

The gospel makes a comparison with Moses, who was an agent of God and a saviour of God's people. The Israelites in the desert had been complaining bitterly about their conditions so they were punished by a plague of serpents and many died.

At God's instructions, Moses raised up a bronze serpent on a pole "and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he recovered". John sees here a foretype of Jesus being lifted up. For John Jesus' being "lifted up" includes both his being raised up on a cross and being raised up to be with his Father in glory. In the process we were saved, healed and made whole.

And all of this is a sign of God's own love. God sacrificed his only Son so that we might have that eternal life. He emphasises that God sent his Son to save and not to judge or condemn. In fact, no one who puts their whole self in God's hands through faith can be condemned. And it is never too late to make that step of faith.

On the other hand, whoever refuses to believe is already condemned. This is not at all directed at those who sincerely follow another faith, another religion, another vision of life. Judgment and condemnation happen where people prefer darkness to light, as indicated by lives of evil and immoral behaviour: hate instead of love; vengeance instead of forgiveness; greed instead of sharing; taking instead of giving life...

It is not a loving God who condemns; rather people choose to alienate themselves from his love. John says that all those who do wrong deliberately hate the light and choose darkness. A person who lives by truth and integrity is not afraid of the light. Such a person has nothing to hide, nothing to be ashamed of. Such persons are like the salt of the earth, like a city on a hill, like a candle on a lamp stand. People can see their goodness and so be led by them to Jesus and to God.

However, there is another kind of darkness in which people live. It is the darkness of shame when there is something in their lives which they would like to share but are not able to bring out into the open. The reason is their fear of judgment, rejection or ridicule by others. One thinks of the young girl who finds herself pregnant but has no one to turn to, least of all members of her own family, or sometimes even members of the Church. One thinks of the young person who discovers he/she is homosexual and is condemned to live in the darkness of the "closet", terrified to "come out" even to, or especially to family and friends.

These are just two examples. In these cases the agents of darkness are those who sit in judgment. They themselves are living in the darkness of prejudice and hate, usually the symptoms of an inner fear and insecurity.

But as the Second Reading reminds us today, all our goodness is God's gift to us and is nothing for us to boast about. Our goodness, is his goodness shining through us.

Let us then look at Jesus lifted up on the cross and in glory. Let us see the colossal love of God for us shown there. Let us open our hearts to that love and let it flow right through us to bring life and hope to others.

Sacred Space

O L I V E R I A N

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>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 13/14 MARCH 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Response to the Psalm: **Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

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

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died:

Anniversaries: Guiseppe Bellio

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

We welcome our newly baptized into our parish community:
Leonardo Fancellu, Polly Maree, Fredrick Peasnell, Eva Brugaletta

13/14 March		20/21 March
READERS:		
Sat 6 pm	A. Taglieri[L], A. Breen [R]]	M. Pascoe [L], N. Farrell [R]
Sun 8.45 am	M. Tamayo	M. Carabott
10.30 am	R. Cassidy [L], L. Willason [R]]	C. Grech [L], L. Verduci [R]
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:		
Sat 6 pm	L. Bellio	A. McConnell
Sun 8.45 am	B. Messina	F. Minutolo
10.30 am	C. Dwyer	C. De Francesco

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.

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 next 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. All proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul to help support those in need in our parish.

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.

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