



## 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](mailto: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.spjemooroolbark.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

**25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A**  
**20th September 2020 Issue No 35**

### Reflection - Matthew 20:1-16

This is a Gospel that upsets most people,  
who have worked for a living.  
Here's the landowner, who goes to look for his men in the  
marketplace.

It's okay if you do that in the morning, say at dawn,  
and lead them back and show them what they have to do,  
but then he goes out 5 more times.

What does that tell you about him?

He knows about life, day by day, getting or  
not getting money, getting or not getting food,  
waiting, while your heart sinks throughout the day.

He says, "Why are you standing all day idle?"

They say, "Nobody will hire us." So he hires them.

Whether he needs them or not, and he brings them back.  
And he pays them equally no matter the time he hired them  
***And that's a clue about this Gospel.***

Jesus wants you to know that the landowner is God,  
and His vineyard is very special.

He sent His Son to do something extraordinary,  
which was to change the world.

The vineyard is the sign of the new world,  
the world that God Himself wants His Son to establish.  
It's not just a story about hiring hands, it's God preparing His  
garden, that will be the new world.

A new kind of living, a new value system, not based on fair  
or unfair, just or unjust. It's wanting to care for others, to  
love others, to wipe their tears, to take care of them.

For these are not workers in a vineyard, these are the people  
who will people the new world.

We give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is  
everlasting.

And when we keep this in our mind and work during our day,  
no matter what comes up, what great sorrows or what great  
joys come up. we offer them up in gratitude to the God who  
comes out to search for us, to find us when we go off  
wandering in other directions, hiding sometimes from Him.

He brings us back to the vineyard. not so we can go to  
heaven, but because we are the children of God.

*Marg Vallenge With Acknowledgement to:  
Fr D J. Hanly [dec] a Maryknoll priest.*



## PARISH UPDATE

### Stage 4 Restrictions

The church is closed until it is safe to re open.

No weekday or weekend Masses until further notice.

Only Funerals are allowed in the church with a maximum of 10 people.

Please take care & stay safe everyone we are nearly there .....



### PARISH NEWSLETTER

If you know of someone who is not receiving a newsletter please email the parish office and we will include them on our weekly email list.

Do you know of a parishioner who lives close by and has no internet access?

Fr Joseph has asked if you could please print & drop off the weekly parish newsletter into their letterbox when you are out walking.

It would be most appreciated.

*Thankyou.*

You don't have a soul.

You are a soul.

You have a body.

- C.S. Lewis

### Readings for Next Week – 27th Sept 2020

Ezek 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32



We pray for parishioners and friends who are ill;

*Trish Fenton, Annette Andrewartha,  
Julia & Mabel Dana, Rose Robert,  
Lorraine Downie, Trish Leahy,  
Jean Blencowe, Nancy Greco.*

### ✠ Remembrance Diary ✠

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

19/9 to 25/9

Joan Porter (First Anniversary),  
Zena Fraser, Thomas Johnston, Girlie Lummis,  
Paul Finck, Don Brown, Clare Dent, Alan  
Stuart, Ambrose Commene, Mary White, Joy  
Ratten, Moya Collins, Catherine Johnston,  
Noreen Gilby, Joh Kelly, Ellen Bennett, Mary  
Zahra, Frank Scundi, Fr Bill Van Kooy, Scott  
Ruzicka, Elaine Reading, Mary Stone, Pauline  
George, Jacqueline Ten, Phillip Pearson, Fran  
Keyhoe, Johanna Van Est, Anthony Borg,  
Maria Sison, Ron Irwin.

### THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

**Parish still needs your help !**

During this difficult time, parishioners are encouraged to continue to support the Parish financially. This support is essential to the ongoing weekly expenditure of our Parish. Thanksgiving envelopes can be dropped off at the Parish Office. **(left side of front door).**

**Please note there is no need to submit multiple envelopes; where possible, one envelope with multiple weekly donations is acceptable.**

**Please indicate the amount of money, contained in each side of all envelopes, on the front**

Alternatively, you may wish to contribute via EFT or Credit Card. Please phone or email the parish office for details.

**Fr Joseph and parish staff wish to pass on their heartfelt thanks to all parishioners who are continuing to support the church financially during this very difficult time of pandemic and now stage 4 lockdown.**



## TOMATO PLANTS FOR SALE



**The Mooroolbark Conference of St. Vincent de Paul will again have Tomato Plants for sale.**

Proceeds will be invaluable this year in helping us to assist those who have been affected financially by the Pandemic.

Because of the Covid restrictions the selling will be done differently than previous years.

Orders will be taken over the phone the plants will be packed and then delivery will be made.

Orders will be accepted from the 20th September until the 12th October.

