

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

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 23rd 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)

'You are Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' (Mt 16:18)

Today's Gospel highlights the unique position that Jesus gave in his Church to Simon Peter, as the first Pope. We recall that it was Jesus who gave Simon the nickname 'Peter' – *Rock*. At their very first meeting, 'Jesus looked at him and said "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).' (Jn 1:42) In Jesus' own language, Aramaic, the word for 'rock' is *kepha*, carried into the Gospels (which were written in Greek) as *Cephas* (a foreign term from the Greek perspective). The Greek word for 'rock' is *petra* – given masculine form, *Petros* in order to be a man's name. (And in English this became *Peter*.) Simply put: all these words just mean 'Rock'.

Only later, as we hear in today's reading, does Jesus explain *why* he changed Simon's name to 'Rock': 'You are Peter [Gk: *petros*], and upon this Rock [Gk: *petra*] I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' (Mt 16:18-19) In his native Aramaic, Jesus would have said, 'You are *kepha*, and on this *kepha* I will build my Church': the very same word for 'Peter' and 'Rock'. So Simon Peter is himself the Rock.

Jesus thus makes St Peter the rock-solid foundation supporting and uniting his People. In himself, Peter is a weak and sinful man, but Jesus shares his own strength with Peter: he is the 'deeper' rock on whom Peter himself depends. (cf. 1 Cor 10:4) (We might also say loosely that

Peter's faith in Christ is the rock – giving us the same conclusion in the end. So Jesus tells Simon Peter at the Last Supper: 'I have prayed for you, Simon, *that your faith may not fail, and when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.*' (Lk 22:32))

By 'the gates of hell' [Gk: *Hades* – the underworld, the realm of the dead] Jesus means the powers of death and evil. He promises that these forces will never defeat his Church which he builds on Peter: it will endure until Jesus returns in glory. Christ will be with his Church founded on the Rock of Peter 'to the end of time'. (Mt 28:20)

As for the 'keys of the kingdom', from other teachings of Jesus (cf. e.g. Mt 13:24-50) we know that the 'kingdom of heaven' begins even in the Church here on earth, which is the seed of the Heavenly Kingdom. In the Bible the 'keys' are a symbol of having control and authority, (cf. Is 22:22; Rev 3:7) so by entrusting Peter with the 'keys of the kingdom of heaven', Jesus gives him authority to guide and govern the Church on earth.

Finally, among the rabbis 'binding' and 'loosing' meant forbidding and permitting – that is, making laws. So when Jesus says 'whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven', he means that the rulings Peter makes for the Church on earth, God will 'ratify' in heaven. (We might say, this really implies that God's guidance is over the rulings in the first place.)

After the Resurrection, Peter receives the mission of Shepherd of all Christ's flock, to be the ongoing visible presence of Jesus the Good Shepherd: [continued p. 3]

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 24th Aug	Feast: St Bartholomew, apostle 11:00am (<i>Mentone</i>)
Tue 25th Aug	Memorial: St Louis 9:15am (<i>Mentone</i>)
Wed 26th Aug	9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Thu 27th Aug	Memorial: St Monica 9:15am (<i>Mentone & Beaumaris</i>)
Fri 28th Aug	Memorial: St Augustine 9:15am (<i>Mentone & Black Rock</i>)
Sat 29th Aug	Memorial: The Passion of St John the Baptist

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: Paul Corry

Anniversaries: Marie Mills, Carmel & Daryl Donohoe,
Maria Friedlander, Robert Crone Phillips, Eric Newman,
Geoffrey Ford, Jennifer Ford, William Murray, June Smith

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

BANKING DETAILS For direct credit to Parish accounts:

Presbytery:	083347 6808 76937
Mentone-Parkdale - Church:	083347 6815 62913
Nazareth Parish - Church:	083347 6864 78067

*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*

ROSTERS 29/30 AUGUST 2026

St Patrick's - Mentone

6:00pm	Commentator/Reader	A Earle
	Extraordinary Minister	J Dillon
11:00am	Commentator/Reader	L Freeman
	Extraordinary Minister	S Mathias
5:00pm	Commentator/Reader	J Hughes
	Extraordinary Minister	

St Joseph's - Black Rock

8:00am	Reader/ Commentator	W Maher
	Extraordinary Minister	J Short

St John Vianney's - Parkdale

9:00am	Reader	R Tregonning
	Commentator	G Shea
	Extraordinary Minister	D Kidner
	Extraordinary Minister to the Sick	D Kidner
	Flowers	B McCann
	Pilgrim Statue	M Webster

Stella Maris - Beaumaris

10:30am	Commentator/Reader	G Blackman
	Extraordinary Minister	H Graham

Readings next week: 22nd Sunday OT - Year A

Jeremiah: 20: 7-9
Romans: 12: 1-2
Matthew: 16: 21-27

PARISH YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHOIR



Our Parish Young People's Choir is
singing **30th August** at 5:00pm Mass.
Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 3:30pm
in the Parish Choir Room, Mitchell
Street Mentone.
New members from Year 3 and
above most welcome to join.



ST PATRICK'S MENTONE YOUTH GROUP - TONIGHT

NEXT MEETING, SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 6:00-7:30 PM

Parents are required to pickup and drop off their child.

A registration form is also required for each child.

stpatrickycg@gmail.com

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

[continued from p. 1] 'Upon this Rock...'

'Feed my lambs...tend my sheep... feed my sheep' (*Jn* 21:15-17) – feeding and tending the flock being the shepherd's specific role.

From early Christian writings we learn that Peter went to Rome, became its Bishop, and in the end was crucified there by the Roman Empire. And the early Church, guided by the Holy Spirit into all truth as Jesus promised, (cf. *Jn* 14:16-17; 14:26; 16:13) understood that those succeeding Peter as Bishops of Rome – the Popes – also inherit his leadership over the whole Church.

