



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

30 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Jer 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;

you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

■ The word of the Lord.

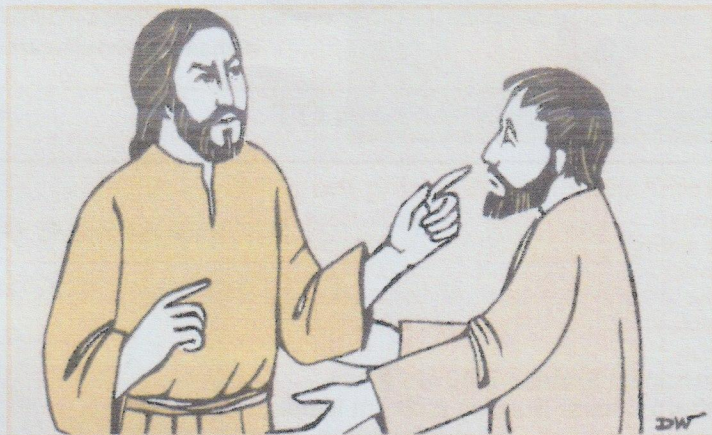
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v. 2

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; / for you my soul is thirsting. / My body pines for you / like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary / to see your strength and your glory. / For your love is better than life, / my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. So I will bless you all my life, / in your name I will lift up my hands. / My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, / my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**



4. For you have been my help; / in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. / My soul clings to you; / your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Eph 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of our heart, / that we might see how great is the hope / to which we are called. / Alleluia!



The Parishes Of St Mary's Merredin and St Joseph's Kellerberrin

41B South Avenue, PO Box 55, MERREDIN WA 6415; Ph: (08) 9041 1118;

e-mail: merredin@perthcatholic.org.au; Parish Priest: Philip Perreau e-mail: philip.perreau@perthcatholic.org.au

Website: merredincatholicparish.org

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN OT

A/2

30 AUGUST 2026

Merredin celebrations during the week:

Tuesday: 9.00 Mass TBC
Wednesday: 9.00 Mass TBC
Thursday: 9.00 Mass TBC
Friday: 9.00 Mass TBC
Saturday: 6.30pm
Sunday: 10.30am

Kellerberrin: Sunday 8:00 am Mass

Southern Cross: Sunday 5.30 pm Mass

****Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request****

**Sat. Holy Half Hour-Rosary
6:00 to 6:30 pm**

Reconciliation : 6pm Saturday

CHURCH ROSTER: 30/31 AUGUST 2026

5/6 SEPTEMBER 2026

	Saturday 6.30 pm	Sunday 10.30 am	Saturday 6:30 pm	Sunday 10:30 am
Readers:	J. Patroni	D. Quinn	C. Meagher	Z. O'Malley
Offertory:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Church Cleaners:				
Sacristy	V. Musca		Y. Gray	
Altar Servers:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers

Special Ministers: T. Cutri; T. Glass, Y. Gray; P. Jackson; J. Jefferys; P. Riethmuller.

Our Lady of Absam

In 1797, in the small village of Absam near Innsbruck, a young girl was astonished to see an image of the Virgin Mary appear in the windowpane next to her. The image was determined to be miraculous and began to cause miraculous healings. Today, the small glass pane with the image of the Virgin is enshrined in the parish church for veneration.

January 17, 1797: On a snowy day, eighteen-year-old Rosina Buecher was quietly sewing at the family dinner table when she felt a sudden terror. Her father, who was at work in the salt mines, came immediately to her mind and she feared he had been in a terrible accident.

She was drawn to look out the window - and was surprised to see an amazing sight. An image of a beautiful young woman had formed on the glass of the window next to her. She called to her mother, who saw it too, and they both assumed it to be the Blessed Virgin. The parish priest was summoned and they told the neighbors. People seemed to all agree that the image was a portrait of the Virgin Mary.

Despite her mother's worry, Rosina thought that it was a sign that her father and brother would come home safely despite her premonition. They did arrive safely and, amazingly gave the report that they had just survived a salt mine accident.