Orders can be made by ringing

**Bernie Bohan 0408 508 153 - Richard Knight 0466 977 640 - Jan Phippard 0417 335 763**

You are welcome to share these numbers with people who don't receive the newsletter and who might like to buy plants.

**The plants will be \$2.50 each and there will be 8 varieties.**

**Grosse Lisse; Beefsteak; Bucci; Tiny Tom; Sweet Bite; Black Russian; San Marzano Roma; Ox Heart.**

Thank you for your ongoing support of St Vincent de Paul.

Jan Phippard - President

St Vincent de Paul Mooroolbark



## THE SAPLING

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of  
new growth.

For the people who never give up.

For the ones who look after the sick.

For those who insist that black lives matter.

For those who bring food to those who can't  
leave home.

They are all like saplings, small plants that  
point to a bigger future.

We thank you for the call to new growth in our  
own lives,

To new commitment, to fresh honesty, to  
deeper love.

Be with us as we begin to branch out.

Make us stronger.

Amen.



## HEART OF LIFE

***'Walking with Wisdom' Contemplative***

***Sessions (via Zoom) – Thursdays, 10am-***

***12.30pm (AEST) on 8, 15, 22 & 29 October 2020.***

***We invite you to join us for a series of contempla-***

***tive sessions with Carole Carmody rsm and***

***Marlene McGrath, providing opportunities for Deep***

***Listening: to oneself at this unique time in our***

***lives; to Divine Wisdom in the Heart, and in the***

***Hearts of Others; and to engage in a gentle,***

***creative response. Join for one or all sessions.***

***\$85 for the Series or \$25 per session. Bookings at***

***[www.trybooking.com/BLILH](http://www.trybooking.com/BLILH). Heart of Life Centre***

***for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, tel 03 9890***

***1101, [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)***



## FR JOSEPH HOMILY

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Year A, 2020

The parables of Jesus tell us much about God. The parables of Jesus sometimes surprise us, even shock us. Things in the parables are so different from what we would have expected. God is different. For example, in today's gospel (Matt 20:1-16) most of us expected that those workers in the vineyard who worked the whole day would receive more than those who worked only one hour. Hearing this parable, we were almost as shocked as the labourers who had worked the whole day were shocked.

The owner of the estate is a figure of God. Jesus tries to explain why the owner acted this way (why God acts this way) but some of us still find it hard to understand the explanation. It is not surprising that we cannot understand some of God's ways because, St. Paul exclaims in his letter to the Romans (11:33), "How deep are the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How inscrutable his judgements and how unsearchable his ways!" The prophet Isaiah in the first reading says: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts and your ways are not my ways. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts." In other words, we just do not know how events in life fit into God's plan for us. Confucius put it well: "Human beings have a thousand plans, but heaven has only one."

Why is God always surprising us? Because God is so far superior to us, so far beyond us, God's ways are not our ways – and this surprises us. God is unlimited and our understanding of God is so limited. It is said that when we think we know everything about God that is a sure sign that we know very little about God – because God is completely beyond our human ability to know him completely. We can only say that we know some aspects of God especially through Jesus. We should rejoice that we have a God whom we cannot fully understand – because if we could fully understand God then God would be just like us – and God would not be God.

As I was driving this morning (Wednesday) on my way back from Lilydale Marketplace, I listened to the FM Radio Channel 88 which is a religious channel, the radio commentator was explaining the Gospel passage John 16:33 which says: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Let us keep these words of Jesus in our hearts and may these words of Jesus be the source of our strength mentally and spiritually during this challenging time.





## Social Services Sunday

*The Church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. - Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #24*

On 20th September 2020, we mark [Social Services Sunday](#) within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities.

We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria’s 45 [member organisations](#), the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the 2020/21 Social Justice Statement brought out recently by the Australian Catholic bishops, [To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today](#), and so draw your attention to a recent event hosted by CSSV, [Counselling and Therapeutic Support in a Time of COVID](#), which provided an opportunity to become more familiar with mental health services, and how to practically reach out for or point to assistance. Parishioners will find the resources in this article helpful.

### **THE SMALLEST ACT OF CARING**

“The majority of us lead quiet, unheralded lives as we pass through this world. There will most likely be no ticker-tape parades for us, no monuments created in our honour.

But that does not lessen our possible impact, for there are scores of people waiting for someone just like us to come along; people who will appreciate our compassion, our unique talents. Someone who will live a happier life merely because we took the time to share what we had to give. Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have a potential to turn a life around. It’s overwhelming to consider the continuous opportunities there are to make our love felt.”

Leo Buscaglia



### **FRIENDS**

“When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.”

Henri Nouwen



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