

SOME IMPORTANT ISSUES are raised in today's readings. The disciples are not at all happy because they saw a man — who was not a disciple — cast out evil spirits. They are quite jealous obviously. They realise that they are in quite a privileged position in being closely associated with Jesus. They have even been given the privilege of sharing Jesus' powers of healing and driving out evil spirits.

Now they see a complete stranger, one who has nothing to do with their Master, doing the same thing. He may even be using the name of Jesus to exorcise. They are indignant. They are angry. They even try to stop the man — from doing a good thing. But Jesus tells them: "You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us." It is very easy for a chosen group to become elitist, to claim for itself a monopoly of doing good.

In today's Gospel there is a severe warning against those who prevent people from coming closer to God. It is regarded by Jesus as a most serious form of sinfulness. The word "scandal" means originally a stumbling block, like a large stone in a person's way that causes him to trip and fall. Am I a stumbling block to those who might be in search of Jesus or his Church? For instance, would any person want to be a Christian because they know me? What kind of impression of Christian life or of the Church do I present to others?

Have we not heard people say, "I would not want to be a Christian. They are just like everyone else I know: they gossip, they tell lies, they cheat, they are greedy for money, they take revenge..." Non-Christians often have strange ideas about God, about Jesus, about Mary, about the Church. Where did they get those ideas from? What kind of image of Jesus do we present as parents, as teachers, as employers or superiors, as working colleagues?

There are many in our society committed to improving the quality of life. During the many catastrophes — natural and man-made — that have struck our own and other parts of the world, we find people of faiths and of none donating very large sums of money.

Every year at fund-raising events, thousands of people come to help welfare and charity services run by the Catholic Church or by other religious groups, irrespective of their own religious convictions. "If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, he most certainly will not lose his reward." These people often give to us Christians — and through us to the needy — far more than a cup of cool water. Surely God is present and working through all such people. And we can be sure that God will reach them in his own way.

I am called not only to be for myself a good person. I am called to reach out, to love, to be just to others, to be fully free with and for others, to be truly brother or sister. I am also called to be a prophet, to proclaim in words and actions that the Source of all love, justice, freedom and solidarity with others is a God who loves, who forgives and who wants all to share in a life that is enriched on every level.

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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 25/26 SEPTEMBER 2021

Entrance Antiphon: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Response to the Psalm: **The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word, O Lord, is truth:
make us holy in the truth.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: By this we came to know the love of God:
that Christ laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: Alfred Emerson, Vicki Heath

Anniversaries: Tomaso Ferraro, Maria Taglieri

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

Dear friends,
We are on the journey of "TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL" MISSION. This mission focuses specifically on the realities of our local Church here in the Archdiocese of Melbourne at a pastoral, spiritual and practical level. Because of the COVID lockdowns we are unable to meet in person to discuss the future of our parishes and how it will affect our people. We are participating in Zoom meetings and I would like to know your valuable suggestions and visions regarding this mission process. In the future you can also join in the groups.

If you would like to express your opinion or participate in a discerning process for St Oliver's and St Paul's parish mission, please contact either parish by email: pascoevale@cam.org.au or phone 03 7036 9330. coburg@cam.org.au or phone 03 9354 1564.

Please look at the parish Resource pack available at the Archdiocese website <https://melbournecatholic.org/about/mission> Scroll down to "Take the Way of the Gospel" and please contact us and let us know your thoughts.

Fr James Puppady

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 four

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: Parents of the Saints—How Did They Do It?

In this podcast, Jason Evert speaks with Patrick O'Hearn about his new book 'Parents of the Saints: The Hidden Heroes Behind Our Favourite Saints', offering key insights into the families of popular saints. Listen at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving4

Getting to know your Bible: Praying with Scripture

Getting Started: In this short video, Fr James Martin SJ introduces us Lectio Divina—a way of praying with the Bible that helps us listen to God. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted4

Going Deeper: Pray as You Go is an online prayer tool that provides a guided contemplation of each day's Gospel passage. Set aside 10-15 minutes, find a comfy space and visit www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper4

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.