



# 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**

*We acknowledge the Wurundjeri People, the traditional custodians of this land*

**Parish Priest**  
Fr. Joseph Xin Lu

**Parish Secretary**      **Parish Assistant**  
Mrs. Adriana De Leo      Mr. Brian Twining

**Parish Office**  
234 Hull Road (PO Box 2) Mooroolbark 3138  
Telephone: 9723 4275

**Parish Mobile: 0493 071 811 - For emergency  
and church registrations**

<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**  
Telephone: 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

Tues: 9.30 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

**17th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**24th July 2022      Issue No. 26**

REFLECTION

*I have been privileged over recent years– even blessed - to learn from, to be awakened by, scientists like Brian Cox & David Attenborough; a host of indigenous programmes, including First Footprints, Back to Country & Ablaze; through to the Carbon & Rivers on to the James Webb Telescope. Through these & so many other revelations of our ever-enlivening, ever-loving Creator God, I believe we can come to more clearly recognize the closeness & care of our Creator God in our Cosmos. Reminded of that closeness by today's story of Abraham arguing/ negotiating with his God on behalf of his people, I would like to share an article by a remarkable Benedictine nun from the US, Joan Chittister, a prophet in our time, who was a recent speaker in Melbourne. A few slow prayerful/ thoughtful reads might help to make sense of our God & God's Universe.*

*THE COSMIC GOD IS A SURETY - Vision & Viewpoint -18 July 2022*  
"I have no doubt now that God is with us all and comes often to many in a burst of awareness. The difference is that the Presence becomes a guide, a warmth, not a vengeful human being writ large. Instead the cosmic God is a surety, a promise of support, a reminder of what the Jewish community has always called "The Covenant" and the Quakers call "The Inner Light". God is the internal voice calling me to give myself to the fullness of life. It is the trek of the soul to wholeness and understanding. It is an awareness within me of my identity with all creation and the strength I need to wrestle my own uncertainty, indifference, spiritual deafness to the ground: Let me explain:

Science has become my spiritual director. It is science that brought me face-to-face with the awareness of the overwhelming, immeasurable Presence that is God. It took me to the edge of life, beyond the fairytale God. It helped me to understand that the Light was the energy from which all things come. It brought me to realize that the Cosmic Presence, the beginning and end of everything, has been consumed, dwarfed, shrunk, and reduced to magic; warring, venging, judging, and manipulating the laws of life. God, to be God, is the substance, the embrace, the whole of life. It's out of five basic elements - oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, phosphorus and carbon - that all the elements of life come. These five elements are at the base of all life processes, in all of us, in all living things everywhere. "We are made of the same makings as the stars," Dr Ashley King, a planetary scientist and stardust expert teaches. "Nearly all the elements in the human body were made in a star...", and so, I believe, will return to stardust at the end. The poets tell us that we are nothing but stardust. But stardust is the same stuff of a Cosmic God as we are its cosmic dust. Think of it: God is within us and we are within God, the Light - God, the energy of all life, God the Creator of the universe.

God within us is Light, the essence of revelation and insight. God within us is energy, the pointer toward the tomorrow that comes out of today. God within us pours out on us the reckless generation of the gifts of life." from *An Evolving God, An Evolving Purpose, An Evolving World* by Joan Chittister (Fortress Press).

*Our prayer through this week could be based on the alternate prayer for this Sunday:-*

Dear MOTHER/FATHER GOD, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendour of Creation, In the beauty of all life. Touched by your hand, our world is holy. Help us to cherish & nurture the gifts that surround & dwell within us, sharing your abundance of blessings with our sisters & brothers, & so to experience the joy of life and love in your presence, now and in our forever life with you, through JESUS our brother in the POWER OF YOUR SPIRIT.  
Forever proclaiming AMEN! AMEN! AMEN! ALLELUIA!!!

