



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

UNDER THE CARE OF THE VINCENTIAN COMMUNITY

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Fr Alan Gibson CM

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**PARISH BUSINESS**

**MANAGER/SECRETARY:**

Mrs Chris Earl  
Monday—Thursday  
8.00am—4.00pm  
Mr Hung Chau  
Friday 9.00am—3.00pm

**PARISH OFFICE ADDRESS:**

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**JOCARE—COORDINATOR:**

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Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

**PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:**

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Principal  
Mrs Michelle Moore  
9597 6300

## 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER TIME

### YEAR A

3rd May 2020

**GOSPEL:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*



Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly.  
I am the gate of the sheepfold.  
All others who have come  
are thieves and brigands;  
but the sheep took no notice of them.  
I am the gate.  
Anyone who enters through me will be safe

**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.*

he will go freely in and out  
and be sure of finding pasture.  
The thief comes  
only to steal and kill and destroy.  
I have come  
so that they may have life  
and have it to the full.'

## **FR ALAN'S REFLECTION**

### **GOD CARES**

In this Sunday's readings we hear from the Letter of St Peter 'by his wounds you have been healed.' This tells us that we do not experience healing by our own power. It has come through the healing power of God who sent his only Son into the world to suffer and die on a cross once and for all so that the sins of all humanity are healed for all time. This tells us how much God loves us. He has been thinking about each of us for all eternity.

In the Gospel we hear Jesus refer to himself as the gate of the sheepfold. In Jesus' time flocks were small and conditions were harsh. Shepherding was a full-time job.

Sheepfolds were also common and only had one doorway. The survival of the sheep depended upon the devotion of the shepherd. At night, the shepherd would lead the sheep into the sheepfold. He would sleep across the entrance. He was a "living gate." This was to prevent sheep from getting out in the night. It was also to stop predators getting in. In the morning, the shepherd would lead his sheep out one by one. He would count them making sure not one of them was missing. He would also check if they had any injuries and if they did, he would do his best to apply healing remedies. Also, the shepherd knew every one of his sheep very well and would give each one of them a name.

This image of the Good Shepherd tells us about the relationship between God and us. By blocking the sheepfold at night, the shepherd was literally laying down his life for his sheep. Similarly, Jesus lay down his life for each of us by his death on the cross. Jesus is our Good Shepherd because he knows the injuries that life has given us, the day to day struggles, the responsibilities that marriage and raising a family bring and the difficulties that can come with that, the friend or relatives that don't seem to be as caring as you thought they could be, or should be. Jesus is our Good Shepherd who knows our name, who is completely devoted to us and he wants to care for us.

The sheep seem to sense that the Shepherd cares for them. They trust him and follow him wherever he goes. This image is presented in order to encourage us to cultivate that kind of relationship with our God. The Responsorial for today is 'The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.' If we are prepared to allow our God to lead us, we will have everything we need.

## MESSAGE FROM FR ALAN



I hope this finds everyone well and having a good week. Firstly, thank you for continuing to contribute to the Parish during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Under lockdown reading on our Parish Website is a letter from Pope Francis for World Earth Day which was celebrated last Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020. It incorporates Laudato Si. This was the encyclical he wrote in 2015. The link for this reading is [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200422\\_udienza-generale.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200422_udienza-generale.html) I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to Laudato Si Week which takes place between 16-24 May. It is an online video conference which I have already signed up to join. I invite you to join me. The link to register is <https://laudatosiweek.org/>. A prayer commemorating the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si is also in our parish bulletin and on our parish website. There is also an online concert organized by Caritas Australia (Project Compassion) for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Further details of this will be in this week's parish bulletin. It represents another opportunity to stand in solidarity with this most affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Finally, with the permission of Fr Chris Monaghan CP from Holy Cross Retreat Templestowe I would like to recommend the following reflection videos to you. Paul of the Cross – <https://vimeo.com/groups/653755/videos/407345164>; Julian of Norwich – <https://vimeo.com/groups/653755/videos/407555269>; Benedict – <https://vimeo.com/groups/653755/videos/411218818>

It was good to hear that our local Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society meeting online this week. Over the next few days, I will be writing to all parishioners giving an update of how the lockdown has affected what the parish can currently offer at the moment, but it also outlines what we can still do. The building may be shut but the parish is still open.

## PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES OR ENVELOPES



Thank you to everyone who have returned either Project Compassion Boxes or Envelopes to the Parish Office. If anyone still needs to return theirs, this can be done by placing it in the mail slot which is located beside the Presbytery front door. Parishioners bringing back Project Compassion Boxes are requested to crush them and place them in an envelope so that they will fit through the mail slot.

Receipts will be issued, where requested, as soon as possible.

