



ST JOSEPH'S MALVERN *stepping out in faith and trust*

UNDER THE CARE OF THE VINCENTIAN COMMUNITY

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Alan Gibson CM

PARISH PHONE:

9401 6390

PARISH EMAIL & WEB:

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www.stjosephsmalvern.org.au

**PARISH BUSINESS
MANAGER/SECRETARY:**

Chris Earl
0401 112 380
Monday—Wednesday
8.00am-4.00pm
Thursday-Friday
8.00am—12noon

PARISH OFFICE ADDRESS:

47 Stanhope Street, Malvern

JOCARE—COORDINATOR:

Kerri Anne Brussen
9401 6392
jocare@stjosephsmalvern.org.au
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

St Joseph's Primary
Principal
Michelle Moore
9597 6300



BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR B **10th January 2021**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Come to the water; listen to my words and you shall have life.

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,
a leader and a master of the nations.

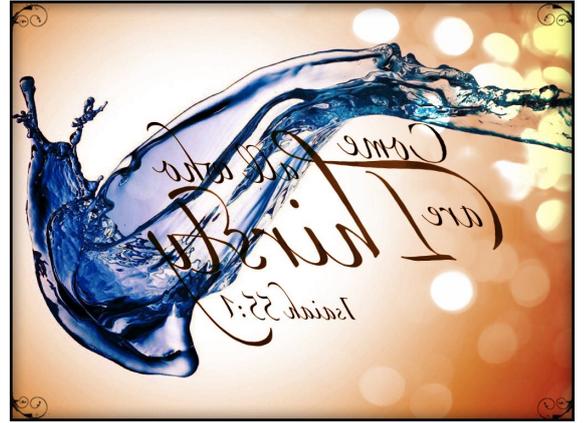
See, you will summon a nation you never knew.

ST JOSEPH'S IS A CHILD SAFE PARISH

*St Joseph's Malvern is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children,
young people and vulnerable adults.*

those unknown will come hurrying to you,
for the sake of the Lord your God,
of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.



Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of St John

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child that he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is—keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world—our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness—since the Spirit is the truth—so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree.

We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God's testimony is much greater, and this is God's testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Message from Fr Alan



WEEKEND MASSES

Weekend Masses will recommence in the Parish from the weekend of 16/17 January. There will be two masses offered – Saturday at 6.00pm and Sunday at 10.00am both at St Joseph's Church Malvern. Numbers are limited to **70** people per Mass. Everyone attending is asked to be there around 30 minutes before Mass commences. Also, everyone attending will be asked to use the QR Code. Volunteers will be on hand to assist those who do not have a smartphone or just need help using it.

THERE IS NO NEED TO BOOK TO ATTEND MASS FOR SATURDAY 16 & SUNDAY 17 JANUARY. WE ARE ONLY GOING TO USE THE QR CODE FOR ALL ATTENDEES. PLEASE NOTE WE ARE STILL LIMITED TO 70 PER MASS.

Please note that under the latest guidelines from the Victorian Government as of 31 December 2020 (<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks>) the wearing of face masks is once again compulsory when entering the Church. This applies to attending Church on both weekdays and weekends. Children under the age of 12 and those who have medical reasons are exempted.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED



Notice of
Office
Closure

PLEASE NOTE!

Until further notice the Parish Office is still closed.

Chris and Kerri Anne are both still working from home.

**Chris can be reached on
0401 112 380 or
info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au**

Anyone seeking assistance from the Parish Office is asked to please contact Fr Alan on 94016391 beforehand to arrange a time.

CDF pay for Parishes

The COVIDSafe way to pay your Stewardship contributions is with CDFpay.

Link: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMalvern>

TAP MACHINE

Your Stewardship and loose collection contributions can be made this way if you do not have any Stewardship envelopes at the moment.



Donations to the Parish can also be made using the tap machine.

Safeguarding Matters

SAFEGUARDING CODE OF CONDUCT AND VOLUNTEERS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

By now all parish volunteers have been written to asking them to sign the Code of Conduct Declaration and Volunteers Rights and Responsibilities Forms.

