



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

UNDER THE CARE OF THE VINCENTIAN COMMUNITY

PARISH PRIEST:

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:

Mrs Kerri Anne Brussen
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Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

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St Joseph's Primary
Principal
Mrs Michelle Moore
9597 6300

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A 10th May 2020

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you know my Father too.
From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.'
'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?'



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.

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?"
Do you not believe
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.
You must believe me when I say
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,
whoever believe in me
will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.'

FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

WE ARE HEADING HOME

When homing pigeons are released, they do not immediately head home. They fly up in the air and go around in circles trying to get their bearings. All of us I am sure have experienced some uncertainty of how to get to a certain destination. What is true in terms of physical location can also apply in other areas as well. It is also possible for us to feel lost spiritually, psychologically, or emotionally. In all cases we long for that one person to say, 'Come and I will show you the way.'

In this Sunday's Gospel we hear Jesus speak the words 'I am the Way the Truth and the Life.' He is saying to us that what is happening in our lives is not all that there is. There is a place prepared for each of us in his heavenly kingdom. He invites us to follow him: 'Come and I will show you the way.' This is a great comfort when we feel our lives are going around and around in circles and we are struggling to get our bearings.

The context of this reading is well worth noting. At the end of the previous Chapter Peter declared his willingness to lay down his life for Jesus. Jesus then rebuked Peter predicting his denial. He then immediately follows this up with words of encouragement and assurance. The Gospel tells us that God is never short of power, wisdom, and goodness. He continues to reach out to us even amid our brokenness.

Peter returned after the resurrection stronger than ever and went on to live a life full of purpose and direction. Today's Second Reading from 1 Peter attests that he had found his home in God. God will also lead us home, but we must give him our trust. Do we cultivate a homing instinct for heaven in our lives?

MESSAGE FROM FR ALAN



I hope this finds you all well and having a good week. For those who usually attend the Sunday 10.00am Mass may remember that I introduced Tim Mutton to the community on Sunday 1st March as he has been enquiring into becoming a Catholic. With his knowledge and consent I would like to let you know that we have been meeting ever since. We simply moved to Skyping one another when the lockdown commenced. He is keen to be received into the Catholic Church and this will be done as soon as it can be permitted. Would you please keep him in your prayers? I continue to meet with the Archbishop (via zoom) each Wednesday afternoon and will keep you updated on any relevant developments. At this stage, indications are from the Government that some restrictions may be lifted from Monday May 11th. Although it is hard to be specific given none of us know what restrictions would be lifted should that take place, I still feel it is important to start thinking about how we emerge as a parish out of this period of lockdown. One of the things we can be certain of is that life will never quite be the same again because of this experience. I will be starting this conversation with the Parish Pastoral Council next week. I also welcome your thoughts as to how we might best start looking after each other. One matter of importance is that volunteers taking visiting Nursing Homes or taking communion to parishioners obtain a flu injection. I will say more about this in a separate notice.

Just a gentle reminder that the Parish Bulletin continues to be put out each week. Anyone wishing to obtain one online can do so by going to our parish website www.stjosephsmalvern.org.au and then clicking on News and Events up the top. Also please let me know if you would like to receive a hardcopy in the mail. I have received a few enquiries as to whether St Joseph's Malvern can have masses online. I have been making enquiries. One of the things I will do this week is set up a couple of zoom meetings for those who wish to connect online. I will also include this in a separate notice for this bulletin. Last week I mentioned sending a letter out to all parishioners. These started to go out by email yesterday. The letters that need posting will go out in the next couple of days. If you do not receive this letter in the next week, please let me know and I will arrange to have one sent to you.

I would like to take the opportunity of wishing all mothers a very happy Mothers Day. May this Sunday truly be a day of blessing for you.

Fr. Alan

VOLUNTEERS TO NURSING HOMES & TO HOME OF PARISHIONERS—FLU INJECTION

On the May 1st 2020 it became compulsory for anyone entering an aged care facility to have been vaccinated against flu. I would like to extend this requirement to all volunteers who visit Nursing Homes and homes of parishioners in the Parish. While many of you may have the flu vaccine routinely, some of you may not. If you require the vaccination as a result of volunteering in these ministries, could you please have the vaccination when you feel comfortable venturing out to a doctor's surgery. Also the parish will require evidence that you have been vaccinated, the equivalent of a medical certificate. Doctor surgeries should have a pro forma for this. I am unsure of when we will be able to return to physical visits. Thanking you for your assistance in this matter.

Fr. Alan



Mother's Day Prayer



THINKING OF YOU ON MOTHER'S DAY,
AND SAYING A *special* PRAYER—
THAT GOD,
WHO KNOWS HOW DEAR YOU ARE,
WILL KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE.

THAT HE WILL *bless* YOUR DAILY LIFE
WITH JOYS OF EVERY KIND—
WITH PERFECT HEALTH AND HAPPINESS
AND *peace* OF
HEART AND MIND.



MEETING ON ZOOM

I have recently set up a zoom account here in the parish. I would like to meet those who wish to via zoom this week for two purposes.

