

The Living Word

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

23 August 2026

First Reading **Is 22:19-23**

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father

to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;

he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

*(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. *(R.)*

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and
love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the
lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. *(R.)*

Second Reading **Rom 11:33-36**

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 16:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

*You are Peter, the rock on which I will
build my Church;*

*the gates of hell will not hold out
against it.*

Alleluia!



FLOREAT - WEMBLEY CATHOLIC PARISH

COMMUNITY - CONVERSION - MISSION

ST CECILIA'S CHURCH, FLOREAT

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES' CHURCH, WEMBLEY



Fr Arulraj Mulaguri Chinniah

Parish Priest

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Parish Office open:

Tuesday to Thursday

9.30am - 3.00pm

Fridays: 9.30am - 2.30pm

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MASS TIMES

We celebrate Mass at both

St Cecilia's Church (St C)

47 Peebles Rd, Floreat

&

Our Lady of Victories Church (OLV)

364 Cambridge St, Wembley

Monday: 8.00am - St C

Tuesday: 6.45am - St C

Wednesday: 6.45am - OLV

Thursday: 6.45am - St C

Friday: 6.45am - OLV

Saturday: 8.00am - St C

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm - St C

Sunday: 7.30am - OLV

& 9.30am - St C

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at St Cecilia's only

8.30 - 9.00 am and 5.00 - 5.30 pm



SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

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COME, LET US WORSHIP THE LORD TOGETHER

We ask everyone to please maintain a respectful silence whilst in the Church. We appreciate your cooperation in creating a reverent and peaceful environment for prayer and reflection. **Thank you!**

WELCOME EVERYONE!

We are pleased you could join us today. If you are new, please introduce yourselves to those seated nearby and to Fr Arulraj. We'd love to welcome you to our parish community. Those new to the neighbourhood, we invite you to complete a parish membership form and place it in the collection basket. **Welcome!**

FATHER ARULRAJ'S MESSAGE

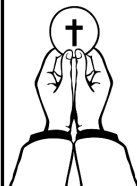
Faith is a gift and this gift is connected to community. This is also clear in today's gospel. After Peter professes his faith, Jesus establishes the church. He proclaims that it is upon the rock of Peter's faith that his church will stand. Faith and church community go together. People who say they believe in Christ and yet do not associate themselves with a believing community have an incomplete faith, because the entire witness of the Hebrew people and of the scriptures testify that faith and church go together. In choosing Christ, we do more than make an individual decision to believe, we also commit ourselves to brothers and sisters who believe the same thing with us. Faith in Christ requires a place where we worship God with others and serve one another in Jesus' name.

Thank you for coming, have a nice week and God bless.

Mass Intentions:

Saturday, 6PM Mass: **Philip SAMUELS**, RIP Anniversary

Sunday, 9.30AM Mass: **Ivan COLGAN**, RIP 1st Anniversary



IN OUR PARISH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

We pray for all those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

May the Lord grant them eternal rest.



Aug 22	Dorothy Furlong, Doreen Leahy, Patrick McGriskin
Aug 23	Kath Keating, Mary Mengler
Aug 24	Ralph Costantino, Carmine Daniele, Les Downie, Carmel Hynes, Philip Samuels
Aug 25	Bruce de Young, Mary Flanagan
Aug 26	Daniel Durack, John Farrugia, George Furlong, John Keating, Simeon McDermott
Aug 27	Catherine Alderman, Ray O'Neil, Peter Stubbs
Aug 28	Paul McCaul

Hymns for OLV - Sunday, 23rd August 2026

AOV1: 90 - 96 - 31 - 29

**What's on in our parish from
24th – 30th August 2026**

Monday	24	MASS 8.00am St Cecilia's CENACLE 8.30am St Cecilia's
Tuesday	25	MASS 6.45am St Cecilia's PAS 6.30pm Parish Hall SVDP MEETING 7.00pm Parish Meeting Room
Wednesday	26	MASS 6.45am OLV PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.00pm Parish Meeting Room
Thursday	27	MASS 6.45am St Cecilia's
Friday	28	MASS 6.45am OLV
Saturday	29	MASS 8.00am St Cecilia's RECONCILIATION 8.30am & 5.00pm St Cecilia's CHRISTIAN MEDITATION 9.30am Parish Hall BAPTISM: L HARRIS 10.30am St Cecilia's VIGIL MASS 6.00pm St Cecilia's
Sunday	30	SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY MASS 7.30am OLV 9.30am St Cecilia's BAPTISM: M & M PRACILIO 11.00am St Cecilia's

