

Today's encounter of Jesus with his disciples at Caesarea represents a high point in Mark's gospel and in their relationship with Jesus.

It is a question of Jesus' identity. It must truly have been an exciting moment for the disciples. Their Master was no mere rabbi; he was the Messiah, the King of Israel! And they were part of his inner circle, his close friends and companions.

And then – totally unexpected – comes the shock. Because Jesus begins to tell them what is going to happen to him, the Messiah. He will be rejected by the religious and civic leaders of his own people, he will undergo terrible sufferings, he will suffer a horrible and shameful death by execution on a cross, and at the end will rise on the third day.

Peter protests to Jesus in the strongest terms. "Lord, this can never happen to you." It was unthinkable that the Messiah should meet a fate like this. It was totally against all reason that the Messiah should suffer at the hands of his own people. On the contrary, he was to be victorious over all Israel's outside enemies. What Jesus was saying just did not make any sense. This was not part of the scenario which had been built up over such a long period of expectation. And what was going to happen to them? All this nonsense had to be nipped in the bud.

The reaction of Jesus is almost savage. "Get behind me, Satan! Yours are merely human thoughts; they do not represent God's way of seeing things." Peter – the Rock – is seen as a stumbling block. Jesus could be tempted to think like Peter. It would make a much more pleasant future than the one he had just described. But he knew this was the way he was being called to follow.

It is clear that the disciples' (and our) learning experience was not over. They had reached the critical stage of knowing who Jesus was – the Messiah. But now they had to discover – very painfully – just what kind of Messiah he was going to be. They won't know this and they will not see its terrible and compelling beauty until after the resurrection.

The rest of Mark's gospel deals with this topic in which we are intended to be the real learners.

But Jesus is still not finished with them! Addressing his words not only to them but to everybody, Jesus continues: "If ANYONE wants to be my disciple, then he has to take his cross and come after me." Jesus' Way has also be our way.

So much of the time we try to straddle the fences: be "good" Catholics and have the good things that everyone else wants as well. We don't want crosses. We even think that one of the purposes of prayer is to ask Jesus to take away the nasty things and make life smooth all the way.

But Jesus is urging us to let go. To "save our life" is to cling to things which are not us and to want security in them. Our happiness, we need to learn, is not in having or grabbing, but in sharing what we have. It is in giving, not in getting. It is in letting go and letting God, as they say.

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

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 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 (last Thursday of the month)

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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 11/12 SEPTEMBER 2021

- Entrance Antiphon:** Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.
- Response to the Psalm:** **I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.**
- Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!
My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.
Alleluia!
- Communion Antiphon:** The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the Blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing of the Body of the Lord.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

- Those who have died:** Marie Howard
- Anniversaries:** Kathleen Feain, Michael Cushen
- Those who are ill:** Reg Whiting, Frances Tamayo, Ocean Goldsmith, Dalmiro Bellio, Kath Layden, Lamberto Cruz, Monica Wickerson, Pasquale Buonomo, Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy

Volunteer Opportunities - English Teachers, Youth Workers & Youth Ministers

The Cagliero Project is an initiative of the Australia-Pacific Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco, providing overseas volunteer experiences for Australians who wish to work with disadvantaged young people.

We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers for January 2022 departure. Our volunteer placements run for 6-12 months and are centered around working with young people in educational settings. We are currently recruiting for volunteers in our Australian communities however when it is possible and safe to do so we will recommence sending volunteers to Cambodia, Samoa, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands.

*For information, or to send us an inquiry, follow this link: <http://cagliero.org.au/>
Applications close October 30th. 2021.*

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.

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

You can also donate directly to the Presbytery Account

BSB: 083-347

ACC: 53102 0158

We are very grateful for your support at this time.



Lockdown Light—week two

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown ...

Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations below.

Podcasts for Christian living: Unity in marriage (part 1)

In this podcast, Catholic counsellors, Dr Bob Schuchts and Jake Khym discuss how marriage is a union of two broken people, and yet when the love of God is invited in, unity is made possible. Listen at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving2

Getting to know your Bible: Exploring the Gospels

As Christians, we have four accounts of the life of Jesus, called Gospels. How should we read them?

Getting started: This video by a Franciscan priest looks at how it's possible to understand different Gospel accounts and stories about Jesus. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted2

Going deeper: This year, we are reading Mark's Gospel at Mass. This video provides an introduction into the crafting and structure of the Gospel and the portrait of Jesus presented. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper2