



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

UNDER THE CARE OF THE VICENTIAN COMMUNITY

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Alan Gibson CM

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PARISH BUSINESS

MANAGER/SECRETARY:

Mrs Chris Earl
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Mr Hung Chau
Friday 9.00am—3.00pm

PARISH OFFICE ADDRESS:

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JOCARE—COORDINATOR:

Mrs Kerri Anne Brussen
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Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

St Joseph's Primary
Principal
Mrs Michelle Moore
9597 6300

EASTER SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD—YEAR A 12th April 2020



GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

ST JOSEPH'S IS A CHILD SAFE PARISH

At St Joseph's we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish.

MESSAGE FROM FR ALAN

One day at Morning Prayer, I came across the words from St Paul "We are in difficulties on every side but never consumed" (2 Cor 4:8). My prayer currently is that I hope this finds everyone well and keeping positive.



The Parish Pastoral Council met online during this past week. One of the main points stressed at our meeting was the importance of trying to maintain connected with one another. We will continue to look at ways to make this possible in the coming weeks. I also met online with the Archbishop and the priests of the Archdiocese. It was good to see the initiatives that parishes were undertaking. The High Court decision was spoken about and I wish to draw your attention to the letter and media release that has been put on our website regarding this. We will continue to meet this way on a regular basis over the next few weeks.

Once again, I would highlight the wonderful work done by our Music Ministry by putting music online for the benefit of us all. Thank you very much. Also, I wish to acknowledge the ongoing work done by our Refugee Support Group. They seek our support at this time so if you can please give generously. The details of how to do so is on our parish website. JoCare, which does great work, is currently working with Katie Allen's Office, in reaching out to the elderly and vulnerable elderly and are looking for volunteers. I would also like to highlight again the fact that our volunteers who visit MECWA Noel Miller have been writing letters to those they would normally visit. MECWA have taken up this idea and are calling for volunteers who might like to write to residents or those they usually visit. Finally I would like to acknowledge the work of the Parish Staff. They are currently working from home. We are in continual contact each day, mostly by email and some phone calls. Even though they are not in the office I can always pass on messages which will be quickly received. I thank them for their ongoing commitment to the parish.

On behalf of the Parish Staff Chris, Kerri-Anne, Hung and myself I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Holy Easter.

Fr. Alan

EASTER TRIDUUM ON TELEVISION

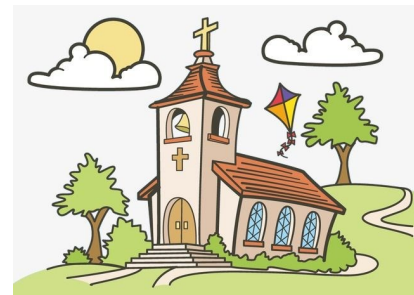
The main ceremonies this coming week will be on Channel 31 (Digital Channel 44) in Melbourne, coming from **St Patrick's Cathedral** (see list below).

Holy Thursday—Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7.30pm

Good Friday—Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, 3.00pm

Saturday Easter Vigil Mass—7.30pm

Easter Sunday—Easter Sunday Mass, 11.00am



Also, Channel 7 will be televising live the Good Friday service at 3.00pm and the Easter Sunday Mass at 10.30am, from **St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney**.

Easter Vigil Saturday 11th April 2020

Moving forward

The Easter Vigil is a celebration of God's love for us. God is the one who leads us from slavery to freedom, from death to new life. It shows that unconditional love wins out over everything else.

The fact that there is nothing our God won't do for us made the resurrection a reality.

Jesus went on from death. The Gospels are not so much interested in where we have come from. They are more interested in where we are going. The resurrection reminds us of God's desire that we keep moving forward in life with a sense of purpose and direction. It also reminds of our Christian duty to help others when they struggle to do this. This is the night when we would normally light candles and renew our baptismal promises. This year could we light a candle at home and allow this to be the promise that we make to God thus ensuring that Easter remains something real for us?