*Michael McLindon, blessed to be a fellow parishioner on our wondrous  
Cosmic Journey*

**JULY & AUGUST 2022  
PARISH CALENDAR**

**23/24th**      **17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 Baptism & Welcome 11am  
 28th Thu      Music Practice - Church 7.30pm  
 29th Fri      CONFIRMATIONS - 5.30pm  
                     CONFIRMATIONS - 7.30pm  
**30/31st**      **18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 30th Sat      CONFIRMATIONS - 2.00pm  
                     Baptism Welcome - 6pm  
 31st              Baptism - 11am

**AUGUST**

**2nd Tue**      **FEAST DAY**  
 3rd Wed      Baptism Preparation Meeting -  
                     7.30pm Church - Iris Gale  
 4th Thu      SPJE School Baptism Preparation  
                     Meeting - 7pm  
**6/7th**        **19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 Monthly Church Collection - all  
 Masses  
 11th Thu      Parish Pastoral Council Meeting  
                     5.00 pm (Parish House)

**Weekday Mass Times**

**Tuesday 9.30 am**

**Readings for Next Week - 31st July**

**Ecc1 1:2,2:21-23; Ps 89:3-6,12-14,17;  
 Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21**

**Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for parishioners and friends who are ill;

***James Brien, Eleanor Thompson,  
 Patricia Fenton, Patricia Koblar,  
 Brenda Corrigan, Vic Garcia,  
 Pam Stephens, Hyacinth Pereira,  
 Judith Fitzgerald & Priya***

**† Remembrance Diary †**

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

**23/7 to 29/7**

Ampora Mangahas, Gary Goodwin, Lil Briggs,  
 Ronald Almond, Margaret Rigby, Avon Fatur,  
 Sr Pat Murphy, Thomas Commane, Narcisa Montejo  
*[1st Anniversary]*, Marlene Cabral *[1st Anniversary]*,  
 Harold Fox, Kevin Dillon, Terry Collins,  
 Theresia Humphries, Jim Collins, Ann Bernadine Cox,  
 Mark Ralston, Judy Margerison, Amy Paternoster,  
 Carmel Ryan, Christine Morrison, Dean Andrewartha,  
 Georgina Greblo, Leonard Ryan,  
 Patrick James Bourke-Finn, Ron Rigby,  
 Ann Howatt, Eleazar De Souza, Gerald Lane,  
 John Larsen, John Nugent, John Griffith,  
 Peter Hupport & Paul Rigby

**ROSTERS**

**Counters - Month of July**

Jan Phippard & Eileen Goltz

**Flowers - Month of July**

Pat Harman

**Church Cleaners - Month of July**

Margaret Kim & Esther Ngaihte

*(Please collect church key from parish office  
 Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm)*

**Readers and Commentators - 30/31st July**

6.00 pm      Paul Redfern, Paul Martin  
 9.00 am      Marinella Mack, Karen Broughton  
 11.00am      Jun Romero, Volunteer

**Musicians - 30/31st July**

6.00 pm      No Music  
 9.00 am      No Music  
 11.00am      No Music

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL**



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



**BAPTISM**

We welcome to our Parish through  
 Baptism  
***Jaxon & Eliza Corcoran***

As they receive the Holy Spirit through the  
 Sacrament celebrated this weekend, may their faith  
 guide them throughout their life.

## Thanksgiving Offering Appeal

The Parish is aware many of you contribute to the thanksgiving but maybe there are some of you who are now in a better position financially to be able to increase your contributions.

For those who have never joined thanksgiving offering programme, would you consider becoming a contributor. Monies received through the Thanksgiving offering envelopes are the income on which the Parish operates.

Budgeting is never easy but sharing the load is.

**During 2021 - 2022 expenditure on church and parish house maintenance & renovations costs totalled \$153,349**

**If you are able to commence contributing through Thanksgiving please complete a census/pledge card available on the table adjacent to Mary Mackillop portrait in church foyer.**

If you prefer, take the card home to complete it and return it next week give to Fr Joseph or drop it into the Parish office. Please contact the Parish Office on 9723 4275 if you wish to increase your offering. *Thank you for your continued support From Fr Joseph and the Parish Leadership Team*



### THANKSGIVING OPTIONS

If you wish to contribute via Credit Card - please contact the parish office 9723 4275 we will set this up for you with your nominated monthly contribution. On the 1st of every month.

OR

you may wish to consider to contribute via direct bank deposit/transfer.

Please see parish bank details below.

