



St Peter Julian Eymard Catholic Church Mooroolbark Parish



*We are a Welcoming Eucharistic and Spirit Filled
Parish Community*

SPJE PARISH IS A CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Parish Priest
Fr. Joseph Xin Lu

Parish Secretary
Mrs. Adriana De Leo

Parish Assistant
Mr. Brian Twining

Parish Office
234 Hull Road (PO Box 2)
Mooroolbark 3138
Telephone: 9723 4275 Fax: 9725 4377
<http://pol.org.au/mooroolbark/Home.aspx>
Email: mooroolbark@cam.org.au

Parish Hall - contact Parish Office

SPJE Parish School
Reay Road, Mooroolbark 3138
Telephone 9725 0595 Fax 9723 9255
School Principal – Mr. Greg Thomas
<http://www.spiemooroolbark.catholic.edu.au>

SPJE - Outside School Hours Care
Tel: 8215 9206

St. Richard's Parish School
672 Mt. Dandenong Rd.
Kilsyth, 3137
Telephone 9728 4378 Fax 9728 6272
School Principal - Mr. Marcus Gill
<http://www.srkilsyth.catholic.edu.au>

Normal Mass Times at SPJE
Weekday Masses - Tuesday - Friday: 9.15 am

Saturday: No morning Mass
Saturday: 6.00 pm (vigil)
Sunday: 9.00 am
Sunday: 11.00 am

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.15 pm
or by arrangement with Priest.
Sacraments (Baptism, Weddings)
Ring Parish Office 9723 4275



ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If assistance is required, please
contact 1800 305 330,
Mon – Fri 10 am-3 pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Time Year B 13th December 2020 Issue No 47

3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B, 2020

The prophet Habakkuk (3:17-18) said, “Though the fig tree blossoms not, nor fruit be on the vines; though the yield of olive fail, and the terraces produce no nourishment; though the flocks disappear from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord and exult in my saving God.”

The prophet Habakkuk is telling us that whatever happens he will still rejoice in the Lord. So for us, even with the pandemic, we still rejoice in the Lord.

Today is called rejoicing Sunday. In the Catholic Church of sixty years ago, when Advent was a greater time of penance, in preparation for the celebration of Christmas, the Third Sunday of Advent was like a “time out” from penance. In today’s Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24) you may have noticed the words of St. Paul, “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

In writing to the Thessalonians, St. Paul was only echoing the words of the Psalmist (30:12) who said, “Oh Lord, my God, forever will I give you thanks.”

Even if the fig tree blossoms not, even if the vines produce no fruit, and the olives fail, and the terraces produce no nourishment, and the flocks disappear, and there be no herd in the stalls, yet “the favours of the Lord I will sing forever.” (Psalm 89:1)

Fr. Joseph Xin Lu

PARISH UPDATE

MASS UPDATE

To all parishioners,

The parish leadership team would like to emphasise the rules (not our rules) around our Church reopening based on the directions from the Chief Medical Officer, Victorian Government and the Archbishop.

However with the easing of restrictions, the capacity of the Church has now increased.

The Church has the capacity to allow **140** attendees at each Mass. A QR code is available for those who wish to use it, **(please ask for assistance if required) however registrations are still a requirement for contact tracing.**

1. Masks are mandatory inside the Church at all times unless you have a medical exemption (please provide proof).

2. Mass bookings are essential, however for those people who have attended a regular Mass over the last 4 weeks, you do not need to keep registering unless you cannot attend or wish to change your preferred Mass.

3. You must contact the person coordinating your preferred Mass,
6.00pm Bernadette Brown 0447743138
9.00am Marg Vallence 0403568302
11.00am Adriana De Leo 9723 4275
to make these changes. This will allow others to attend.

4. Mass attendance lists are prepared each Friday, the person on the list is the person that needs to attend Mass. Not to be substituted with another person{s}.

5. Father Joseph is too busy with Christmas preparations to be involved in booking Masses, please do not ring, text or email him for Mass bookings or changes, please follow the advice above about the contacts for each Mass (item 3).

6. Everyone attending Mass must sanitise their hands on entering the Church and ensure they are seated in the pews where marked X. Couples and family groups (who share a household) can sit together ensuring 1.5 metres distance from others sharing a row.

7. The main entrance door to the Church will be locked at 6.00pm, 9.00am and 11.00am, so please ensure you arrive at least five minutes before Mass time.

8. All people must exit the Church through the side doors.

We ask that you strictly adhere to this advice to ensure that we can safely remain open as well as supporting the health and wellbeing of all parishioners.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER as long as we all do the right thing.

BAPTISMS :

The parish is conducting Baptisms as follows:

1. Baptisms are required to meet the Covid Safe requirements for religious activities.
2. Attendance restrictions may apply.