Easter Sunday

The Resurrection is real

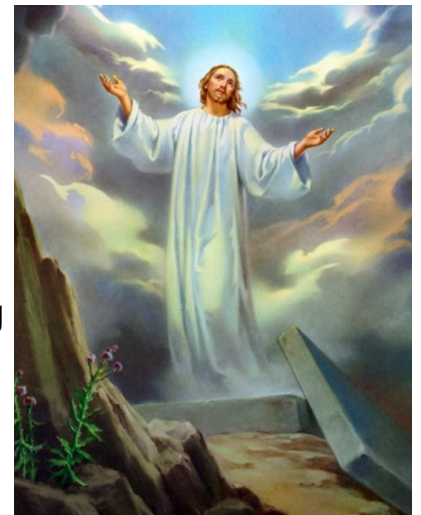
If I began my homily with the words "A long time ago in a galaxy far away" no one would believe I was telling a true story. It would be thought that I was either telling a myth or a legend. However, if I told you that I met someone in either Malvern, Toorak or Glen Iris the expectation would be that I was telling you about something that had really happened.

In today's First Reading Peter wanted to convince his audience about something that had really happened. In relating the story about the public ministry Jesus of Nazareth Peter includes people and places that they knew well.

John the Baptist was well known to them. They all knew where Galilee and Judaea were situated. There was nothing to gain from an earthy perspective for the apostles to tell this story. Their testimony to the fact that the Lord had risen from the dead and they were eyewitnesses resulted in most of them suffering horrible deaths. The fact that they were willing to go to their death defending the truth of what they saw and heard was indeed a powerful testimony. The result was that many came to believe.

Last century an Anglican Bishop remarked after giving a homily on Easter Sunday "When St. Paul preached about the resurrection, they had him stoned and thrown into prison. When I preached about the resurrection, they gave me tea." Does that highlight a problem for us? Has the true meaning of the resurrection and its implications stopped having an impact on us? Has Easter become just another holiday?

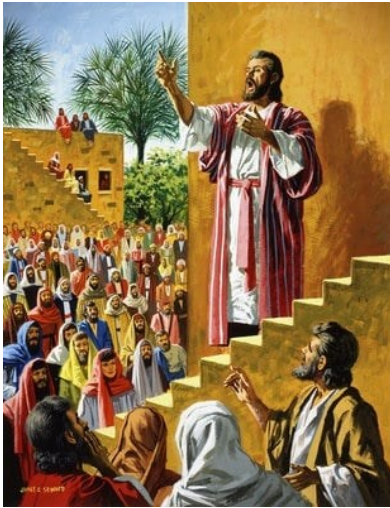
There is nothing wrong with myths or legends. Quite often they communicate a truth even though the events are not factually true. By contrast the apostles gave testimony to what had really happened. The Gospel showed them just starting to grasp the truth. The First Reading shows they had progressed beyond that point. They understood that through his resurrection Jesus is the answer to our desire for eternal life because we can all share in his resurrection. Through Jesus' resurrection all the powers of the world like hatred, violence, oppression and exclusion have been conquered. Our task as Christians is to bear testimony to this.



Easter Monday 13th April 2020

Readings: Acts 2:14,22-32; Matthew 28:8-15

Eclipsed by mercy



In today's first Reading Peter gives a resume of Jesus' public ministry and places the responsibility of his crucifixion on the people he was addressing. Peter does not simply want to make the people feel bad about themselves although the feelings of shame and remorse cannot be bypassed on the road to redemption. He is making the point that God's mercy will eclipse all they had done. However, to be able to rejoice in God's mercy the people had to acknowledge what they had done. A salvation which forgets the wrongdoing of the past is only skin deep.

Hopefully this Easter Season will lead us into a deeper realization of God's love for us. To that we must be willing to enter the process of confronting and acknowledging where sin exists in our lives so that we too can move forward on the road to redemption.