It is a requirement that both these forms are signed and witnessed.

If you are unable to print either of these forms please contact Chris on 0401 112 380 or info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au

Both of these forms were due to be returned in full to the Parish Office by 1st January 2021. We are still waiting on some to be returned.

I am grateful to all volunteers for all they do and acknowledge that there are volunteers in our parish community who have generously served our parish community for many years with great integrity.

The signing of these forms simply represents a commitment by our parish to effectively safeguard our children and young people.

Fr Alan's Reflection

BEGINNINGS

Although he was not responsible for the originating the hymn "Morning Has Broken" I really loved the Cat Stevens version of it as I was growing up. The hymn speaks about the beginning of a new day. The old day has now passed.

We have just recently celebrated New Years Day. This also represents another beginning. One of the hopes I think we all share is that we will not have to endure another year of COVID-19 restrictions like we did last year. Hopefully, everything will be different in time especially if we come up with a vaccine that is both ethical and one that inspires true confidence. Many of us at this time of year make New Year's Resolutions. Apart from COVID-19 comes the realization that there are other things in our lives we do not want to carry on into this year.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. St Mark, the Gospel we follow this Sunday, is different from all the other Gospels in that it does not have any infancy narratives. Mark's Gospel starts with Jesus' baptism which marks the beginning of his public ministry. There is a new beginning here. Jesus left behind his old life of residing in Nazareth and working as a carpenter and went out on mission.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan. At that time those baptized were put under the water. This symbolized the fact that no one can breathe under water for very long and survive. Therefore, the ritual of plunging someone under the water represented death. The subsequent action of raising them above the water once more represented new life. The person being baptized was to put to death their old life and live a new life in Christ. In asking for Baptism Jesus showed that he is at one with humanity's hopes, struggles and dreams.

Life is full of celebrations where we take the opportunity to mark special occasions. For instance, we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries every year. How many of us celebrate the anniversary of our baptism? In fact, how many of us can even remember the date of our baptism? Years ago, I heard about a homily given by Geoffrey Robinson, former auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney, where he said he considered that the greatest day of his life was not when he was ordained but rather it was the day he was baptized. How often do we hear something like that spoken about?

Hopefully, this Feast Day of the Baptism of our Lord reminds us of the importance of our own baptism. It is in Baptism that we put on Christ. Jesus Christ does not become someone we admire but it is in this sacrament that we become part of the Body of Christ. This Sunday represents an opportunity for us to renew our own baptismal promises which for many of us were made on our behalf by our parents and godparents but hopefully are promises we have appropriated for ourselves since. What is it that we need to put to death in our lives? What is

it that we need to raise to new life? Baptism is not a call to merely make up the numbers in Church. It represents belonging to the Body of Christ which entails a call to mission. How am I being called to participate in the mission of Jesus Christ? If we have not considered these questions before perhaps now is a good time to begin.

Monday 11th January 2021

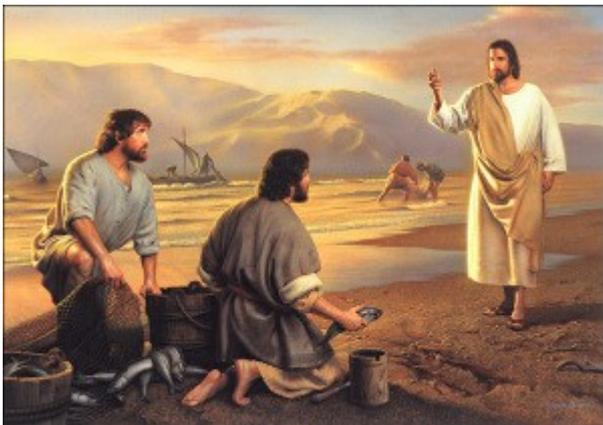
Readings: Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20

THE CALL

When we think about discipleship the temptation can be to confine that term only to people who have been designated a particular role in the Church. The truth is we have all been called to be disciples. To be a disciple means to follow the Lord and be obedient to his call. This applies regardless of what we end up doing with our lives.

