



26 July 2026: 17th Sunday of the Year (A)
Extraordinary Form: 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Dear Parishioners,

As July draws to a close, the Church takes up a recent tradition of celebrating the "World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly" (26th July). Traditions of "Mothers' day" and "Fathers' day" have given rise to a new reflection in the Church on the importance and the gift of grandparents and the Christian vocation of those in the later years of life, which bring so many changes in health, work and often domestic arrangements; grandparents' day is an opportunity also to honour the elderly members of our families and church community, as the scriptures say: "show respect for the old, and fear your God" (Lev. 19:32).

Pope Leo XIV, in his 2026 message for the World Day, mentions the phenomenon, especially of modern times, when the elderly can experience isolation and the sense of having been forgotten. He writes: "The painful feeling of being forgotten is, unfortunately, shared by many people, and among them are quite a few elderly people. ... The lives of many elderly people, in particular, seem to be covered by a veil that blurs the features of their faces and shrouds them in oblivion. This is what happens in homes where loneliness reigns and also in those care facilities where each person's uniqueness risks being reduced to a bed number or an illness." To this possibility the Pope offers an answer of Faith and of God's closeness to those who feel alone: "Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord promises that he will never forget any of us. He assures us that he has engraved our faces on the palms of his hands and that his love is greater than a mother's love for her child" (cf. Isaiah 49:15-16). At the same time, Grandparents' Day invites us to renewed marks of love and closeness to our elderly loved ones: "May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them." By concrete acts of love and sharing moments of joy together God reveals anew his own presence among us: "at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God."

Yours in Christ

The Fathers of the Oratory

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Are you on our mailing list? Sign up on our website
or via the parish office to receive a regular mailer
with our full weekly online update.

**"Garland for Our Lady" - Musical Oratory
Friday 14 August at 17:30 in the Church**

In preparation for the Solemnity of the Assumption, this Musical Meditation reflects on the dignity of our Blessed Mother.

Sung by a choir, this Oratory features music and hymns from the great Catholic choral tradition.

Followed by celebratory refreshments in the hall. Please RSVP to the parish office by Tuesday 11 August.

Church Schedule: Saturday: Mass 8:30; Exposition & Confession from 17:00; Benediction at 17:40; Vigil Mass 18:00 **Sunday:** Exposition at 17:00; Benediction at 17:40; Confession from 17:30; Mass 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 (EF) and 18:00 **Monday to Friday:** Mass 6:30, 8:30 daily. Rosary daily at 9:00. **Parish Office:** Open weekday mornings from 09:00 - 10:00. Kindly call or WhatsApp Ann on 073 247 1316 (09:00 - 12:00) to arrange appointments outside these hours. **Pastoral Care:** Call 073 247 1316 or 082 925 2549.

Readings: Daily Missal – 1089; Sunday Missal – 366

Psalm Response: O Lord, how I love your law.

Liturgical Week		Mass Intentions
Sat		18:00 John & Mary Mc Quaide RIP (Their family)
Sun	17th Sunday of the Year	7:00 Ints of James Nicol (His family); 8:30 Maurizio Bertolani RIP (His family); 10:00 Pro Populo; 18:00 Andrée Desterbecq RIP
Mon	<i>Feria</i>	6:30 Ints of Carla Burger; 8:30 Donor's Ints
Tue	<i>Feria / St Victor I</i>	6:30 Donor's Ints; 8:30 For the Chowles & Marujo families
Wed	<i>Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus</i>	6:30 Donor's Ints; 8:30 For Kundai Muserere
Thu	<i>Feria / St Justin de Jacobis; St Peter Chrysologus</i>	6:30 Donor's Ints; 8:30 Wayne Melvin RIP (Coney family)
Fri	<i>St Ignatius Loyola</i>	6:30 For the Bathfield family; 8:30 Donor's Ints
Sat	<i>St Alphonsus Liguori</i>	8:30 In reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary; 18:00 Donor's Ints
Sun	18th Sunday of the Year	7:00 Fr Vales Dania RIP (Sue Rule); 8:30 Pro Populo; 10:00 In reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus; 18:00 Ints of Glenn Henning (His family)

Parish Announcements

Nigel Bands passed away on Tuesday 21 July 2026.

Parish Notices

Books to order: We will soon be placing an order for the three volumes “Spiritual Direction by Dante” by Fr Paul Pearson and “A Catholic Case for Intelligent Design” by Fr Martin Hilbert. Please contact Ann at the parish office if you would like to order a copy – prices to be advised.

The Way of Beauty: Over five evenings, we will explore this path through a series of masterpieces inspired by the Gospels. This is not an art appreciation course, nor a Bible study in the usual sense. Rather, it is an invitation to learn to look so attentively at great works of Christian art and Sacred Scripture that, through them, participants come to encounter Christ more deeply. All are welcome on Thursday evenings from 19:05 to 20:30 in the hall, from 30 July. To register please use the Google form on the parish website, or mail peoratory@gmail.com.

Southern Cross magazine: The July and August issues of the Southern Cross magazine are available in the Repository at R40 per copy.

Diocesan News

St Augustine's International Food Evening: St Augustine's Cathedral in Central is hosting an international food evening on Friday 31 July at 18:00. All parishes have been asked to support and contribute to this event. St Bernadette's will be running the German Stall. Ticket books (at R100 each) can be purchased from the repository or from the parish office at St Bernadette's.