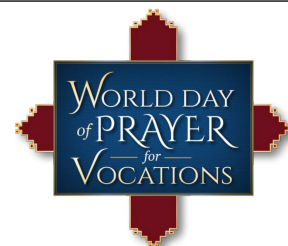
## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS 2020

### Pope Francis—Message for 2020 World Day of Vocations

*'Take heart, do not be afraid! Jesus is at our side, and if we acknowledge him as the one Lord of our lives, he will stretch out his hand, take hold of us, and save us.'*

*'The Lord knows that a fundamental life choice—like marriage or special consecration to his service—calls for courage. He knows the questions, doubts and difficulties that toss the boat of our heart, and so he reassures us: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear".'*

*'Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations.'*





PROJECT  
COMPASSION  
GO FURTHER TOGETHER

# LOUNGEROOM SESSIONS

*with Gary Pinto*

WALK  
WITH  
ME

SAT 9TH MAY  
COMING TO YOUR  
LOUNGEROOM

[Caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions](https://Caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions)

## ONLINE CONCERT FOR CARITAS—MAY 9

You may have heard and seen about the exciting benefit concert, ***Walk With Me – Loungeroom Sessions*** with Gary Pinto, being organised through Caritas Australia.

On Saturday May 9th, Australian singer, songwriter and musician, Gary Pinto will lead a free online concert for Project Compassion.

Gary wrote a song for Project Compassion titled [Walk With Me](#) this year and wanted to do more to help so he is bringing Australian and international musicians together in support of Caritas Australia. Through this free concert, he is urging thousands of school children, teachers, churches and families across Australia during this challenging time, to stand in solidarity with those most vulnerable to COVID-19.

You can find more details on the concert and view the great artist line-up at:  
[caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions](https://caritas.org.au/loungeroomsessions)

To view the concert, supporters will need to register at [livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/](https://livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/)



**Monday 4th May 2020**

**Readings: Acts 11:1-18; John 10:11-18**

**A FULL-TIME JOB**

Today's Gospel is a continuation of yesterday's with Jesus being portrayed as the Good Shepherd. A

contrast is made between the full-time shepherd and the hired hand. The full-time shepherd is the one who is fully invested in the sheep that is entrusted to his care. This tells us what God is like. God is always invested in us.

This also reminds us of our responsibility towards others who are entrusted to our care. Like a devoted shepherd we always need to be invested in others.

*I am*

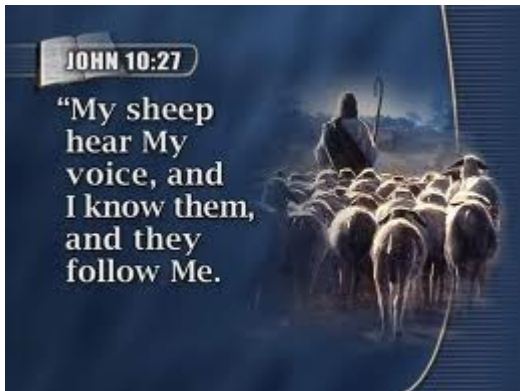
*the Good Shepherd*

*John 10:11*



**Tuesday 5th May 2020**

**Readings: Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30**



**A FAMILIAR VOICE**

The sheep listen to the Good Shepherd. Because the Shepherd is devoted to them, they are familiar with his voice. Are we familiar with the voice of God in our lives? We can help ourselves on an individual level through reading the scriptures and spending time in prayer. In one of last week's reflections I spoke about a young aspiring actor and his faith in God. On another occasion he also said something else that was striking. He was asked 'How do you find time to pray?' He answered 'I don't find time. I make time.' In other words, if we want God's voice to be familiar to us our decision

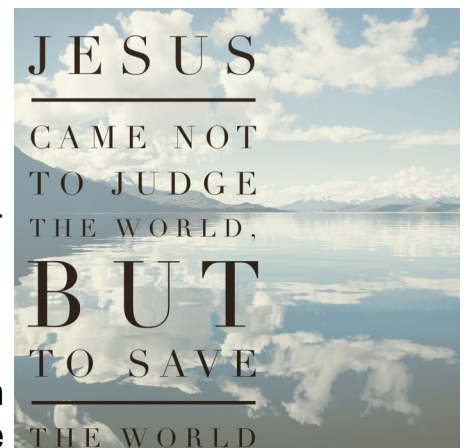
to spend time with him must be intentional. Over the many voices in our world that compete for attention God's voice should be given priority. How familiar am I with the voice of the Good Shepherd?

**Wednesday 6th May 2020**

**Readings: Acts 12:24-13:5; John 12:44-50**

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELF**

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks about the Day of Judgement. It is not about God punishing us. Rather it is about the consequences that will take place as a result of the choices we make. Today's Gospel helps in the good choices we can make. Firstly, to listen to the voice of God in our lives. Secondly, decide to believe. Thirdly, to decide to show that I love others by my actions. St. John of the Cross exclaimed: "I will be examined on love!" Love in its truest form is to will the good of the other. This is a sacrificial love as it means we want the very best for the other person even if we do not derive any benefit from it. When we do this, we become people of the light. God continually offers his help and others may be able to assist us but ultimately it is up to us to make the choice to do it.



**Thursday 7th May 2020**

**Readings: Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20**

### **SERVICE FOR OTHERS**

Most teachers when they teach something lecture first before giving a practical demonstration. By contrast Jesus does the reverse. Firstly, he shows what service looks like by washing the feet of his disciples. It is only when he has done this does, he begins to teach on service.

