



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



ST VINCENT DE PAUL

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

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A
23rd August 2020 Issue No 31

Who do you say I am ?

In this remote setting, away from the more populous villages Jesus asks the critical question of his disciples – Who do you say I am? The disciples have been with Jesus for a considerable time now.

They have seen Jesus perform miracles, and heard him speak and the question that he poses is to determine their understanding of his mission and their faith. Do they grasp Jesus' identity? Are his words and actions being understood by those closest to him? The answers given are all of those who have already died. However, Simon Peter proclaims that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus insists that the only reason why Peter could make such a testimony of faith was that Jesus' identity had been revealed to him by God. After this Jesus announces that his church will be founded on Peter. Jesus then gives Simon the title 'Peter', from the Greek word 'rock' – petros. Peter the Rock will stand firm against the powers of death. Like a faithful steward with the house keys, Peter is given authority within the community.

Peter is one of my favourite characters in the Bible. He's passionate, bumbling, keen, and basically a bit of a mess. However in spite of all this the Church is built upon him. I love this fact and it's why I chose Peter for my Confirmation name all those years ago.

Rudy Vail

Deputy Principal/Religious Education leader
St. Richards Primary School

PARISH UPDATE

As you are aware this week we enter into stage 4 restrictions for another 6 weeks.

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

No weekday or weekend Masses until further notice.

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

Please take care & stay safe everyone.

Readings for Next Week – 30th August 2020

Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27



We pray for parishioners and friends who are ill;

Trish Fenton, Annette Andrewartha, Julia & Mabel Dana, Matthew Arrowsmith, Rose Robert, Lorraine Downie, Trish Leahy, Jean Blencowe, Nancy Greco, Bernard Vallence & Christine Sellar.

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE

“The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.”

Elisabeth Kübler-Ross



✠ Remembrance Diary ✠

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

22/8 to 28/8

Xavier Clemann, Ann Merbis, Syd Stephens, Veronica Ferrari, Lucy Allan, Frank Scundi, Carmel Azzopardi, Gladys Sullivan, Medecisimo Tejero, Robert McCardle, Fr Geoff James S.J., Dorothea Hannan, Josephine Barbaro-Sant, Annie Eileen Hart, Lidia Correia, Gilbert Whyte, Nic Ellis, Eileen Watson, John Andrew Grant, Rosalina Ignacio, Maree Cambridge, Wilhelmina Commadeur, Szymanski & Moran Families, Mafalda Villella, Patricia Devoy, Tony Colella, Bernard McLindon, Margaret Bramble, Peter Adams.

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.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2020

3 x ALL NEW SUZUKI BALENO TO BE WON!!!



**Draw Date: 26 September 2020 at
7.15 pm**

**Publication of Winners Date:
30 September 2020**

**In Herald Sun and Geelong Advertiser
The Dining Room Table is now clear**



All sold tickets have been sent by Australia Post
to the organisers in Rowville.

My Thanks to everyone who purchased a ticket
or two.

Thanks Adriana & Sue for notices in the
newsletter.

Special thanks to the staff of both schools,
especially Tanya, Amy, Caroline, Fiona &
Sharon.

To all those people who assisted with selling
Tickets in the church foyer at mass, especially
Bob, Wies, Mike and Angela

To Bernadette and Dympna
who verified all the figures

To my husband, Terry who helped me
scrunch over 3000 tickets.

**Good luck to everyone who has participated
in this Parish Fundraiser
[the only one for the year]**

Marg Vallence - 0403 568 302



THANK YOU MARGARET

**Fr Joseph would like to acknowledge and
give a huge thanks to Margaret Vallence
who has worked tirelessly and done a
fantastic job with the Car Raffle
Fundraiser for our parish.**



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE LINK

LIVE STREAM MASS

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

11am MASS ON SUNDAY

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.**

KIRKBRAE NURSING HOME

During these difficult times Fr Joseph was called to
anoint a parishioner who has Covid19 in Kirkbrae
Nursing Home a few weeks ago, while maintaining
a safe distance.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our sick
parishioners.



