



**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 - For March  
Tues & Thurs: 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



**ST VINCENT DE PAUL**

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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**7th March 2021 Issue No. 6**

**Reflection 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

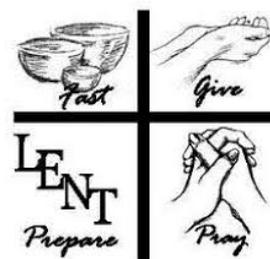
During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ.

In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

Do we listen to the Lord?  
Can we believe His words?

Lent prepares us to celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord – when we have faith  
Let us walk in the way of the Lord.

*Marg Vallenge*  
With acknowledgement in part to  
Abbott Philip  
Monastery of Christ in the desert New Mexico



## PARISH CALENDAR

### MARCH 2021

#### 6/7th March Third Sunday of Lent

6th Sat	Private Baptism - 11.30am & 4.30pm
7th Sun	Baptism - 11am, Private - 12.30pm
8th Mon	Labour Day (Public Holiday)
10th Wed	First Eucharist - St Richards 6pm
11th Thur	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting - 7 pm (Parish House)
12th	SPJE Grade 5 Reflection Day
13/14th	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> Baptism - 11 am
16th Tue	Grade 5. Eucharist Mass - 7pm
17th Wed	<b>St Patricks Day</b>
17th Wed	Grade 5. Eucharist Mass - 7pm
18th Thur	Faith Development Meeting - 10am
18th Thur	Grade 5. Eucharist Mass - 7pm
19th Fri	School Closure Day
20/21st	<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>
21st	Baptism 9am & 11am
22nd Mon	Baptism Preparation Meeting - 7.30pm Tim Newcomb
23rd	Grade 4. Eucharist Family Night - Church
25th Thur	The Annunciation of the Lord
25th Thur	Parish & School Leaders Formation Night - 6pm Church
27/28th	<b>Palm Sunday</b>

## ROSTERS

#### Counters Month of March 2021

Mon. Jan Phippard & Eileen Goltz

#### Flowers February 2021

*No flowers during Lent*

#### Church Cleaners Month of March

Fri. Wernert & Holt Family

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

#### Ministers of Eucharist Coordinators for March

6.00 pm	Bernadette Brown
9.00 am	Karen Broughton
11.00am	Daylin Rowland

#### Readers and Commentators - 13/14th March

6.00 pm	T.B.A.
9.00 am	T.B.A.
11.00am	T.B.A.

#### Musicians - 13/14th March

6.00pm	No Music
9.00am	Strum
11.00am	Shelly & Co

## Weekday Mass Times

*March 2021*

Tuesday & Thursday

9.30 am

### Readings for Next Week – 14th March

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10;  
Jn 3:14-21

### Prayers for the Sick

We pray for parishioners and friends who are ill;

*Sister Rosalie Corrigan, Rose Robert,  
Lorraine Downie, Carmelita & Keith  
Arrowsmith, Danielle Devlin,  
Eleanor Thompson, Joan Bourke.*

### † Remembrance Diary †

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

6/3 to 12/3

**George Boness, Frank Sullivan, John Ernst,  
John Golja, Ronald Wheelan, Antonina &  
Pietro Maniscalchi, John McKay, Mary Hanlon,  
Anton Soffici, Jack Lawrence, Margaret  
McMahon, Cora Sweerts, James Parlow,  
Agneta Pepping, Werni Rynski, Elaine Taylor,  
Norma Boyd, Leo Liedtke.**

## BAPTISM

We welcome



to our Parish through Baptism.

*Leonardo Pezzimenti, Darcy Drennan, Spencer  
Leong, Riley Tomada & Noelle Lapinid, Nate &  
Noah Noonan*

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

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER ROSTERS

If you can assist with Reading, Commentating, and other Ministries for Holy Week & Easter Masses, please place your name on the roster on the notice board.



*Thank You.*

## MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre at 362 Albert Street East Melbourne, invites parishioners, families & friends to their first Weekend Open Day for 2021 on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00am – 4.00pm. Visit the Mary MacKillop Museum, the Chapel where Mary prayed, as well as the Gift Shop & Refreshments area for morning or afternoon tea. A ‘socially distanced’ Mary “MacKillop Walking Tour” will take place at 11.00am. Everyone welcome & entry is free.

