



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.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

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A
27th September 2020 Issue No 36

Reflection

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus didn't walk this earth to win an argument; he came to win our hearts. By humbling himself like this, he showed that his love is real, solid, and eternal. Now he asks us to follow his example. Just as he came not to be served but to serve, he asks us to serve each other. He asks us to win each other's hearts rather than try to break each other's wills.

"Lord, teach me how to become a servant after your own heart."

Pauline George
RE SPJE School



ST VINCENT DE PAUL

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

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.

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE LINK

LIVE STREAM MASS

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

11am MASS ON SUNDAY

Readings for Next Week – 4th October 2020

Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43



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

26/9 to 2/10

Michael Sellar (1st death anniversary)
Ray Commane, Jack Probert, Robbie Reardon, Nellie Collins, Joan Paton, Robert Basile, Lina Beaumont, Vincent O'Brien, Maureen Green, Marg Stephen, John Michael Stewart, Carmel Buhagiar, Ank Van Rooden, Dobre Rajic, Edgidgio Gava, Patricia Sheehan, Paula Greblo, Agnes Gray, Graeme Argus, Margaret Bradburn, Albert Kleverkamp, Brett Whitehouse, Mary Redfern, Paul Slattery, Terry Cronin.

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

PARISHIONER UPDATE

We are pleased to be able to let parishioners know that Louis Wycisk has recovered from Covid 19. Wonderful news.



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 contemplative 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. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, tel 03 9890 1101, www.heartoflife.melbourne

2020 Live Streamed *March for the Babies* October 10 @1 p.m.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Annual March for the Babies 2020 will be a Live Streamed event @ 1p.m. Saturday October 10th.

Join in online www.mftb.online for Victoria's largest pro-life event in defence of the victims of Victoria's inhumane abortion laws, unborn children and their mothers. Featured speakers, powerful testimonies, music and opportunities to promote the "culture of life".



FR JOSEPH HOMILY

26th Sunday of the Year A, 2020

There are groups within the Catholic Church that are very good workers in the Social Apostolate. They try to help the poor or needy get titles to their land. They work for low-cost housing for the poor or needy. They demonstrate for the raising of the minimum wage. But a criticism sometimes made of these Catholic groups (of course not all) is that they are not spiritual enough.

On the other hand, there are spiritual groups within the Catholic Church who are very good at “praising the Lord.” They spend much time in spiritual reading, in reading the Bible and in doing all of the prayers. But the common criticism of many of these Catholic groups (of course not all) is that they spend very little time or even no time in trying to help the poor to meet their material needs.

These have been my personal experiences since I was ordained at 2001 in the Hall of Yarra Theological Union at Box Hill. My own experiences of working at Indianapolis, USA with the black people, my time at Wellington, New Zealand, then my 10 years in the Philippines and 9 years here in our parish at Mooroolbark.

It is very nice, and it is very necessary, to meet Jesus in the Gospels or in our prayers or in our piety. But, as Jesus himself said, it is also very necessary to meet Jesus in the naked, the thirsty, those in prison and those who are abused and in need of protection.

Some Catholics, working in the Social Apostolate, sometimes do not remember God. At least the perception or the experience is like that God is somehow silent or hidden or the one being helped does not feel or experience the care or love of God. Some of them are like social workers but there is almost no spiritual dimension of it. These are the feedbacks that I have experienced.

In today’s gospel (Matt 21:28-32), the father said to his elder son, “Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.” The son replied, “I am on my way, sir,” but he never went. We do not want to be like that, saying, “Yes, Lord, yes Lord!” but never going out to meet Jesus in the poor. On the other hand, the other side of the coin is true also. We do not also want to do good works while neglecting the spiritual dimension as a disciple of Jesus.



Migrant and Refugee Sunday 27th September 2020

A story from before COVID – Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

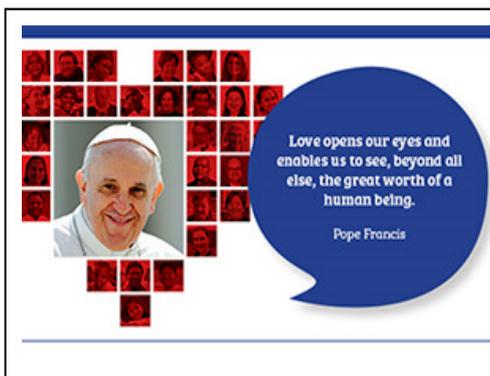
Recently a man (we will call him Reza) was released from Yongah Hill Immigration Detention Centre north of Perth. He had been detained for two years because he was accused of something which was later proven not to be true. Then he continued to be detained because his visa had expired. Reza was released with \$60 which he spent on accommodation while waiting for a plane back to Melbourne.



