

We saw last week how shocking were the words of Jesus if they were heard literally: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." Now, not only the religious leaders but Jesus' own disciples are deeply scandalised: "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" And, taken literally, how could any civilised person accept such a statement?

We, of course, know that the words are not to be taken in a literal sense. It is Jesus' dramatic way of saying that we must accept him totally, without any conditions or reservation. His thoughts and attitudes, his values, his life-view must become totally ours. Above all we are to identify with him in the offering of his flesh and the pouring out of his blood on the cross, the symbol of God's unutterable love for us.

And, in the Eucharist, with which this chapter is closely linked, we recognise in our going to communion the accepting of that challenge to be totally one with Jesus. It is not enough for him to come to me; I also have to go all the way to him, with him. When the minister says, offering the Bread: "The Body of Christ", I respond with a total "Yes!" That 'Yes' is not just an act of faith in the Real Presence but a total commitment of myself to Jesus in the community of which I am a member.

"Lord, to whom shall we go?" Perhaps we too will feel like leaving Jesus, leaving his Church. We may experience serious doubts about our faith. Perhaps we have had that experience already. It can be very painful and disconcerting.

Faith is not a given. It is not simply a set of ideas to be held on to. It is a living relationship with a Person and his vision of life. It is a relationship that needs to grow and be deepened with the years. It is a relationship that has constantly to be re-appraised in a constantly changing world.

*Sacred Space*

### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present  
in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there,  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

# 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](mailto: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

**There are no Weekend or Daily Masses or Parish Activities until COVID19 lockdown restrictions lift.**

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month (by appointment)**

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

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

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

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 21/22 AUGUST 2021

**Entrance Antiphon:** Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord,  
for I cry to you all the day long.

**Response to the Psalm:** **Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
has eternal life, says the Lord,  
and I will raise him up on the last day.

### Please remember in your prayers the following:

#### Those who have died:

Anniversaries:

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



### Major earthquake hits Haiti

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a **7.2 magnitude earthquake**. **Over 1,400 people have died**, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that **more than 30,000 families have been left homeless**.

The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence.

**There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground.** To provide support, donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal.

**Donate today at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.**

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.



## MESSAGE FROM FR JAMES PUPPADY

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
"If God is for us, who can be against us?"

The fact that we suffer, though, does not mean that God is not with us or for us. He is always with us in this difficult situation. In light of that fact God foreknew us, predestined us, called us, justified us, and will glorify us. So God must be for us. God must be for all of us who are in Christ by faith. Remember the one, true God, the creator of all things, is for us, who could ever possibly be against us? Have this great faith and courage in this time. These words are giving us great courage and confidence to move forward.

I completed two months in these two parishes. When I arrived it was lockdown and opened for a few weeks, I could say Mass in both parishes. During those weeks, we could organize my installation ceremony. Then the second lockdown came and one week opened and 3<sup>rd</sup> lockdown announced for one month. It is really a difficult situation. But we have to accept this reality. We must be grateful to God for his kindness and protecting us from this pandemic. We have to remember so many people are working hard to save the lives of others. Let us pray and support them. The world is very crazy. This pandemic is going on all over the world, as well as many other natural calamities taking place like, flood, earthquake, war, fire and so on. So we have to pray to God to save us from all these disasters and it will happen.

Even though I am not able to meet you in person, you all are in my prayers. When I offer my daily Mass and prayers, you all are remembered and my prayers are always with you. Because of this lockdown, I could not meet you all personally, to know you, and I don't have your numbers to call you too. Still my thoughts and prayers are always with you. Hope we will meet soon after this lockdown. Then we can worship God together under one roof.

I thank each and everyone of you for your concern, support and prayers for me. Let us pray for each other for our own good health and for the good health of others. Pray for our children in a special way, so that they may find joy and happiness in this difficult time. May The almighty God bless you and your family.

Yours faithfully in Christ.

Fr. James Puppady. PP  
Pascoe Vale and Coburg.

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr James. The link:  
<https://bit.ly/CDFpayPascoeVale> We are grateful for your support at this time.