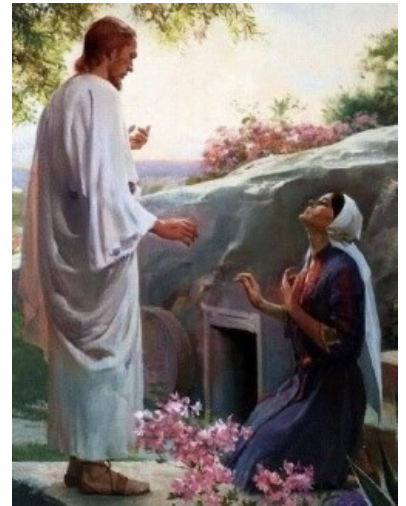
Easter Tuesday 14th April 2020

Readings: Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18

Encounter

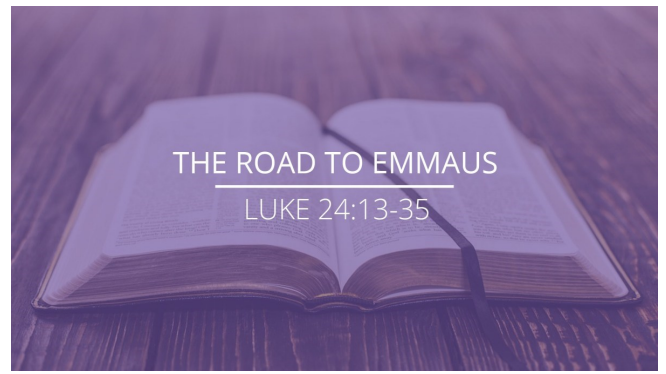
In today's first reading Peter's call for repentance and conversion is continued. Again, the importance of acknowledging and taking responsibility for sinfulness in one's life is emphasised. Those prepared to do this are granted the generosity of God's pardon. For the Christian the passion of Jesus will always be the road to awareness of sin and desire for pardon. But how can one beg pardon from a God they have not encountered?

It is here that faith in the resurrection makes the difference. We may not be able to see Jesus like Mary Magdalene and the disciples did but it is still possible to encounter Jesus with the eyes of faith. This is the point of our Gospel today. In contrast to Matthew's Gospel where the two women could touch Jesus' feet, Mary Magdalene was told by Jesus not to cling to him. John is more concerned with demonstrating that the Lord's new presence can only be seen with the eyes of faith.



Once she encountered the Risen Lord, the life of Mary Magdalene was completely changed. With the eyes of faith Mary Magdalene came to the realization that encountering the Risen Lord was the thing that was most essential and that it exceeded everything else in her life. Seeking to encounter God in our lives with the eyes of faith will also enable our lives to be transformed.

Easter Wednesday 15th April 2020
Readings: Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35
Messiahship



In addressing his audience Peter drew on many references to the Old Testament. The people would have been aware of this and would have looked upon Jesus as the one who fulfills the messianic hopes that was foretold by the Old Testament.

The Gospel finds two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were completely downhearted. Their perception was that Jesus had not fulfilled their messianic expectation of him. Jesus responds by taking them through the scriptures and breaking bread with them. Through this the two disciples came to understand that Jesus' Messiahship did not end with his death. Rather it was amplified by it.

The full power of Jesus' Messiahship is shown in the First Reading today. Peter heals a man using the same words and actions Jesus used in his own healing ministry. By introducing an unclean man to the Temple, Peter is expressing his faith in Christ's victory over death, in a Messiahship without limits. When the two disciples on the road to Emmaus realised this, they immediately changed direction.

Do we recognize the Lord in the breaking of bread? Do we listen to the Word of God to assimilate it's full import and be disposed for the Eucharist? Are we prepared to receive Jesus risen both in His Word and Deed? Are we prepared to allow him to change our life's direction?

Easter Thursday 16th April 2020
Readings: Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48
Personal Conversion



The words that Jesus did not die and rise again so that we can have a religion, he died and rose again so that we can a relationship with him certainly applies to our Gospel story today. Thomas was carrying the invisible wounds of unbelief. Jesus responded by inviting Thomas to encounter him personally by touching his wounds. It was through this Thomas came to conversion and he expresses this by saying "my Lord and my God."