Next week's readings: 22nd Sunday of OT (A)



1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9
2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-2
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

THANK YOU OCTO & LORETTA

...for assisting us to upholster the chairs in the sanctuary at St Cecilia's and Our Lady of Victories.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

You are invited to contribute your talents to the parish in any capacity; certain volunteer roles can offset parish expenses. **Please contact the office to assist.**

The second collection needs to increase by 10% to keep up with outgoings. You can contribute via the collection tray or by setting up regular online bank transfers (pls include your name in the notes field).

1. First Collection (for the upkeep of the priest) -

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth – Floreat Wembley: BSB: 086-006, Acct #: 23954 3103

2. Second Collection (for parish expenses) -

Floreat Wembley Parish Account:
BSB: 086-006, Acct #: 67019 7607

*** **NO CASH? TAP & GO!** ***

**We welcome your financial contribution
to the parish & thank you for your
generosity!**



BAPTISM

We welcome into our Parish Community through Baptism this weekend,

Nico David SAFCIUC

and

Piper Violet SAFCIUC

We ask God to bless them, their family and Godparents as they journey through life together.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL



Thank you to all who generously contributed to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. If you have not contributed yet, **it is not too late!** Your help will be gratefully accepted by those who are short of food or warm clothing. **Envelopes are at the doors** and can be returned to the red boxes, the collection plate or mailed.

Next week is the last Sunday of the month. Donations of dried or canned food items will be gratefully received.

R.I.P. PATRICK DOHERTY

We extend our sincere condolences to all Paddy's family and friends on his recent passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.



ST CECILIA'S ALTAR SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING



We invite our St Cecilia's Altar Society members to attend the **General Meeting on Saturday, 5th September at 9.30am in the Parish Meeting Room.**

**** SATURDAY VIGIL MASS - SEPT CHANGES ****

Currently, our Saturday Vigil Mass at St Cecilia's begins at 6pm. **Beginning on 5th September, the Vigil Mass will start at 5.30pm.**

FATHER'S DAY - PARISH CELEBRATIONS



Father's Day is on **Sunday, 6th September.**

Parishioners are invited to **OLV's First Sunday Breakfast** held after the 7.30am Mass at Lawley's Bakery on Cambridge Street.

There will also be a **Morning Tea in the Parish Hall** after the 9.30am Mass at St Cecilia's to honour & remember our fathers and welcome the visiting Seminarians. All welcome!

PARISH DINNER & FUNDRAISER: 9 OCT 2026

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED

Please help make our parish dinner a warm and successful community event.

We need help with: set up, entertainment (musicians) predinner, dessert, washing & packing up afterwards. Also we are accepting raffle donations, large or small.

Details & sign up sheets are at the back of the church!!





Gospel Mt 16:13-20

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it. Christological reflections reach a climax in the question posed to the disciples: Who do you say I am? In this liturgical context, the same question is posed to us. Who is this one who multiplies loaves of bread, who walks on turbulent waters, who breaks the boundaries that separate insider from outsider? It is none other than the messiah.

When Peter testified to Jesus' identity, it was a relevant religious and political statement, for messianic expectation was a burning question at that time. But what does it mean for the average Christian today? Many believers consider messianic expectation a theological theme that belongs to the past. They feel that it is difficult to get excited about the coming of someone who we believe has already come and gone. If Jesus were to pose this question today, how would we answer?

Like Peter, we too may have good intentions, but when they are put to the test we realise that that was all that they were – good intentions. Still, we should not be discouraged by our weaknesses, for just as Peter's failure did not deter God from entrusting him with power and authority, so our failures need not be obstacles to God's grace in our lives. We watch God entrust the church to individuals who are weak and undependable, and we realise that judgments are inscrutable and God's ways unsearchable.

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