



# St Peter Julian Eymard Catholic Church Mooroolbark Parish

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

SPJE IS A CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE, THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THIS LAND

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - 18th February 2024 Issue No: 4**

*"When we walk with God through suffering and darkness, we find the light"*

## PARISH CALENDAR FEBRUARY

### 17/18th 1st Sunday of Lent

20th SPJE school - church - 7pm  
21st Wed Musicians Practice - church  
7.30pm

### 24/25th 2nd Sunday of Lent

Church Monthly Collection  
Sat. Wedding - 11.30am SPJE Church  
Sun. Baptism - 9am  
Private Baptism - 12.30pm  
27th Wed Eucharist Family Night - 7.00pm  
29th Thur FDT Meeting—10am

## MARCH

### 2/3 3rd Sunday of Lent

SPJE school - church 7pm  
6th Wed Musicians—Church 7.30pm

### 9/10th 4th Sunday of Lent

### 16/17th 5th Sunday of Lent

Sun St Patrick's Day  
20th Wed Musicians Practice - Church -  
7.30pm

### 23/24th PALM SUNDAY

## HOLY WEEK

## "Promise, Pledge & Repent"

### REFLECTION

Mark 1:12-15

**He was tempted by Satan, and the angels  
looked after him.**

Today's Gospel is split into two parts- the wilderness and Jesus' ministry in Galilee.

During Jesus' time in the desert he was looked after by angels- moments of light amongst suffering. Many of us experienced some form of wilderness in the last few years during the height of the pandemic- but (hopefully), there were also moments of light- perhaps in the sourdough starter or time spent with those who live with us.

Perhaps it was in moments of private prayer. Our Lenten theme is 'When we walk with God through darkness and suffering, we find the light,'. It invites us to reflect on our own wilderness experiences during Lent – moments of crisis and challenge that lead to growth and transformation. Mark's Gospel moves the story from the wilderness to Galilee quickly - and in Galilee, Jesus calls us to repent, and believe the Good News, and that the time to do so is now. So as we enter this Lenten season let us pledge to consider how we can be the best version of ourselves as we strive to be people of light.

Gerard Bolton

Deputy Principal/Religious Education leader  
St Richard's Primary School



## St Peter Julian Eymard Parish Mooroolbark Parish

**Parish Priest**  
**Fr. Joseph**

**Parish Secretary**  
Mrs. Adriana De Leo

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

### Office Hours:

**Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri - 9.00am - 3.00pm**  
*(Office unattended on Wednesday)*

<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  
**School Principal – Mr. Greg Thomas**  
Email: [office@spjemooroolbark.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@spjemooroolbark.catholic.edu.au)  
<http://www.spjemooroolbark.catholic.edu.au>

**St. Richard's Parish School**  
672 Mt. Dandenong Rd Kilsyth, 3137  
Telephone 9728 4378  
Email: [office@srkilsyth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@srkilsyth.catholic.edu.au)  
**School Principal - Mr. Marcus Gill**  
<http://www.srkilsyth.catholic.edu.au>

### Normal Mass Times at SPJE

Weekday Masses  
Tues & Wed : 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

## WEEKDAY MASS

**Tuesday & Wednesdays**

**9.30 am**

### **This Week's Readings - 18th Feb 2024**

Gen 9:8-15: Ps 24:4-9:  
1 Pet 3:18-22: Mk 1:12-15:

### **Prayers for the Sick**

We pray for parishioners and friends who are ill,  
especially

**Margaret McFadden, Ignatius Suan Lian  
Thang, Reji, Annette Eastham, Maria  
Cordedda, Ashley Taylor, Brenda & John  
Delosa, Sofia Aranco, Adrian Klep &  
Lawrence Dee.**

### **† Remembrance Diary †**

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

**17/2 to 23/2**

Ivy Crellin, Joe Ekanayake, Kathleen Collins, Patricia  
Nugent, Jim McKenna, Valentine O'Donnell, Margaret  
Sheehan, Giovanni D'Angelo, Brian Vear, Matt  
Grange, Dorothy Gartlan, Peter Vincent, Mary Ovens,  
Matthew Ellis, Robert Bell, Tony Nugent, Michael  
Watson, Cyril Vincent, Mary Hewett, Henry de la  
Harpe, Maria Bialowieyski, David Bryce.