Please contact the Parish Office by email mooroolbark@cam.org.au

Readings for Next Week – 20th December 2020

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



We pray for parishioners and friends who are ill;

*Trish Fenton, Julia & Mabel Dana,
Rose Robert, Lorraine Downie, Trish Leahy,
Jean Blencowe & Danielle Devlin*

† Remembrance Diary †

We remember those who have died, especially and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

12/12 to 18/12

Margaret Galea, Frank D'Orival, Thelma Dight, Rudi Franz, Vladimir Klepac, Alfred Andersen, George Bell, George Hewerdine, Francis Cheah Wan Kong, Valerie Hope, James Corrigan, Caterina Zinghini, Tanya Suhr, David Tatnell, Anne Harding, Colin Reilly, Mary Wallace, Joy Blake, Pasqua Napolitano, Chris Dennany, Paul Windsor, Patrick Walsh, James Malone.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

SPJE Church



Christmas Eve Thurs. 24th December

6.00 pm Mass (School Oval)

9.00 pm Mass (Church)

11.00 pm Mass (Church)

Christmas Day Friday 25th December

9.00 am & 10.30 am Mass in the Church

ROSTERS

Mass Co-ordinators December

6.00 pm Bernadette Brown

9.00 am Lilette de la Harpe

11.00am Geraldine O'Hare

Cleaners

13th Dec Graeme Vear & Ged Wright

19th Dec Margaret Kim & Esther Ngaihte

Flowers

24th Dec Christmas (Pat Harman)

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL

Thanks for the support over the years, which made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has provided in clean water, health education and improved living stands to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year.

This especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating.

Please visit <https://mom.org.au> for more information.

Envelopes in the church foyer for those wishing to donate to this appeal.



St Vincent de Paul



Our Christmas Tree with the usual tags will be at all the Masses and we will be very grateful if you can help as you have over many years. There are also tags for donations for those who prefer not to buy gifts. There is no need to wrap the gifts as we have to open them before we give them out. All parcels should be returned by the **14th December**.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of the Mooroolbark Conference of St. Vincent de Paul, your generosity helps us to continue our very important work of helping those in need.

SVDP Christmas Cards and Columban Calendars on sale in the church foyer.

Christmas cards are \$5.00 for a pack of 5.

Columban Calendars \$9.00





CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



SPJE Church Christmas Mass Times

Thurs. 24th December 6 pm Mass (School Oval)
 9 pm Mass (Church)
 11 pm Mass (Church)

Friday. 25th December 9am Mass – (Church)
 10.30am Mass (Church)

There will be no Carols preceding the Masses. CDs will be played.
 If the rules change there will be updates regarding numbers allowed



CONFIRMATION

The Parish wish to congratulate and give our very best wishes to all those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation over the next few weeks. May this Sacrament strengthen you in the years ahead.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE – Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week during school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding at the end of January.

Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact)

Website: www.mercyworks.org.au

Mercy Connect Melbourne

Tel: 9326 1895



Last weekend we celebrated the first baptism back since the lockdown with the parish community for baby William (Liam) Reilly.



CHRISTMAS ROSTER

The Christmas Roster sheet has been put up on the notice board in the Church foyer.

We are looking for volunteer readers, commentators etc for all of the Christmas Masses..

If you can help, please include your name on the Roster or email the parish office on Mooroolbark@cam.org.au A.S.A.P.

Thank You.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY

The **3rd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The third candle is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

Christians may wonder why the church decided to make this particular candle a different colour than the others.

Although Christians have presented several reasons for the pinkish nature of the candle, from a tradition where priests would wear pink vestments to parents eagerly awaiting the joy of a child's arrival by painting the room pink, the rosy candle has its roots in something known as [Gaudete Sunday](#).

During this third week of advent, this Sunday celebrates the passage [Philippians 4:4-5](#), its verses extolling readers to "rejoice" for "indeed the Lord is near."

In other words, this week celebrates the joy of Christ's coming to earth.

We should also note that not every church uses a pink candle to represent this day. Some will use a violet one, just like all the others. Violet tends to have a somber nature, and it also reflects royalty, acknowledging Jesus' kingship.

It is also known as the Shepherd Candle to highlight the joy the shepherds experienced when they received the good news about Christ's birth ([Luke 2:8-20](#)). During the middle of the night, the darkest time, the shepherds encountered angels.

This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of **heaven**, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

Those who gathered around the new baby were blessed because they believed that you had fulfilled your promises. Mary and Joseph believed and were able to feel the joy of holding baby Jesus in their arms. The shepherds and wise men believed the angles and the signs and experienced the great gladness of worshipping their Messiah.