A banner for Project Compassion. On the left is a photograph of a woman in a pink headscarf holding a young boy in a red shirt. On the right, the text reads: "PROJECT COMPASSION BE MORE" in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this is a quote: "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." attributed to "- Saint Oscar Romero". At the bottom right, it says "DONATE NOW" in yellow, followed by the Caritas Australia logo.

### Third Sunday of Lent

This week we focus on Oliva, a 22 year old from Tanzania who lives with her farmer husband, two young sons and an adopted niece and nephew.

Oliva didn't have the opportunity to go to school and was embarrassed that she couldn't read, write or count. Around 25 percent of Tanzanian girls and women over 15 years cannot read or write, with many families unable to afford school fees or uniforms. Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a classroom at home to teach her neighbours, for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes.

Oliva has now graduated, as have some of her students. Attendance at her classes is growing, her small business is thriving and she can help her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election. Oliva's determination and leadership truly is to be admired! A great story for us to focus on this Sunday, in the lead up to International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

You can watch Oliva's Story here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gENizPmzsEM&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gENizPmzsEM&feature=emb_title)

### Parish Virtual Immersion Series (via Zoom)

As you know, throughout Lent we are running a Virtual Immersion Series for parishes. During these 30 minutes sessions, you will be able to hear from our Caritas staff who are in the field, and go deeper with us as we reflect upon our call to 'Be More' this Lent.

Parishioners are free to join in as individuals from their own home, or you can use these sessions as part of any Lenten reflection groups that you parish may be running.

You can access information through our website and view the PDF here: <https://raisely-images.imgix.net/project-compassion-2021/uploads/pc-virtual-immersion-schedule-parishes-pdf-1752cd.pdf>

Please click the date/time links on the PDF to register through directly through Zoom.

**Donation boxes and envelopes are available in the church foyer**

# Understanding the Jesus story

## 7 March 2021 3rd Sunday Lent

If there is one incident in Jesus' life that leads us to question his judgment, the story of him taking a whip and angrily driving people out of the temple must rank as a strong contender. We have heard in recent weeks that Jesus can be forthright in challenging people – even calling pharisees 'hypocrites' to their faces! But our major image is of a patient and forgiving Jesus rather than someone striking out at people with a raging temper.

So, how are we to understand this story? A good place to start is another story of Jesus visiting the Jerusalem temple with his mother and father when he was a twelve-year old boy. On that occasion, Jesus becomes so caught up by the temple experience, he misses the caravan taking his family back to Nazareth. When his parents realise Jesus is missing, they hasten back to find him among the temple priests and elders, engaging with them about the meaning of the Scriptures.

Now, for traditional Israelites the temple was the holiest of all places on earth, enabling people to experience the presence of the living God in their lives in an unsurpassed way. This must have been Jesus' boyhood experience, as is evident in his response to his confused parents: "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?" (Lk 2:49).

So, when Jesus returns to the temple some twenty years later and finds it filled with hawkers, merchants and other traders, he is incensed that greed and money-lust have turned his 'Father's house' into a marketplace. However, rather than directing his anger to the little people who are simply trying to make a living, surely Jesus should have confronted the temple priests who no doubt benefited financially from this defilement of God's house.

Jesus has this opportunity to respond to the chief priests when they challenge him over his table-turning, whip-lashing behaviour. In answer to their question: "On what authority do you do this?" Jesus' strange response confounds everyone: "Destroy this temple and I will raise it up again in three days."

Somehow, this is a moment of insight for Jesus. He begins to realise his mission of communicating God's love and forgiveness will result in the destruction of the other temple – his own body – on a cross. Yet, God's glory will always shine through and triumph beyond suffering, cruelty and death itself.

This is the paradox St Paul writes about in his letter to the Corinthians. He realises how preaching a crucified Christ is folly to Jews and Greeks alike. Yet Paul also knows we must acknowledge our own sinfulness and stupidity if we are to experience God's power and wisdom.

Too often, we are like the temple traders, busy with our own pursuits rather than seekers of the living God. Too often, we ignore God's covenant because we are afraid to witness to a crucified-and-risen Christ who heals our weakness and failures with divine love and mercy.



Gerard Hall SM

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Lent