### **170 Years Anniversary Mass**



On 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm marks  
exactly 170 years since the first Society meeting  
was held in Victoria. Archbishop Commensoli  
will celebrate Mass at St Francis Church in  
Lonsdale St.

Seating is limited and tickets are required.  
If you wish to book, please visit

<https://forms.office.com/r/8hArDNabtm>

For any questions relating to the Mass, please  
email

[MissionandSpirituality@svdp-vic.org.au](mailto:MissionandSpirituality@svdp-vic.org.au)

Richard Knight - President SVDP

## ROSTERS

### Counters - Month of February

Christine Sellar & Karen  
Broughton

### Flowers - Month of February

Philomena Turner

### Church Cleaners - Month of February

Jun Romero Family

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

### Readers & Commentators - 17/18th February

6.00pm Paul Redfern & Paul Martin  
9.00am Muzzena D'Almeida & Volunteer  
11.00am Elizabeth & Reilly Acabado

### Readers & Commentators - 24/25th February

6.00pm Pat Harman & Iris Gale  
9.00am Karen Broughton & Lilette de la  
Harpe  
11.00am Charlotte Wightman & Volunteer

### Musicians - 17/18th February

6.00pm Shelly & Co  
9.00am No Music  
11.00am Zomi Group

### Musicians - 24/25th February

6.00pm Paul & Co  
9.00am Filipino Group  
11.00am No Music

## A Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You are the true King of peace.  
In You alone is found freedom.

Please free our world from conflict.  
Bring unity to troubled nations.  
Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart.

Dispel all darkness and evil.  
Protect the dignity of every human life.  
Replace hatred with Your love.

Give wisdom to world leaders.  
Free them from selfish ambition.  
Eliminate all violence and war.

Glorious Virgin Mary,  
Saint Michael the Archangel,  
Every angel and saint:  
Please pray for peace.  
Pray for unity amongst nations.  
Pray for unity amongst all people.  
Pray for the most vulnerable.  
Pray for those suffering.  
Pray for the fearful.  
Pray for those most in need.  
Pray for us all.

Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy

on us.  
Jesus, hear our prayers. Jesus, I trust in  
You!

Amen.



### First Sunday of Lent 17 & 18 February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations.

**Please donate to Project Compassion.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

# **‘Loneliness’ at heart of Pope’s theme for 4th Grandparents Day**

Pope Francis releases the theme for his message for the 2024 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly: “Do not cast me off in my old age”.

**By Devin Watkins**

On Sunday, July 28, Catholics around the world will be invited to take time to reflect on the great heritage and wisdom passed on by their grandparents and the elderly.

In preparation for the 4th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life released the theme for the 2024 iteration.

The Pope has chosen the theme: “Do not cast me off in my old age” (cf. Psalm 71:9).

According to a press release from the Dicastery, it is meant “to call attention to the fact that, sadly, loneliness is the bitter lot in life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throw-away culture.”

In his message, Pope Francis will draw on the verse from Psalm 71 that depicts the plea of an elderly person who reflects on the story of their friendship with God.

“By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to the life of the Church, the World Day seeks to support the efforts of every ecclesial community to forge bonds between the generations and to combat loneliness, in the awareness that – as Scripture states – “It is not good for man to be alone” (Gen 2:18),” according to the press release.

## **Loneliness and tenderness of Christian community**

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, expressed his gratitude to the Pope for highlighting the loneliness endured by many elderly people.

“Faced with this reality,” he said, “families and the ecclesial community are called to be at the forefront in promoting a culture of encounter, to create spaces for sharing, listening, to offer support and affection: thus, the love of Gospel becomes concrete.”

Loneliness, admitted the Cardinal Prefect, is an unavoidable condition of human life, as well as an invitation to turn to God the Father for comfort.

As Christians, he said, the World Day dedicated to grandparents and the elderly calls us to put aside our throwaway culture and show “tenderness and affectionate attention” to the most fragile members of our communities.



Pope Francis blesses an elderly lady (Vatican Media)