This tells us of a God who is not untouchable but who is near to us and who loves us. When we struggle with fear and unbelief, he wants us to come to him. The sermon Peter gave in today's first reading followed his healing of a man who was crippled. This tells us of God's wish to heal all of us through the power of Christ's name whether our wounds are visible or invisible. When we accept Jesus' invitation, we will experience conversion in the same way that Thomas did.

Easter Friday 17th April 2020

Readings: Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14

Things change

When we become authentic witnesses to Christ within our lives it may change some of our relationships with others. Not all will understand. Some will be disturbed by it. This was certainly the case for the apostles in our First Reading today. Their experience of the Risen Christ and their willingness to give witness disturbed the priests and the pharisees. They could see that things were going to change. They would no longer have the same level of control over their people like they did before and felt threatened by it.



The disciples experience of the Lord's resurrection was neither a figment of their imagination nor wishful thinking. It had really happened. In today's Gospel shows that it happened when they were least expecting it. They were busy at their task fishing when Jesus appeared to them. It was through this encounter that they realized that life could never to return to the way it was before they ever met Jesus. Things had irreversibly changed.

This is what happens when we experience the Risen Christ in our lives. Things cannot go on like before. Some things will inevitably change. Sometimes negotiating this change will prove to be painful but if we remain steadfast in our beliefs like the early disciples did then we will also find new life.

Easter Saturday 18th April 2020


Readings: Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15

Confident in their beliefs



Today's readings are all about having confidence in our beliefs. The Gospel tells us that Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene. She was so certain of what she saw and heard that she did not hesitate to tell others. The fact that she has been designated the title 'Apostle to the Apostles' by the Church would seem to indicate that she was not put off by being disbelieved. Similarly, when John and Peter were given a stern warning by the rulers, elders and scribes not to continue preaching they were sufficiently confident in their beliefs to tell them that they had no intention of following such a directive. They had responded in full to Jesus's message in the Gospel to "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.

Are we confident enough in our beliefs to boldly proclaim our faith in Christ? Can we remain steadfast even when we meet incredulity and even opposition?



“He has Risen,
Have faith in him...
And he will always
be there for you!”

“Have a blessed and
Happy Easter!”

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH—Mass Times



Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil NO MASS
Sunday NO MASS

Weekday Masses

Monday NO MASS
Tuesday NO MASS
Wednesday NO MASS
Thursday NO MASS

Reconciliation

by appointment only

PLEASE NOTE!!

Mass Intentions are still being taken and said by Fr Alan each morning at a private Mass.



Parish Office is closed until further notice.
Please ring, 9401 6391 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

CLOSURE OF CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

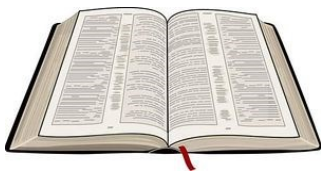
Due to the increased restrictions announced by the Government, it is with much regret that the Church needs to close indefinitely. Unfortunately this means personal visits to the Church are not permitted until further notice.

EASTER SUNDAY (YEAR A)

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34.37-43

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

GOSPEL: John 20:1-9



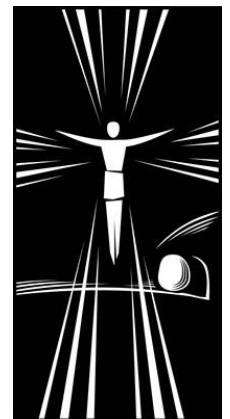
Next Sunday's Readings

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

Acts 2:42-47

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

BAPTISM:

THE SICK: John & Marie Horan, Mim Nerlich, Barbara Westcott, Janet Murphy, Mal Logan, Anne Peric, Br Paul Smith fsc

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES:



MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 12 People of the Parish
Apr 14
Apr 15
Apr 16
Apr 17

If you are wanting to book a Mass Intention, please call the Parish Office on 8508 7200 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.