#### St Peter Julian Eymard Church Bank Details

Account Name: SPJE Church Account

BSB: 083 347

Account No: 53013 7717

Reference details: *please provide your name and related payment e.g. Smith Baptism*

#### St Peter Julian Presbytery Bank Details

Account Name: SPJE Presbytery Account

BSB: 083 347

Account No: 669155805

Reference details: *please provide your name and related payment e.g. Smith & Env. Number*

### Parish Weekly Contributions

Church weekly average contributions \$1,200

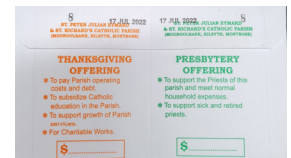
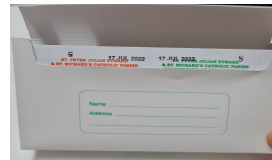
Presbytery weekly average contrib. \$ 422

### NEW THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Those who are currently on thanksgiving please collect your new thanksgiving envelopes from the office.

After the **19th July**

Dispose of your old envelopes.



## SPJE FEAST DAY HAMPER RAFFLE

The Parish will be conducting a Hamper Raffle in Celebration of our Patron Saint.

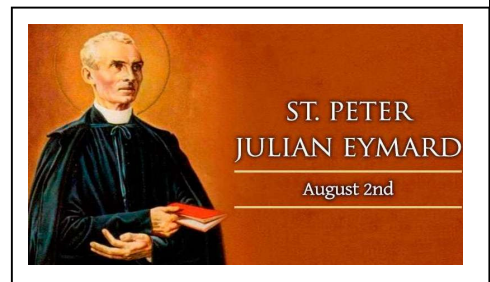
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Hampers PLUS a Bonus Prize will be on display in church foyer

Tickets will be available for purchase at all masses and the winner will be drawn on the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> August, which is the weekend following the 2<sup>nd</sup> August Feast Day of St Peter Julian Eymard.

All items in the hamper have been donated and we are very Thankful to those people who have contributed.

Please come prepared to buy a ticket or two or three. Tickets are \$1 each.

We would be very grateful to have volunteers to sell tickets at all masses.



VGCCC – Declaration Number 62230 - 21/3/2022 – 20/3/2032

## Crash Repairer/Panel Beater

Fr Joseph requires the services of a panel beater to repair his car, which has sustained damage to the rear - bumper bar and boot lid

If any parishioner knows someone who can assist him with this, could they please contact the parish office 9723 4275 and leave a message

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

### An opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication.

This experience gives you the tools to keep your passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living.

The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

#### Please check our website for more details.

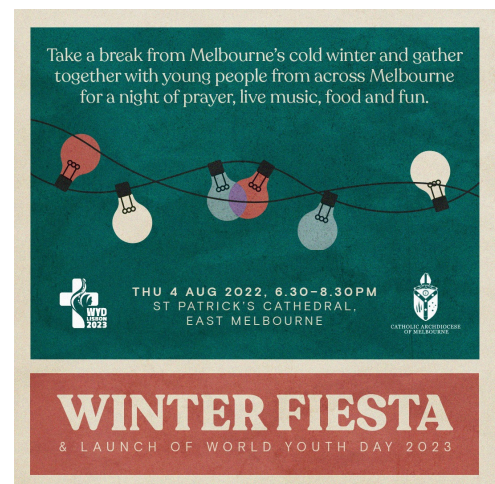
We have two options: An on-line/virtual weekend: **19 -21 August 2022** in the comfort of your own home, or a non-residential parish based weekend: **22- 23 October 2022** in Niddrie.

(Book early to avoid disappointment)

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or  
Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

## Winter Fiesta and WYD Launch

Join Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli for SIX30 Holy Hour followed by a Winter Fiesta in the grounds of the Cathedral. This will be a great opportunity to shake off the winter chills with some live music, delicious food and great company. We are looking forward to great night of prayer, music, food and fun, and Archbishop Peter will also use this opportunity to launch our pilgrimages to WYD 2023.