In 2008 I did a sabbatical for 3 months in San Francisco. Whilst there I was very fortunate to receive lectures from Fr, Richard Gula, a moral theologian, who has written several books. His lectures were on the importance of establishing ethics in pastoral ministry. One statement he made has stayed with me. It was 'ministry is always one way directed.' Jesus was the supreme model of this. He came to serve, not to be served.

Also, in his book Celebration of Discipline Richard Foster contrasts self-focused service with Christ focused service. He makes the point that Christ focused service is concerned with looking for opportunities to serve in both big and small ways, does not seek eternal reward and is not affected by feelings but simply responds to a need.

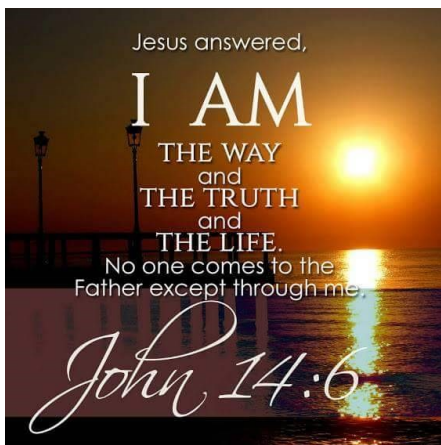
Continually asking the question is the service I am giving to others in a Christ focused way will ensure that we will not seek to become greater than our Master.



**Friday 8th May 2020**

**Readings: Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6**

### **TRUST IN GOD**



Going through this time of lockdown as a result of the pandemic can leave us with feelings of fear and uncertainty. We can even be tempted to feel that God has abandoned us.

Today's Gospel forms part of Jesus' farewell address to his disciples. The disciples had just learnt that Jesus would be leaving them very soon. They were sad at heart. Was their Lord and Master abandoning them at a time when they needed him the most? Jesus response in today's Gospel acknowledged their feelings of sadness and uncertainty about the future and at the same time he pointed them to hope.

I believe there are three lessons we can learn from today's Gospel. Firstly, let us be determined that our faith will win out over fear. Jesus tells us 'Do not let your hearts be troubled, trust in God still and trust in me.' Secondly, what happens next is better than what is happening now. Jesus tells us 'There are many rooms in my Father's House. If it were not so I should have told you. What is currently happening to us now will pass. Heaven lasts for eternity. Finally, Jesus is our way home. As we know from travelling to some destinations there are several different ways to get there. The same principle applies to life. Our lives can take several different directions. With God there is only direction – 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' Let us take our direction from him.

No one knows exactly what a post COVID-19 world will look like. However, we can be sure of this. God is in our midst, acknowledging our feelings and at the same time pointing us to hope.

**Saturday 9th May 2020**

**Readings: Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14**

### **WHAT GOD IS LIKE**

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that: 'The Church has always acknowledged that in the body of Jesus 'we see our God made visible and so are caught up in love of the God we cannot see,' ( no. 477).



In today's Gospel Philip asks Jesus to show him the Father. In reply Jesus tells him 'to have seen me is to have seen the Father.' In other words, Philip only had to look at the life and work of Jesus in order to know the Father. Through Jesus Christ, God shows us his complete, unconditional, and perfect love for each of us. Through the person of Jesus Christ, the Gospels specify what God is like; God forgives, is merciful, self-giving, reconciling, hospitable and humble. God respects the dignity of each person.

Each of us is made in the image of God. Our role as Christians is to make that constant movement from image to likeness. If we want others to know what God is like we must show them by trying to live and act as Jesus did.

### **Common Prayer for the Fifth Anniversary of Laudato Si'**

*Loving God,*

*Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,*

*You created us in your image and made us stewards of all your creation,  
of our common home.*

*You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land  
so that all might be nourished.*

*Open our minds and touch our hearts,  
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.*

*Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us,  
but to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.*

*May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.*

*Be present to those in need in these trying times,  
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.*

*Transform our fear, anxiety and feelings of isolation into hope  
so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.*

*Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic,  
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good.*

*Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected,  
in our efforts to lift up the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*

*We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*





# 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  
Friday—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.*



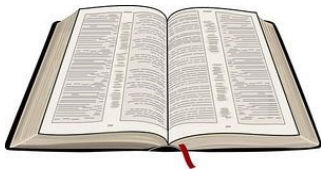
Parish Office is closed until further notice.  
Please ring, 9401 6391 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

## 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.

## 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

**FIRST READING:** Acts 2:14.36-41  
**SECOND READING:** 1 Peter 2:20-25  
**GOSPEL:** John 10:1-10



### Next Sunday's Readings

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)  
Acts 6:1-7  
1 Peter 2:4-9  
John 14:1-12



## 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:

Guido De Chellis



## MASS INTENTIONS

May 2nd Guido De Chellis (an)  
May 3rd People of the Parish  
May 5th  
May 6th  
May 7th  
May 8th

If you are wanting to book a Mass Intention, please call the Parish Office on 8508 7200 or [info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au](mailto: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.*