**Light in the darkness: Taking time out for
a suffering world
(31st August)**

On the eve of Spring, the Victorian Council of
Churches invites all Christians to unite in prayer
for our world. As the last light of the last day of
winter fades on Monday 31st August, all are
encouraged to stand in their front garden, spend
some time in silence and light a candle to
remember all those who have lost their lives to the
Coronavirus or to violence this year.

**Light in the darkness: Taking time out for a
suffering world (31st August)**



FR JOSEPH HOMILY

21st Sunday of the Year A, 2020

Christ is present in the Mass “liturgy” in four equal ways:

In the community gathered in his name.

In the person of the minister (the priest or his delegate).

In his Word.

Under the species of bread and wine.

At this time of Covid – 19 Pandemic, we do not have Eucharistic species being shared or the priest presiding doing the weekdays and weekend masses. However, It might be a graced time for us to re-look to those aspects of the mass which were underestimated in our focus on the role of the priest, and the fact of simply ‘receiving communion.’ There is another word which describes the Mass as “the Holy Sacrifice”. So what is our Christian sacrifice? Christian sacrifice is always a loving act for someone else and it is all those acts that we bring to Mass every weekend. These loving acts are gathered up in Christ’s supreme act of offering himself to the Father and to us. Therefore, our loving acts – especially to the needy during this time of Pandemic. Since the first lockdown from mid-March to the current stage 4 second lockdown, I have had many occasions to experience some of our parishioners who have shown Great Spirit of care and support to our parish and me. I have been inspired and touched by these parishioners’ goodness and generosity and this is called ‘grace of God.’ The focus of the Gospel reading of this weekend is Church which is the People of God. You are the Church, you are the body of Christ, and the Church cannot be the body of Christ where Christians fail to turn away from egoism and refuse to share their good acts with the needy. As we are deprived of the possibility of having the Mass by the current lockdown restrictions, let us use this time to do some self-searching and self-reflection and when the time comes, that is to say, when we are allowed to resume our mass, we will hopefully all think and act differently and we can proudly say that our faith has sustained us in this time of trial as St Augustine said: “If you are the body of Christ and His members, your mystery has been placed on the Lord’s table, you receive your mystery. You reply “Amen” to that which you are... Be a member of the body of Christ so that you’re “Amen” may be true!” Let us ask God to give us this grace that may our “Amen” to be true.



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COPING WITH ISOLATION

It's week "I've lost count" of lockdown now, and with each day the desire for human interaction and connectedness grows stronger.

As an introvert, I was quite comfortable during the initial lockdown period. In fact, I was pleased that for once in my life it was acceptable to remain indoors for an entire week..

Or more.

But never in my life has it been so long since I've seen my parents. My family. My friends.

Phone calls and video chats don't quite do it justice. The presence of another human being, and basic interactions like a hug or a warm smile, have such a profound impact* on our day-to-day life.

So in a time when face-to-face interaction is so limited, how can we cope?



Photo by Noah Silliman on Unsplash.

Stay in contact as best you can

During a discussion on isolation, my friend told me that connectedness is about the quality of our relationships, not about our proximity to another person. Proximity helps, of course, to reduce feelings of isolation. But proximity on its own cannot cure loneliness. I resonated with this thought, feeling grateful that I could engage in such meaningful conversation while at such a great distance apart.

Phone and video calls may not feel nearly as enriching as face-to-face interaction, but they are the closest form of "normal" interaction we have available to us right now. Just as we would schedule time to meet or talk with our loved ones, make time for phone and video calls to keep in touch.

Writing letters is another great way to communicate. Letters can help foster deeper or more meaningful conversations, as we take more time in thinking about what we want to say. Post isn't the only way of sending letters either - we can send photos of handwritten letters, or use our texting method of choice (including messaging apps) to have long-length letter-style conversations.

Remember, it won't be like this forever

There may be a new "Covid normal" in times to come, but no matter what that is, we will eventually be able to see our family and friends again. Life will go on, and we will adapt. To have hope that things will get better is important too, no matter how bleak it may feel right now.

(with acknowledgement to Catholic Care)