In today's Gospel we have the calling the first disciples. It tells us that when Jesus called Peter and Andrew, James and John they immediately left behind what they were doing to answer his call to follow him. The words 'at once' are used twice in this Gospel passage. There seemed to be no hesitation on their part.

This passage invites us to reflect on how obedient we are to the call of the Lord in our lives? Do we answer immediately, or do we hesitate? Do we think, 'oh yes I will do that when the time is right.' The Gospel reminds us that sometimes immediately is the right time. Being a true disciple means when God's time and our own time conflict then the choice must be for God's time if we truly wish to be faithful followers of Jesus.



Tuesday 12th January 2021

Readings: Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28

TRUE AUTHORITY



Throughout 2002-2003 I did a one-year Formation Course in Dublin, Ireland. Along with Sisters, Brothers and Priests from around the world the purpose of the course was to prepare us for the role of being Director of Students. The preparation involved us undergoing the kind of formation we would be leading our students through when we returned to our respective countries. The course was mostly experiential based. Through the processes of small group work, large group work, counselling and being mentored the outcome hoped for was that we would all emerge as stronger people who were willing to exercise our moral authority when the occasion demanded it.

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus, although he did not have official power that the Scribes and Pharisees in his time would have enjoyed, made a deeper impression on the crowds than they did because he was willing use his moral authority. Jesus was preparing his disciples with the hope that they would be willing to do the same.

The question are we willing to use our moral authority when the occasion demands it? Are we strong enough to speak our truth even though we know it will not meet the approval of all? Although we may annoy people at times, we will mostly make a deep impression on others if we have the courage of our convictions.

Wednesday 13th January 2021

Readings: Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39

AT ONE WITH US

When we are struggling with a problem or feeling depressed, we quite often will look for someone who understands us and who appreciates what it is like for us.

This is what God is like for us. The author of Hebrews in today's first reading reminds us that God sent his Son Jesus into the world taking on human flesh so that he would know exactly what it is like for us. This is followed up in the Gospel today when Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law. Jesus knew how he would feel if it was his own mother who was sick. The other thing it tells us is that the disciples were obviously comfortable with presenting their needs to Jesus knowing that he would respond with mercy and compassion.

Therefore, we can also talk to God in prayer when we are struggling, confident in the knowledge that we come before an empathetic God who knows exactly what it is like for us.



Thursday 14th January 2021

Readings: Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45

THE GIFT OF TOUCH

In 1989-1990 I was in India for two months over the Christmas-New Year period. One day I had travelled a long train journey from Chennai back to the Missionary Brothers of Charity House in Kolkata where I was staying at. I was quite sick when I returned. The Brother answering the door of the house looked at me, took my temperature and called to a couple of the other brothers to immediately get a bed ready for me. As I was lying there with a high fever, falling in and out of sleep, one of the brothers who I had connected well with took my hand, smiled and said, 'don't worry brother you will live.' It was a light-hearted remark, but I also knew that it reflected a concern on his part for my well-being and I remember how good it felt to have the touch of another human being when I felt so unwell.

In today's Gospel Jesus heals the man with leprosy. Leprosy in that time was different to the way we understand it today. It covered a whole range of skin diseases. Those who had leprosy in the time of Jesus were excluded from the community. If they came anywhere near the general population, they would have to declare themselves to be unclean in a loud voice so that everyone would know. When the man with leprosy asked Jesus to heal him Jesus responded with the gift of touch. He was not afraid to show concern for the welfare of another human being despite the fact that the man was considered untouchable by the rest of the general population. Jesus could have easily healed the man from a distance but knew that a great deal of healing and consolation can be derived by being willing to come close and giving the right sort of touch.

Although I never saw or heard from that brother again when I left India, I still remember his name. This is what Jesus knew. Sometimes it is not enough to love from a distance. Sometimes we must get close to people and risk rejection in the process for our offer of kindness can bring great healing. In doing so we resemble our God who always seeks to get close to us.