**Thursday 4 August, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

St Patrick's Cathedral

More information: <https://udisciple.melbournecatholic.org/events/winter-fiesta>

## Can you undertake an Overseas Mission?

Our sister churches in Africa, Asia and the Pacific are requesting Australian Catholics to join them to build the skills of those in their community who have had less opportunity than ourselves.

Please consider these [Mission opportunities abroad](#).

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference provide support. [Palms Australia](#), who have prepared Australian Catholics for global mission since 1961, will ensure accommodation and a living allowance is provided to you during your time away.

[Enquire online](#) or **Phone: 0422 742 567** to find out about a placement to engage your skills.

You can also [Register](#) for a Webinar on **Monday August 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm** to talk directly with a Palms' partner community in Timor Leste and two Australians recently posted to work with them. Invite your friends. **The stories will inspire.**

## **A reflection on a recent article by James Valentine, “My faith is personal and beyond belief”**

James Valentine, a presenter on Sydney’s ABC radio, wrote an article affirming his beliefs in ‘love, hope and my fellow humans’ (“My faith is personal and beyond belief”. The Sunday Age 10/7). Valentine’s article is of particular interest to us because he initially makes it clear he is self-described non-religious.

Religious faith, the personal values and beliefs people hold and, perhaps, why they hold them have had quite a public airing of late. Recent reports on the 2021 national census record that main branches of Christianity have lost followers across the five years to last year, including an estimated four per cent reduction for Catholics. As well as this, over the course of the last week, reports have emerged of divisive results arising from action motions relating to “Witnessing to Equal Dignity of Women and Men” presented to the Australian Catholic Church’s Plenary Council. Reports such as these can have the effect of getting one to reflect on one’s own values and what underpins them in 2021.

Unlike James Valentine, I profess to have a religious faith; I am a Catholic. In the course of his piece, Valentine poses the question, “But then, what do I believe in?” He then sets about answering this in the third column of his article with a list of virtue statements and values, none of which I would find myself disagreeing with. But after setting these out in the article, to some extent we part company. “What we have right now is enough.” “I don’t need a meaning.” “I’m born, I don’t know why.” Valentine suggests that he lives for “moments of deep connection and love” He tries to “inhabit a world of laughter and pain when (he sees) pain.” Hates “injustice, bullying, greed and tyranny” is “...inspired that we bend towards solving and fixing.” Valentine states that he loves “this flawed and fractured world—this moment right now” His ‘faith’ (my inverted commas) is in his fellow humans. I would count myself a fellow traveller with all of the above, so, where might this parting company lie?

I guess for me as a Catholic, the answer lies in my faith in Jesus Christ. Faith by definition involves a certain kind of trust. My faith does not deny the importance of other ways of knowing—science, reason and logic, the imaginative understandings that come from engaging with Art, Film and Literature. But my fundamental inspiration, guidance and reasons are underpinned by the example of Jesus Christ in the gospels.

Valentine, to me, misses out on the important spiritual element of being human. I am sad that he suggests that he doesn’t “...need to know how it is” and that he “doesn’t need to know.” Faith in God offers important answers to Valentine’s impressive list of existential values—makes them, potentially, just that much richer.

Christ’s time spent with us on this earth showed us some fundamental things about ourselves. People asked him all sorts of questions; some self-interested, some penetratingly important (How should I live?). His answers were clear but, crucially, left room for our individual consciences to guide how we respond to what we heard him say.

My being a Catholic disappoints me sometimes. Our Church cannot shy away from responsibility for the horrific examples of abuse recorded in the Royal Commission. Our long history of failing to listen to and formally embrace women’s voices, contributions and participation in every aspect of our ministry is baffling and wrong. Finally, in my view, the language through which so much of our communal prayer and expressions of faith is formulated is often off-putting. It can fail to capture the essence of speaking to and with God in the spirit of living in the present time and with an eye on us moving forward as a Church.

I worry that this may be an important reason for the absence of so many young people from our churches. Despite all this, as many have said before me, I am a Catholic because it is who I am. My faith is that this is who God wants me to be. His example gives me guidance about what, how and why I deem important.

I believe that a belief, perhaps such as this, could offer James Valentine a different and more rewarding way of thinking about the values and beliefs he generously shared with us in his article.

*Paul Martin.*