Reza has a wife and teenage son. BASP has been supporting this family for two years. Reza has no work rights and will have difficulty getting a job so the family will need ongoing assistance. There is no income support for families such as these – they do not qualify for Jobseeker or any other Government funding.

Over the past few years, and especially since the Covid pandemic, the work of BASP has increasingly become helping with rent and utilities and the provision of emergency relief money. Currently we are assisting about 260 people with rent and many more with other needs. Even with discounting what we are paying because we have some donated housing, we are paying about \$100,000 a month to keep people with a minimum of security. Currently, asylum seekers in Melbourne are experiencing a high level of destitution and many would be homeless without the support of groups like BASP. BASP is supported by many people who are responding to the challenge in the parable in Matthew 25, ‘I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

This [2020 World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#) (Sunday, 27 September), let’s remember, pray for, and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many in ‘our own backyard’. [Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria](#) and [parishes across the state](#) are making considerable efforts to assist people seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas. Many remain in harsh circumstances in detention centres, and the majority of the [115,000](#) living in Australian community have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID-19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair.



CatholicCares across Victoria have seen a three times increase in the amount of people with a temporary visa seeking access to Emergency Relief over the past few months, as compared to last year. [CatholicCare Greater Melbourne, Geelong & Gippsland](#) also continues to provide other practical help to a number of asylum seeker families who receive supported housing as well as financial support for food, clothes and utility bills.

[St Vincent de Paul Society](#) is assisting people seeking asylum, migrants, refugees and international students in many different ways across the state. They are paying for rent, food, bills, education and providing support through advocacy and

connection. It is not just in the cities: The Mooroopna SVDP conference in northern Victoria are supporting the rent and bills of 26 families, as COVID-19 has limited work options for many who were employed in casual and precarious work.

Pope Francis in [his message for Migrant and Refugee Sunday](#) tells us “You have to know in order to understand” and “It is necessary to be close in order to serve”. He also points out to us that “It is necessary to cooperate in order to build” — only when different elements of the community work together – organisations, individuals, parishes, schools and universities — can we effectively both advocate for systemic change and provide for people’s immediate necessities.

85 years of inspiration



I first learned about Norma Parker and Constance Moffit in 2014, from Fr Joe Caddy who was CEO of CatholicCare at that time.

He spoke of the two women who founded the Catholic Social Service Bureau back in 1935, pointing to a black and white photograph on the shelf in his office.

In the photo, Norma and Connie (no surnames required) are sporting sculpted hairstyles, all pincurls and mirrored partings. Their outfits are smart and they appear to be wearing bold lipstick. Both are smiling - but they look formidable.

Their story goes like this: in the late 1920s, Norma and Connie received scholarships to study social services in the US. While there, they were impressed by the modern, professional social work practices in place.

In 1931, they returned to Australia where hundreds of thousands of people were out of work. Families who could not afford to feed their children would relinquish them to the care of institutions.



Norma and Connie challenged the traditional, charity-based interventions and convinced Archbishop Mannix to allow them to conduct a review of Catholic institutions in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

This review resulted in the establishment in 1935 of the Bureau (which would later become CatholicCare).

Connie was named Executive Director.

The Bureau would alter the landscape of social services through coordination of the work of Catholic charities, establishment of formal training for social workers, and advocacy to government for increased resources.

I was drawn to the story of these women: courageous innovators (the disrupters of their day) at a time when women were still wearing gloves and hats. Their story is one of the reasons I joined CatholicCare.

I was happy to discover that CatholicCare has continued to be a stomping ground for many other competent, feisty and tenacious women.

Women like [Sr Mary O'Shannassy](#), who heads up CatholicCare's Prison Chaplaincy. Sr Mary began working in Victorian prisons in 1994 and still makes the weekly drive on the Princes Hwy to visit 'residents' at Barwon prison. Sr Mary is a no-nonsense kind of woman; who is equally comfortable meeting with violent offenders as she is with government bureaucrats.

And then there was [Sheree Limbrick](#), who was Acting CEO of CatholicCare, before leaving to head up Catholic Professional Standards - set up to develop and audit standards in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I could not imagine a more capable person for that role.

Another is [Colleen Liddell](#), who at 75 was knocked back as too old to volunteer at another charity, but was welcomed with open arms at CatholicCare. Colleen celebrated her 90th birthday last year and is still volunteering at the HIV/AIDS Ministry!

And then there are the other hundred or so women who are working and volunteering at CatholicCare, providing caring, compassionate support for those in need.

I like to think that Norma and Connie set the tone for how CatholicCare would grow into the organisation it is today. An organisation that welcomes 'thinking outside the box', that excels in collaboration, and shows fearlessness and leadership to best meet the needs of the vulnerable and the marginalised.

And as CatholicCare embarks on a new decade, our people (men and women alike) could do no better than look to Norma and Connie for continued inspiration.

Bernadette Garcia

Executive Manager Communications, Fundraising and Marketing