Friday 15th January 2021

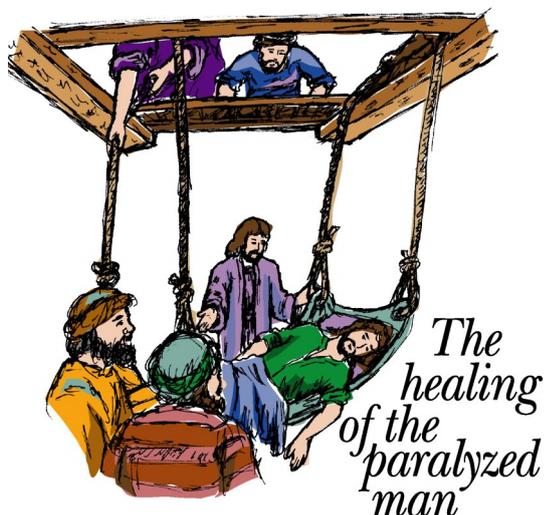
Readings: Hebrews 4:1-5,11; Mark 2:1-12

CLOSE ENOUGH?

In today's Gospel we hear the story of the healing of the paralytic. The focus here is on the 4 people who brought this man to Jesus. Firstly, they had the desire to bring him to Jesus. By bringing him to the feet of Jesus they brought him as close as they could. Secondly, they had a conviction that Jesus would make a difference. Thirdly, they had the will to make it happen.

The 4 people who brought the paralytic man to Jesus went to a whole lot of trouble to do so. They could have looked at the crowd and decided it was all too hard and then just left the man near the house thinking 'oh well, close enough' and go away hoping something would happen. However, they had the conviction because they truly believed that Jesus would make a difference. The fact that they tore a hole in the roof of Peter's house to lower the man so he could get as close as possible to Jesus bore testimony to the fact that they had the will.

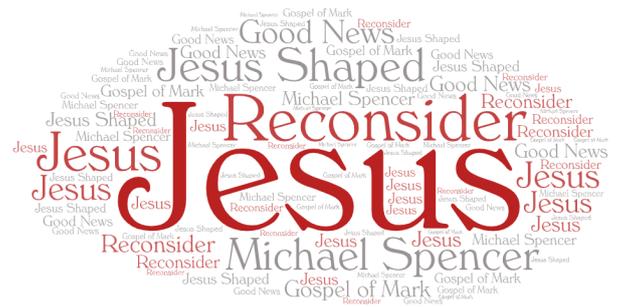
I believe that if we are to grow as a Church, we need to ask ourselves the question, 'how hard are we trying to bring people to the feet of Jesus? Struggling with this question should inform any decision we make when it comes to the Mass, the Sacraments and all of our parish programmes. This is vital if we want to adhere to something real. If we want a good result then we must will the means. The 4 men who brought the paralytic to Jesus were not prepared to settle for close enough. Neither should we.



Saturday 16th January 2021

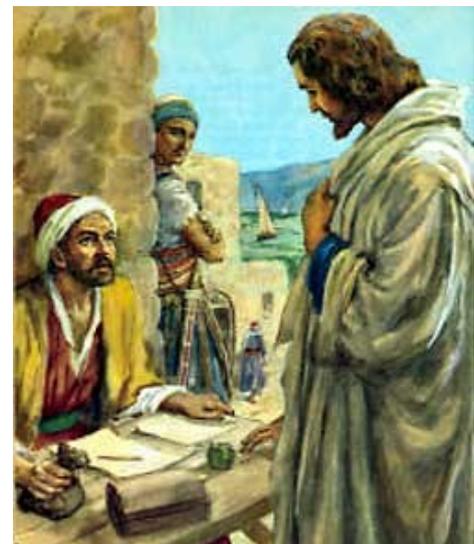
Readings: Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17

CALLING OF THE OUTSIDER



Matthew was a tax collector at the time when Jesus called him. Tax collectors were one of the most hated groups in the time of Jesus. This was mostly because they cheated people of their rightful earnings. Jesus could have easily chosen someone else, but he saw the potential in Matthew despite his background. Jesus did not discriminate. The call he placed on Matthew was the same on he placed on Peter and Andrew, James and John which was simply, 'follow me.'