Indeed, it would make little sense for Jesus to set up

such an imposing authority only to let it lapse with Peter's death; and there are no others besides the Popes of Rome who even claim to be heirs of this universal authority of Peter.

So in Christ's plan, all his disciples can easily know by a simple visible test which is truly his Church, which we must be part of and whose teachings we must believe, if we are to remain in the full union of the one Body in the one true Faith. (cf. *Eph* 4:4-5)

It is the one with the clear link to the Apostle Peter, Rock and Shepherd, that the Catholic Church possesses in the two-thousand-year succession of the Popes.

Free Apologetics Books again available in porches at all churches

In June, the parish made available free copies of *Why We're Catholic: Our Reasons for Faith, Hope and Love* by Trent Horn. This is a highly-commended contemporary book for the general reader, on the topic of Apologetics (the rational defence of our faith - very helpful for building up our own faith, and sharing faith with others).

All copies were quickly taken; but today we are able to provide further copies for those who missed out last time, in the porches of all the churches. These have again been provided for free by a generous donor. However, it is again requested that you make a commensurate donation to the Church Account in the coming time, if you can afford it.

Catholics often lament the lack of faith commitment of loved ones. This is your chance to do something about it, with prayer, effort and a little bit of courage. Offer them a copy! Worst outcome: they say no; brief social discomfort. Best outcome: they are won over to the faith. Take some risks!

We asked AI: What is the best medium-length book of Catholic apologetics to give a general enquirer?

AI: For a general enquirer, the best medium-length book is *Why We're Catholic: Our Reasons for Faith, Hope, and Love* by Trent Horn. At around 250 pages [*actually less*], it is highly accessible, avoids overly academic jargon, and covers the core questions of God, Jesus, and the Church logically and winsomely.

SAINT OF THE WEEK 27 August: St Monica, Mother of St Augustine

St Monica, mother of the great Doctor of the Church, St Augustine, was born about 331, most likely of Berber ethnicity, probably (like Augustine) at Thagaste in North Africa [*present-day Souk Ahras, Algeria, then in the Roman Empire in its later days*]. Brought up Catholic, she was married to Patricius, a Roman pagan (who converted shortly before his death).

The brilliant Augustine (354-430) was raised Catholic, though not yet baptised; but as a teenager he turned away from his upbringing both in faith and morals.

Monica was heartbroken, and feared for his soul, but never gave up her prayers. Augustine joined the Manichean religion, and for many years lived with a woman outside of marriage, with whom he had

a son. When he went to Italy to teach, he left Monica behind in Africa, but she ended up following him to Milan.

In his *Confessions* he tells how the grace of God, and the prayers of his mother, brought him back to the Catholic Church at the age of 32. Baptised by St Ambrose in Milan in 387, he was later ordained priest in North Africa and made bishop of Hippo [*Annaba, Algeria*].

But Monica, her desires fulfilled, died at Rome's port of Ostia in the months after his Baptism, as they prepared to sail to Africa. She is an inspiration and patron for all those whose family members have gone astray.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 23rd August 2026

HYMNS:

Mentone 6pm Vigil Saturday

Parkdale 9am Sunday

Mentone 5pm

Mass Setting: *Mass of Our Lady, Help of Christians*

Entrance: 448 All People That On Earth Do Dwell

Offertory: *organ solo*

Communion: 487 For The Beauty of The Earth (vv. 1,5,6)

Recessional: 614 The Church's One Foundation

Mentone 11am Sunday

Mass Setting: *Mass of Our Lady, Help of Christians*

Entrance: 448 All People That On Earth Do Dwell

Offertory: Motet: *Tu es Petrus* - G Faure

Communion: Motet: *Verily. Verily* - T Tallis

487 For The Beauty of The Earth (vv. 1,5,6)

Recessional: 614 The Church's One Foundation

Black Rock 8am Sunday

Entrance: 644 Christ Our Lord, The Prince Of Ages

Offertory: 643 Christ Is The World's Light

Communion: 811 Soul Of My Saviour

Recessional: 705 Holy Father, God Of Might

Beaumaris 10:30am Sunday

Entrance: Christ Our Lord, The Prince Of Ages

Offertory: Christ Is The World's Light

Communion: Soul of My Saviour

Recessional: Holy Father, God of Might

Readings this week: 21st Sunday OT - Yr A

Isaiah: 22: 19-23

Romans: 11: 33-36

Matthew: 16: 13-20

Responsorial Psalm: Lord your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation: 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!

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

The Archbishop's Campaign invites us to proclaim the Good News by supporting ministries that serve those in need across our Archdiocese. Your generous gift helps bring this mission to life — not only in word, but in action.

Thank you.



THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2026



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign has its major collection today

We ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese - the Priest Retirement Foundation, the Corpus Christi College Building Fund, the CatholicCare Victoria Chaplaincy Program, Melbourne Overseas Mission, John Pierce Centre (for Catholic Deaf Ministry), the University of Divinity for Catholic Theological College, and other Catholic agencies and community service organisations. Brochures with more information can be found around the church.

Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code. You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign this weekend at all Masses.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

We congratulate and keep in our prayers the children from St John Vianney's Primary School, St Patrick's Primary School and the Parish Sacramental Group, who were confirmed last Sunday and last Tuesday by Fr Andrzej Madry, Episcopal Vicar for the Southern Region.

EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION

We pray for Bishop-Elect Most Reverend Stuart Hall (until now Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral) who will be consecrated Bishop of the Military Ordinariate of Australia, at 11:00 am this Saturday 29th August, at St Patrick's Cathedral.