

In the Gospel today, Jesus tells the people they are looking for him not because they have seen signs but because they had got a lot of bread to eat. They did not realise that the feeding itself was a spectacular sign pointing to something much deeper than the material bread they enjoyed. It was a sign of an altogether different kind of food, a different kind of nourishment on a different level entirely. A food that endures forever and this is the real food that Jesus has come to offer. But they still have not grasped what he is saying to them.

Jesus said: *"I AM the Bread of Life."* This is much more than a statement of fact; the phrase "I AM" is the name of God given to Moses at the burning bush. It is the first of seven 'I AM' statements uttered by Jesus in John's gospel, all pointing to his divine origin. The others are:

I AM the Light of the World (8:12, 9:5) I AM the Gate (10:7,9)
 I AM the Good Shepherd (10:11,14) I AM the Resurrection and the Life (11:25)
 I AM the Way: the Truth and the Life (14:6) I AM the Vine (15:1,5).

Now, however, we need to ask: How is Jesus bread and how are we to get it? By going to Jesus, by becoming his close companion and follower. *"Who comes to me will never be hungry."* By believing in Jesus, by an unconditional and total giving of self to him. *"Who believes in me will never thirst."*

But how does Jesus nourish us and be our food and drink?

- a. *By giving us his Word in the Scriptures.* In this way he feeds our minds and hearts, enriches and gives meaning and direction to our lives. The Word of God in the scriptures is really food and, in so far as the Bible is unknown to us, we are being starved of food that we really need.
- b. *Through his Church:* through the fellowship and mutual support we get through our involvement and participation in a Christian community.
- c. *Through every loving and nourishing experience coming to us through people, books, radio, tv, the world of nature* – in short, through everything which enriches and gives more meaning and understanding in our lives, increases our feeling of being loved and of self-worth.
- d. *Through the Eucharist,* the sign by which we celebrate God's love shown to us through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and where we give thanks for all the nourishing ways by which God, through Jesus, comes into our daily lives.

The fact that we are indeed being fed and nourished is shown by the way we live our lives and share what we have received with others who are still hungry for life and meaning. As the letter to the Ephesians says in today's Second Reading: *"Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth."*

This is exactly what happens when we have been fed by the Bread of Life.

Sacred Space

OLIVERIAN

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

PARISH PRIEST
Pastoral Associate
School Principal

Fr James Puppady
Marthese Temming
Delfina Pieri

Presbytery: 1 Landells Road, PO Box 567, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 7036 9330
 email: pascoevale@cam.org.au
 website: <https://stolivers.org.au/>

School: Landells Road, PO Box 667, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 5130
 Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5.00 pm (Vigil for Sunday)
Sunday 8.45 am & 10.30 am

Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9.15 am

Confessions **Saturday 10 – 10.30 am**
(In church through both side doors)

Baptisms **2nd Saturday of the month (by appointment)**

Marriages **By appointment with at least 6 months notice**

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday	Christian Meditation	7 - 8 pm Parish Centre (contact Chris Rowland 0411 440 746)
Tuesday	Italian Ladies Prayer Group	10.00 am Meeting Room
	Charismatic Prayer Group	7.30 pm Church
Wednesday	Drop-In Centre	1 - 3 pm Church/Parish Centre
Thursday	St Vincent de Paul	5.30 pm Meeting Room <i>(last Thursday of the month)</i>

FROM ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY **11AM:** Live Streamed and C31 Televised (Channel 44 on Digital TV)
6AM: Channel 10 - "Mass for You at Home"

MONDAY - FRIDAY 1PM : Live Streamed. *(Link below)*

SATURDAY 8.00AM: Live Streamed. *(Link below)*

<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> and
<https://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb>

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 31 JULY/1 AUGUST 2021

Entrance Antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God..
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: I am the bread of life, says the Lord; whoever comes to me will not hunger and whoever believes in me will not thirst.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: Marie Gregg, Dora De Marco, Lillian Marchesi, Gilda Miraglia

Anniversaries: Salvatore Spataro, Kay Feain

Those who are ill: Frances Tamayo, Ocean Goldsmith, Dalmiro Bellio, Kath Layden, Lamberto Cruz, Monica Wickerson, Pasquale Buonomo, Joe Grech, Christine Grech, Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy

31 July/August 1

7/8 August

READERS:

Sat 5.00 pm	N. Farrell [L], M. Lynch [R]	A. Taglieri [L], M. Pascoe [R]
Sun 8.45 am	M. Tomayo [L], M. Carabott [R]	M. Carabott [L], B. Messina [R]
10.30 am	M. Temming [L], L. Verduci [R]	E. Monaco [L], S. Harrison [R]

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat 5.00 pm	P. Saliba	A. McConnell
Sun 8.45 am	M. Bolitho	V. Ricevuto
0.30 am	C. Steere	T. Rocca

At St Oliver's parish we aim to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment. Privacy: In 2001 the Commonwealth and Victorian governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information collected from individuals. This Parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.

Weekend Masses have resumed. No need for booking. QR Code required.
Week day Mass has also resumed at 9.15am.

Today we welcome Fr Peter O'Rourke to our weekend Mass.

Happy Birthday Fr James



We wish Fr James every blessing as he celebrates his birthday this Monday 2nd of August. Let us keep him in our prayers this week.

Parish Special Collection

The annual collection for the **Intentions of the Holy Father** will be taken as a leaving collection next weekend 7/8 August 2021.

Episcopal Ordination

The Episcopal Ordination of our Bishops-elect, Mgr Tony Ireland and Fr Martin Ashe was held on Saturday, 31 July in St Patrick's Cathedral at 10.30am. You can witness this celebration via youtube: www.youtube.com/archmelb

Covid-19 Latest Update

Religious gatherings and ceremonies permitted for up to 100 people.
Funerals and Weddings permitted for up to 50 people.
Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm.
Face coverings must be worn at all times.
All attendees must register with QR Code.
Come 10 – 15 minutes before Mass. Doors will close when Mass begins.

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr James. The link: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayPascoeVale>

We are very grateful for your support at this time.