea

All welcome! **For more information go to: www.bendigofatima.com or contact info@bendigofatima.com**

RCIA INQUIRY EVENINGS

Inquiry evenings for the RCIA program will begin on Monday 6th October at 5.30pm in the presbytery.

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a process of Christian formation by which those who are seeking full communion with the Church. It can also be helpful who anyone who wants refresh their understanding of the Catholic faith. For inquiries please contact Annette Ryan 0408 502 858 or Mary Zobec 0427190282.

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CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with one of our Parish Child safety officers Mary Zobec 0427 190 282 or Annette Ryan 0408 502 858.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we come to worship, we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honored. May we join and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith and reconciliation.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone
- Thomas Merton

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your cross you have redeemed
the world.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 3: 13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who came down from heaven,
the Son of Man who is in heaven;
and the Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have
eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may
not be lost

but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be
saved.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word

LIFTED UP

Today's Feast moves us away from our usual
journey through Luke's Gospel. Instead,
our focus is with John's Gospel. We are
in a different world. John 3 concerns the
engagement which Jesus has with Nicodemus,
a Jewish leader and, as we learn at the
Gospel's end, a potential disciple. In this
chapter, the evangelist seeks to reflect upon
Jesus' origins. John affirms that Jesus, God's
Word and source of Wisdom, is from God.
He 'came down from Heaven'. Jesus is God's
exalted heavenly and human presence. He will
be 'lifted up', that is, in John's story of Jesus'
passion and death, he will be 'lifted up' on the
cross and will be 'lifted up' in exaltation by
the Father in resurrection. Jesus' death is also
his exaltation.

In today's Gospel, the evangelist draws on the
imagery of the fashioned bronze serpent that
Moses 'lifts up', that we hear today in the first
reading from the *Book of Numbers*. The serpent
figure rescues the suffering Israelites. For
John, this, too, is Jesus' quest: to rescue and
bring eternal life to suffering humanity. John's
passage exudes hope and divine communion
with humanity and creation. God loves the
'cosmos' so much that God's very being and
expression in the Word, Jesus, suffers for it.
This word, 'cosmos', comprises the whole of
creation, including humanity.

Palpable optimism permeates this Gospel
passage. For John, God wants nothing or
anyone to be 'lost'. All are found in the Word
enfleshed in Jesus. God's community with
creation and humanity is sealed and eternal.
This is such a rich Gospel for today's Feast.
Every line deserves meditation.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS / C

14 SEPTEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Num 21: 4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers.

*When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they
were healed.*

On the way through the wilderness, the
Israelites lost patience. They spoke against
God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring
us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For
there is neither bread nor water here: we are
sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the
people; their bite brought death to many in
Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We
have sinned by speaking against the Lord and
against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to
save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded
for the people, and the Lord answered him,
'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard.
If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall
live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent
which he put on a standard, and if anyone was
bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze
serpent and lived.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 77: 1-2, 34-38. R. v. 7

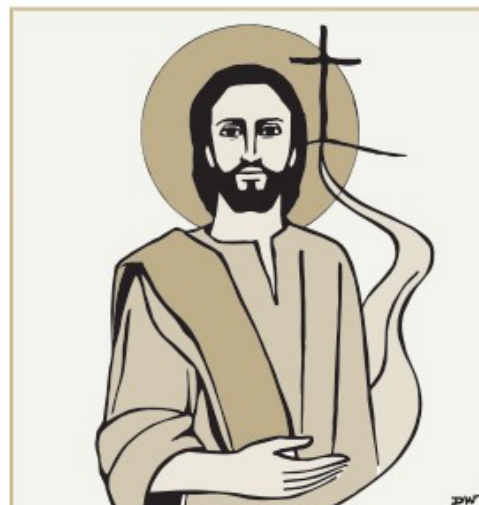
R. Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; /
turn your ear to the words of my mouth /
I will open my mouth in a parable / and reveal
hidden lessons of the past. **R.**

2. When he slew them then they would seek
him, / return and seek him in earnest. / They
would remember that God was their rock, /
God the Most High their redeemer. **R.**

3. But the words they spoke were mere
flattery; / they lied to him with their lips. / For
their hearts were not truly with him; / they
were not faithful to his covenant. **R.**

4. Yet he who is full of compassion / forgave
their sin and spared them. / So often he held
back his anger / when he might have stirred up
his rage. **R.**



SECOND READING

Phil 2: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.

He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him.

The state of Jesus Christ was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

■ The word of the Lord.