

We are just one week away from Holy Week and our celebration of God's love for us in his passion, death and resurrection. Today we look at the meaning of what Jesus did for us. Some Greeks, probably converts to Judaism, approach Philip (whose name is Greek), saying: "We want to see Jesus." Philip tells Andrew (another Greek name) and they both go with the request to Jesus. We are not told if those men ever did see Jesus but we do know what seems at first sight the rather strange answer that Jesus gave to his disciples: "Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest." The grain, of course, does not actually die but is totally transformed into something completely new: roots, leaves and fruit. Similarly the caterpillar lets go of being a caterpillar to become transformed into something altogether different and often much more beautiful – a moth or butterfly.

To SEE Jesus is not just to look at him. To SEE Jesus is to enter totally into his way of thinking, to understand WHY he had to suffer and die and rise again. Like the grain of wheat, Jesus has to let go of everything, including his own life, in order to bring life to himself and many others. In the process, both he and we will be transformed. If we cannot see this as the core of Jesus' life, we have not really seen him. But Jesus goes further and says we must have the same way of thinking. "Anyone who clings to his life, will lose it (we think of someone like Howard Hughes, the billionaire who died a fear-filled, lonely recluse); the one who is willing to let go will find a much richer and enriching life." And, if we want to be close to Jesus, we have to walk his Way. "If a man serves me, is my disciple, he must follow me. Where I am, my servant will be there too." It means walking with Jesus and with Mary all the way to Calvary, wherever that happens to be for each of us.

God Are we ready for that? Are we afraid to let everything go? Is Jesus asking too much? Let us have no doubt, Jesus himself was afraid, deeply afraid. "Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: 'Father, save me from this hour?'" It is clear that that is the prayer Jesus would like to pray. The Letter to the Hebrews (Second Reading) puts it graphically: "During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the One who had the power to save him from death..." Letting go did not come any more easily to Jesus than it does to us. But, after his prayer, when he sweat blood in fear and trembling, he was able to say, YES. "Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering" and, as a result, "he became for all who submit themselves to him the source of life and salvation." As Jesus himself says at the end of today's gospel, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself." "Lifted up" refers both to the cross and to the glory of the Father where we are invited to follow. So let us today learn to SEE Jesus, the Jesus of the Gospel. The Jesus who let go of everything for us and who invites us to be with him all the way. Let us pray for his courage and his trust in his Father, that the life and happiness and fulfilment we all long for is in that letting go and letting God.

Sacred Space

OLIVERIAN

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

ADMINISTRATOR Fr Michael Kong
Pastoral Associate Marthese Temming
School Principal Delfina Pieri

Presbytery: 1 Landells Road, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 3015
 email: pascoeale@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

MASS TIMES

Saturday 6.00 pm (Vigil for Sunday)
Sunday 8.45 am & 10.30 am
Wednesday 9.15 am
Thursday 7.00 pm

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

Confessions Saturday 10 —10.30 am (*Held outside at back of church between church and presbytery*)
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 (<i>starting after Easter</i>) (contact Chris Rowland 0411 440 746)
Tuesday	Italian Ladies Prayer Group Charismatic Prayer Group	10.30 am Meeting Room (<i>starting after Easter</i>) 7.30 pm Church
Wednesday	Drop-In Centre	1 - 3 pm Church/Parish Centre
Thursday	St Vincent de Paul	5.30 pm Meeting Room (<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>

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 20/21 MARCH 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Response to the Psalm: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon: Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: Albina Skroce, Maria Cavalieri

Anniversaries: Pasquale Guarino, Antonia Santiago, Modesta Wilkin

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

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Mass will be celebrated this Thursday 25 March at 7pm.

	20/21 March	27/28 March
READERS:		
Sat 6 pm	A. Breen [L], N. Farrell [R]	C. Rowland [L], V. Pertile [R]
Sun 8.45 am	M. Carabott	B. Messina
10.30 am	C. Grech [L], L. Verduci [R]	S. Harrison [L], E. Monaco [R]
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:		
Sat 6 pm	A. McConnell	L. Teoh
Sun 8.45 am	F. Minutolo	J. Mokbel
10.30 am	C. De Francesco	D. Petrocco

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.

THIS FRIDAY

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dear Parishioners, we need your help in preparing our Church and Garden area for Easter. If you have time next Saturday 27 March, come along. You can inform Parish Office on 9354 3015 of your availability, so we can be aware of numbers. We start at 9am and conclude at 12pm. Many hands make light work and your presence would greatly appreciated.

Because of limited space please register via Parish Website from Sunday 28 March for Holy Triduum: <https://stolivers.org.au/> or contact office if you don't have internet access.

HOLY TRIDUUM 2021

Holy Thursday: 7pm Mass of the Lord's supper followed by Adoration at the *Altar of Repose* until 9.30pm
Good Friday: 3pm Solemn celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday: 6pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday: 8.45am and 10.30am Easter Mass

CONFESSIONS

Friday March 26 at 7.30pm; Saturday March 27 at 10am.

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

People must carry a fitted face covering at all times. Fitted face coverings are no longer mandatory indoors or outdoors, but should be worn by participants (unless they have a lawful exemption or are children under 12 years of age) if a distance of 1.5m cannot be maintained.

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/>