The parish priest had the windowpane removed for examination by experts, who discovered that the image disappeared when submerged in water, but reappeared as before when dry. The glass was scrubbed and the image disappeared -- but then reappeared. Even attempts to sand it off or to remove it permanently with acid failed miserably. The origin of the image was declared undetermined, and both the priest and bishop declared the image to be miraculous.

January 24 1797 The window was returned to the Buecher family, but at the request of the villagers (who argued, "Where the Son stays, there must be a place for the Mother too"), they donated



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RECONCILIATION: Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm
or on request prior to Sunday mass
Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

PARISH NOTICES

Feast days for the week

Mon	31	St Aidan
Tue	1	St Giles, St Teresa Margaret Redi of the Sacred Heart
Thu	3	Pope St Gregory the Great
Fri	4	St Cuthbert, St Mac Nissi
Sat	5	St Teresa of Calcutta, St Herbert



Welcome Fr Paul Huynh



Centenary Celebrations Photos

Photos from the Merredin Parish & School Centenary on 2 August are now ready for your download, provided by the Catholic Record Office

<https://archdioceseofperth.pic-time.com/-merredin-parish-centenary>

KSC EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP 2026/27

The Trustee of the KSC Education Foundation Inc (a project of the Knights of the Southern Cross) invites applications from teachers of Religious Education in WA Catholic Schools to undertake further study for units in RE and Theology at UNDA in 2027. Applications open 31 August 2026 and close 26 October 2026. For application forms and information contact the Trustee via KSC Education Foundation Inc. PO Box 1048, South Perth WA 6951.

Our Lady of Absam (Cont)

it to Saint Michael's Church for veneration. News of it quickly spread, and pilgrims began to flock to Absam to pray before the image.

Soon, miraculous healings began to occur after praying to Our Lady of Absam. Those who were healed donated ex-votos of small paintings to the church, most of which depict a sick person lying in bed or a worshipper at prayer, with the words ex-voto ("out of thanks"), a date, and a small image of the apparition. These have all been kept and can be seen in the Chapel of Ex-Votos outside the church.

The miraculous image of Our Lady of Absam can be seen in a side altar of the parish church of Absam. The glass pane is just seven inches tall and five inches wide, but the face of Mary can be clearly seen. It is enclosed in a metal shrine with golden rays, a golden crown, golden flowers, and precious jewels. The face of the Virgin in the image is young and gentle and befits the most affectionate title used commonly by Austrians and Germans for the Virgin Mary: "Our Dear Lady" (Frau Liebe).

Two main feast days are celebrated at Absam: January 17, the day of her appearance; and June 24, the installment of the Virgin's picture in the parish church. Special celebrations also take place at the shrine every month on the 17th. At Christmastime, the pilgrimage church at Absam has one of the area's loveliest nativity scenes.

GOSPEL

Mt 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

GENUINE DISCIPLESHIP

Today's Gospel follows on immediately from last Sunday's Gospel and the question posed to Jesus' disciples in Matthew's day, and to us, about his identity. Jesus then outlines what awaits him in Jerusalem—his suffering, death and resurrection. These words seem either incomprehensible to his disciples, represented by Peter, or are rejected.

Whatever the reason for Peter's reaction, following God's anointed one on a path of suffering, death and resurrection is unfathomable. The disciples imagine a triumphant, powerful figure who will overcome Roman opposition. Success and status are their vision for the future of discipleship!

Today's Gospel is a sobering reminder that suffering is not excluded from discipleship. Life's tragedies and concerns are not the opposite of following Jesus; they can be authentic expressions of it. Disciples are not called to seek suffering nor to become victims. Rather, suffering can be integrated into genuine discipleship. These are important insights especially for some who think that they must 'prove' their loyalty to Jesus by seeking out further pain or suffering. We know that suffering is part of life; we need not look for it further. We are surrounded by a world of suffering.

Today we acknowledge the sufferings of those who gather with us in our Assembly, especially those borne silently or through violence, including domestic violence.

Fr Michael Trainor