



# 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>

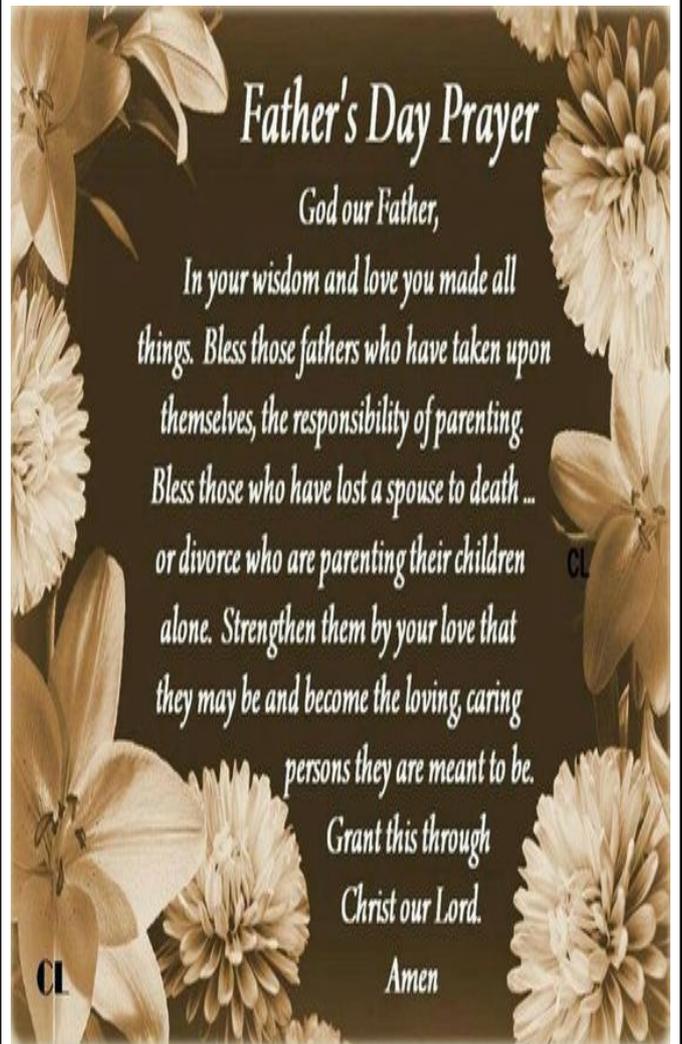
**Normal Mass Times at SPJE**  
Weekday Masses - Tuesday - Friday: 9.15 am

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

**23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year A**  
**6th September 2020 Issue No 33**

## *REFLECTION*



### **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.



### 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.*



### Readings for Next Week – 13th Sept 2020

Sirach 27:30 - 28:7; Rom 14:7-9;  
Mt 18:21-35



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,  
& Christine Sellar.**

### ✠ Remembrance Diary ✠

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

**5/9 to 11/9**

**Thelma Whitehouse, Leigh Matheson, Angela Raudino, Matija Jelenc, Jennifer Watson, Charles James Stafford, Ada Casotti, Mark Kowacki, Richard John, Kevin Whelan, Fancis Cafarella, Tom Madden, Charles Duke, Maria Giuffrida, Edward Glab, Francis Maugueret, Cheryl Rout, Nick Nagtzaam, Anne Reynolds, Gladys Pierce, Teresa Rose Jones, Phemie Harris, Claire & John Kelly, Leonard Collins, Dennis Burkey, Walter Taylor, John Hicks.**

### 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.**

## FR JOSEPH HOMILY

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 2020

Sometimes when a drunken driver crashes his car and a mother and her small baby are killed in the accident, someone will say, “Why does God allow an innocent mother and an innocent baby to die?” “Why does God permit innocent people to suffer?”

What do people who speak like this, want to happen? Do they want God to prevent the drunkard from putting the intoxicating liquor to his lips? Do they want God to stop the drunk’s car motor from working?” Do they want God to prevent the innocent mother and child from crossing the street? Do they want God to take away the freedom of all these people so that the innocent may not suffer, or so that there may be no more pain in this world?

When God created us human beings with free will, he gave us a very precious gift – the opportunity to freely choose to love God. But together with that gift of free choice, we also have the ability to freely choose not to love. We can freely choose to hate.

We can freely choose to drink liquor in a responsible way or abuse liquor by getting drunk. We can freely choose not to follow the health advice from our Chief Health Officer and as the consequence of it; we will be likely having more community transmission of Covid-19 virus.

In order to prevent innocent people from meeting an accident, would we want God to take away from a drunk or from a mother with child this gift of free choice so that accidents to innocent people would be avoided? If God intervened when we were in danger of misusing our free will, then human beings would be like marionettes or puppets controlled by someone who just pulls the strings or moves his fingers. Is that what we want? In many cases, the innocent suffer because somebody misuses his or her freedom. In today’s opening prayer, the priest says, “God our Father ...give us true freedom.” This is a precious gift of God which God does not give to animals or heavenly bodies. Would we want God to take this precious gift away from us to avoid the suffering of innocent people?



## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Year A - 6 September 2020 - Fathers' Day

+Can I invite you to you contemplate three scenes from Chapter 18 of Matthew's Gospel? Last week Michelle reminded us the way of Jesus is both a Way of Love & of the Cross – a radical and challenging way. It is part of a lengthy Discourse on what it means to be Church and it is striking that it begins when the disciples asked, *"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"* so he *"called a child, whom he put among them"*, and Jesus said, *"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven"*, followed by the sternest of warnings should hurt of a child happen. Emphatically, the model of discipleship, of following Jesus, of being Jesus in the world, is that of the child – open, without guile or plot, free to listen and to follow, and ready to delight in the simplicity of the universe and companionship. A model that can seem trite to a sophisticated or blasé listener & one that - as Church - we have trashed so badly through even recent history, with deep need for recognition, apology and restoration with the ongoing task of gently, humbly & strongly healing for good. Can I hear and dance with Jesus?



+Today's text, at verse 15, begins with a description of what it means to be Church, characterized here by Community and Consensus, emphasizing dialogue that is honest and open, with reconciliation and setting the call of the Community as paramount. Then comes the charge, *"whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven"*, placing an awesome responsibility on Jesus followers throughout history, of acting for the fullness of freedom and life in the world, the cosmos; sadly again, a charge that has been so often abused through history & today by topdown control & denial of freedom and participation as members, especially the marginalized. Yet Jesus reminds us *"if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven"*. Can we truly agree and ask together? With ready acceptance, whatever the outcome? That is true hope. It is believed that in Rublev's 15th century icon there was originally a mirror attached to the cloth between the Three Persons: can I see & feel myself in such a Divine Embrace?



+The final verse is one of great assurance, if we are but prepared to believe Jesus' promise; *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* We might cry out today, *"But we can't be together!"* Yet just as we are encouraged to practise 'Spiritual Communion' while we cannot celebrate Eucharist at our Parish Table, so we can grow in awareness and practice of our already Spiritual Communion of Family, Friends, Fellow Parishioners and so many others in Heart, Mind, Memory & Spirit; and Jesus promises to be in there with us. Isn't it timely to remind myself, ourselves & also others, of this? Jesus' Promise is powerful, strengthening & sweet.

+And let us especially remember Fathers & all those who share in the Fathering work of God – that they may be honourable, strong and gentle: & ready to seek help, practical and prayerful, if the going gets tough. And that we all help in this too.



**Happy Fathers' Day.**

*Michael Mc Lindon, Parishioner.*