

THE GOSPEL PRESENTS a dramatic scene where Jesus shows himself as Lord of the Temple. It does not seem in character to see Jesus with a small whip of cords physically driving out the traders in cattle, sheep and pigeons – animals to be used in sacrifices. And the moneychangers. They were needed because only Jewish money could be offered in the Temple. Roman coins had the image of Divus Augustus (the ‘divine Augustus’) and so were regarded as idolatrous; they had to be exchanged for Jewish coinage.

Jesus objected not to the trade as such which was quite legitimate but to its being done in the temple precincts, “my Father’s house”. “Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market.” Such business should have been carried on just outside the temple precincts but we know that in our own time hawkers try to get as close to the action as possible, especially if they have competition. It is also not at all impossible that the temple authorities connived at the practice and may have even benefited if the traders had to “rent” spaces in the Temple to do their business.

This would explain the priests’ anger at what Jesus was doing. “What’s going on here? What sign can you show to justify what you are doing?” Jesus replies: “Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.” They come back: “It has taken 46 years to build this temple and you can raise it in only three days?” This was indeed true and, in fact, the building had not yet been fully completed at this time.

But Jesus was speaking about another sanctuary, another temple where God lived – his own body. Through this event we are reminded during Lent of what we are preparing to remember and celebrate – the death and resurrection of Jesus.

A hard saying

It is the very heart of our faith. But, as Paul explains, writing to the Christians of Corinth, Jesus’ death to the Jews was (and is?) a stumbling block, a scandal, an insurmountable obstacle. It was impossible for them to accept that the Messiah, their Saviour and King, could suffer such an ignominious death at the hands not only of Israel’s enemies but even more of his own people. That just could not be; God could not allow it.

To the Gentiles, the pagans, it was meaningless. Power and domination and influence were what counted in their world. The idea that someone executed like and with common criminals should be worshipped as Lord was nonsense, it was something to be ignored and laughed at and rubbished – as it still is by many in our own society today.

God’s wisdom

But to those who have been called and who answer the call – be they Jews or Gentiles, men or women, slave or free – it is the power and wisdom of God. The death of Jesus to any objective observer seems like utter failure, to believe in such a Lord seems stupid but those with the eyes of faith can see the power of love in that death.

Sacred Space

OLIVERIAN

ST OLIVER’S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

ADMINISTRATOR
Pastoral Associate
School Principal

Fr Michael Kong
Marthese Temming
Delfina Pieri

Presbytery: 1 Landells Road, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 3015
email: pascoevale@cam.org.au
website: <https://stolivers.org.au/>

School: Landells Road, PO Box 667, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 5411
Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Sunday Mass

Saturday (vigil) 6pm
Sunday 8.45am & 10.30am.

Weekday Mass

Wednesday 9.15am
Thursday 6pm

You can register through the parish website <https://stolivers.org.au/>
& Click “Join Sunday Mass”

Reconciliation

Saturday 10.00am – 10.30am

Reconciliation is held outside at back of church between church and presbytery.

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>

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - 6/7 MARCH 2021

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Response to the Psalm: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: Christine Bonnici, Charles Chow

Anniversaries: Helen Scerri, Salvatore Serini, Concetta Serini, Carmine Rizzo, Carmelo Ambessi, Pietro Ambesi, Francesca Fazzolari, Domenica Fazzolari

Those who are ill: Maria Coreno, Monica Wickerson, Joe Grech, Pasquale Buonomo, Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy, Eileen Squires, Lamberto Cruz, Vicenta Santos

6/7 March		13/14 March
READERS:		
Sat 6 pm	L. Teoh [L], A. Borelli [R]	A. Taglieri[L], A. Breen [R]
Sun 8.45 am	M. Ziccone	M. Tamayo
10.30 am	R. Robles-McColl [L], O. Aquino [R]	R. Cassidy [L], L. Willason [R]
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:		
Sat 6 pm	M. Pascoe	L. Bellio
Sun 8.45 am	J. Mokbel	B. Messina
10.30 am	B. Watts	C. Dwyer

You can register for Mass each weekend during Lent via parish website <https://stolivers.org.au/>

For parishioners unable to register online you can register as you come in.

Every Friday during Lent:

7pm - 8pm the Way of the Cross followed by Adoration and Confession.

Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes are available at all weekend Masses on the weekend and during Office Hours during the week.



Piety Stall will open on the weekend 20/21 March after each Mass. Religious books, Cards, Rosary beads, Medals, Crucifix, Prints, Sacramental gifts etc. will be made available in the foyer at the back of the church.

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr Michael. The link:

<https://bit.ly/CDFpayPascoeVale>

We are very grateful for your support at this challenging time.

COVID19 INSTRUCTIONS

All participants must wear a face covering in church at all times, unless under 12 years of age or have a lawful reason not to. Contact recording is required. Please come 10 to 15 minutes before Mass. Doors will close when Mass starts.

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 visit our website for the newest update from the Archdiocese regarding liturgical guidelines: <https://stolivers.org.au/>