We learn from this that God can call anyone to follow him regardless of where they come from or what their background is. All that ultimately matters is how faithful one is in responding to that call.





You are my own dear Son

The Baptism of the Lord

Draw Jesus being baptised in the river by John the Baptist.



Find Out



When were you baptised?

Where were you baptised?

Who are your Godparents?

Draw a line to connect each symbol with its correct meaning.



Candle

Symbolises the Holy Spirit

Symbolises life, cleansing and growth

Symbolises purity and freedom from sin

Symbolises the emergence from darkness into the light

Dove



Water

White Gown



SENIOR WORDSEARCH

God will bring justice to all the earth

Z F M B F A R I Y S V S H I O R U
D P Z B S G T W P B F K R E Y Z
C G C H T S J R P C D N I L B Y P
P U V N I I P T Q N U Q W N K F F
N E H T Z G R F K B Q O D S V J I
S O E D L V M I P I R N E V A E H
J U V L N N J C P S H E W V B G I
B Q O Q N X R E H S C I F S N E H
W W D G E T B I M T Y V N O Z O A
U O I N E E P X B F Y L R J B Q I
X J U B L L Q D O V J T O Y D C S
Q M B G X Q T F F E S C T H X E S
B V B O J S H L I S R A E L S C E
M L E R U M G E G E V I M D D S M
S U D S C B I E E O R O B F Z Z K G
Q U E Y L O L D Y P Z Q L L O R H

Is 42:1-2, 4, 6-7
Ps 29:3abde-4, 3cde & 9ef-10, R, v.11b
Acts 10:34-38
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

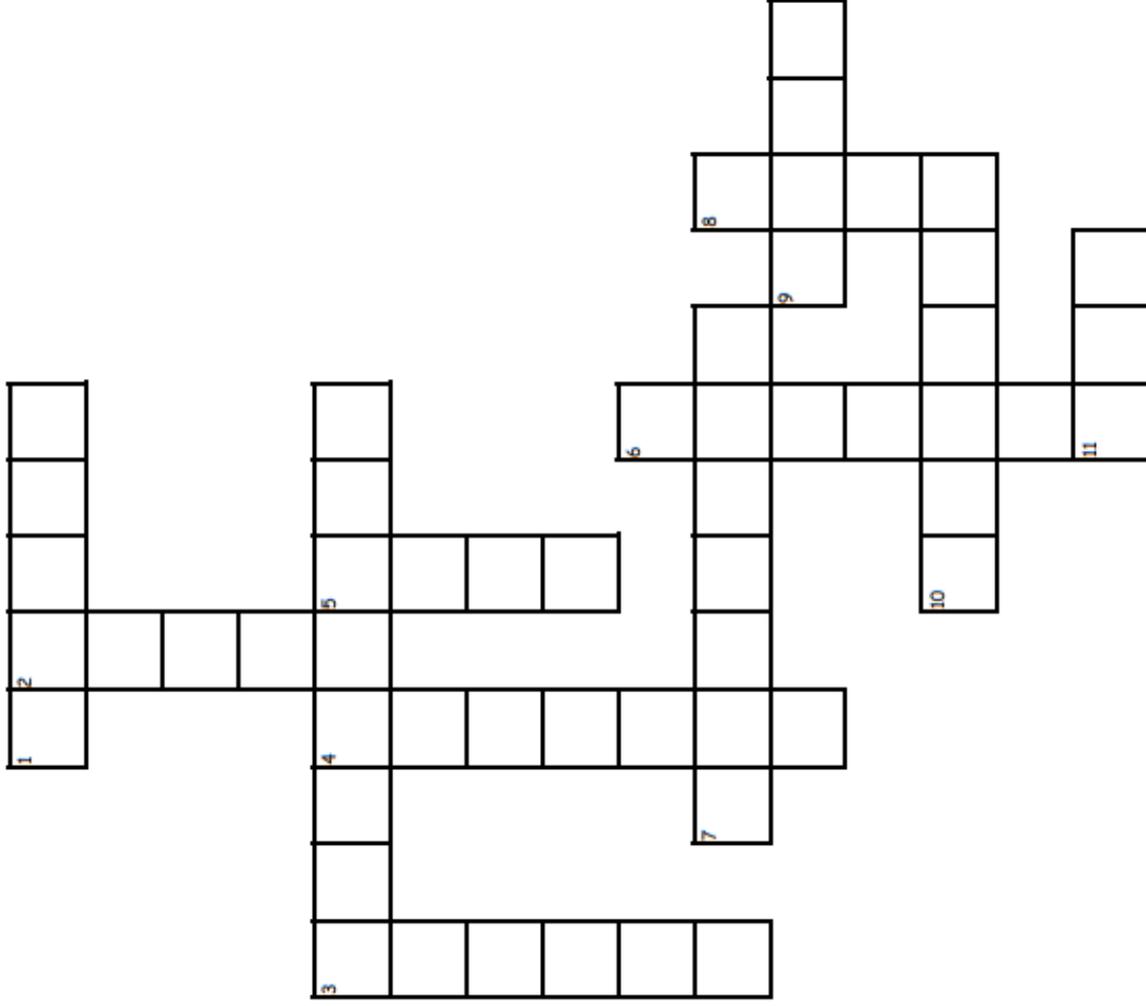
Try to find these words:

blind
dove
fire
heaven
Holy Spirit
Israel
John
light
Messiah
sky
strong
worship

CROSSWORD

You are my own dear Son

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



Across

- 1: John was baptising people with this
- 3: John told the people that someone more _____ would come
- 7: the chosen one
- 9: the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in this form
- 10: a voice was heard coming from this place
- 11: where the sun and moon appear

Down

- 2: the opposite of before
- 3: the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus while he did this
- 4: the people were _____ about John, thinking he was the Messiah
- 5: the natural element that burns and gives heat
- 6: footwear commonly worn in biblical times
- 8: this man was baptising people with water

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH—Mass Times



Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil—6.00pm (St Joseph's)
Sunday—10.00am (St Joseph's)

Weekday Masses

Monday—NO MASS
Tuesday—NO MASS
Wednesday—MASS ONLINE
Thursday—MASS ONLINE
Friday—NO MASS

Reconciliation

by appointment only

PLEASE NOTE!!

All Mass Intentions are being said by Fr Alan each morning at a private Mass.



Parish Office is closed until further notice.
Please ring, 9401 6390 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

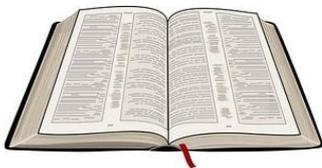
CHURCH OPEN

The Church is NOW OPEN for weekend Masses at 6.00pm Saturday and 10.00am Sunday.

Unfortunately, personal visits to the Church are still not permitted until further notice.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR B

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-11
SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-9
GOSPEL: Mark 1:7-11



Next Sunday's Readings

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Samuel 3:3-10.19
1 Corinthians 6:13-15.17-20
John 1:35-42



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

BAPTISM:

THE SICK: Fiona Egan, Frances Cushing, Barbara Westcott

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Leila O'Bree, Kath Egan



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 9 January	People of the Parish
Sunday 10 January	People of the Parish
Tuesday 12 January	Gennaro De Fazio (rec dec)
Wednesday 13 January	Leila O'Bree (an)
Thursday 14 January	Giuseppe Volpe (dec)
Friday 15 January	
Saturday 16 January	Kath Egan (an)

If you are wanting to book a Mass Intention, please call the Parish Office on 9401 6390 or info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people and offer our respects to the elders past, present and future. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land.