Firstly, for a reading of the Sunday Gospel, Homily and Prayers of Intercession (It will not be mass at this stage). The times I will be available are Saturday 9th May at 6.00pm and Sunday 10th May at 10.00am. If you would like to join me at either of those times please send your email address to me at agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au so I can send you an invitation.

Secondly, to simply to catch up with those who would like to meet with me and connect with other parishioners online. The two times I will be available are Wednesday 13th May at 10.00am and Thursday 14th May at 6.00pm. If you would like to join me at either of those times please send your email address to me at agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au so I can send you an invitation. If you would like to meet up online and need assistance, please call me on 94016391.

Fr. Alan

PLENARY COUNCIL UPDATE

Plenary Council Postponed

As you no doubt would have heard by now the first session of the Plenary Council in October 2020 has been postponed due to the ongoing Covid 19 situation. We'll know next month.

Monday 11th May 2020

Readings: Acts 14:5-18; John 14:21-26

THE ADVOCATE

Being in love with another person is a wonderful thing. It makes us feel alive. However, the love that Jesus speaks about in today's Gospel, whilst it includes this, also makes it clear that he is speaking about a love that transcends the feelings of being sexually attracted to another person.

To love in its true sense is to will the good of the other. This may involve dying to self as it means a preparedness to love another person even when we are not going to benefit from it. In other words, love is a decision that is not only based on human feelings. In fact, it means the call to love still applies even when we do not feel like it.

Jesus in speaking about love touches upon the values of loyalty and obedience. These are important values because they are other centered. Also, they are values that cannot be sustained on feelings alone.

In 1965 a song came out by Jackie De Shannon. It is called What the World Needs Now is Love. The song spoke about this is what the world needs, how there is not enough of it and how it should include everybody.

Jesus commandment to love did not contain any exception clauses. The question is how do we come to know the kind of love that Jesus is talking about? Jesus tells the disciples and us that he will send us the Holy Spirit. This is a gift we have received through the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Holy Spirit helps grow in knowledge of God's love. It also enables us to experience God's love and be assured that God's love is always present with us.

Deepening our knowledge of God's love and allowing ourselves to experience it will help us to be faithful and obedient to the kind of love that Jesus calls us to.



Tuesday 12th May 2020

Readings: Acts 14:19-28; John 14:27-31

GIFT OF PEACE

In today's Gospel Jesus extends to us the gift of peace. Jesus said it was a peace that the world cannot give. What kind of peace was Jesus talking about?



Well it certainly is not about an absence of conflict or unpleasantness.

In the First Reading we listen to how the early disciples experienced opposition and Paul was stoned and left for dead. The message here was clear. Many hardships would have to be endured for the sake of the Gospel. Amid all this the Gospel continued to be proclaimed and leaders appointed of the communities where they travelled to.

The peace these early disciples had came from their willingness to stand up for the sake of the Kingdom of God. They knew they were doing the right thing, and this was even more precious than life itself. Peace comes from doing the right thing. It gives purpose and direction.

It is this peace that Jesus extends to us. If we do not stand for something, then we will fall to anything. If we are strong in our Christian faith like the early disciples were then our peace may be disturbed at times, but it will never be taken away.

Wednesday 13th May 2020

Readings: Acts 15:1-6; John 15:1-8

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES



Other people can help us, but our ultimate nourishment comes from God. It is from God that we receive the spiritual life of grace. We need to breathe air in order to be whole physically. If we stop breathing, then our body begins to shut down. The same principle applies in our relationship with God. If we lose our connection with God, our effectiveness as Christians begins to cease. We hear several times in the Gospel how Jesus prayed to his Heavenly Father. He needed this to ensure that he remained faithful to his mission. Even he said, 'I can do nothing on my own authority...' (John 5:30).

Jesus also spoke about pruning. Pruning basically means to trim away wild branches so that the branches get back into shape. It also means to cut off dead branches that are not bearing any fruit. This image invites us to reflect on the following: what are the "dead branches" in my life? Examples of this could be making commitments for the wrong reasons or procrastinating over everything so we wind up not doing anything.

Jesus tells us if we remain connected with God, we will bear much fruit in our life. This informs us about God's desire for us. He wants to see something from our lives. Let us be determined to prune the "dead branches" in our lives that we can live life with God in all things.

Thursday 14th May 2020 (Feast of St Mathias, Apostle)

Readings: Acts 1:15-17, 2026; John 15:9-17

JOY IN CHRIST

Love is an elastic word which has many meanings; I love going to the movies, I love my job, I love my car, I love Mum and Dad, I love my children, I love playing sports etc.



The Greek word that John's Gospel uses for love is agape. The best way to describe agape is in the Gospel when Jesus tells us to love one another. The supreme manifestation of this occurred when Jesus laid down his life for our sake.

Chances are we will not be called upon to demonstrate our love for one another like Jesus did. Therefore, what does agape mean in our daily lives? It means simply to love the other without envy or jealousy. It is to

awaken the other to a sense of their own beauty or goodness. It is to encourage them to live out fully their God given vocation, whatever that might be.

It can be a temptation to think of commandments as being full of constraints, impositions and limitations. On the contrary if we respond to Jesus' commandment to love others with an agape love, we not only bring joy to their lives but our own joy will be complete in the process.

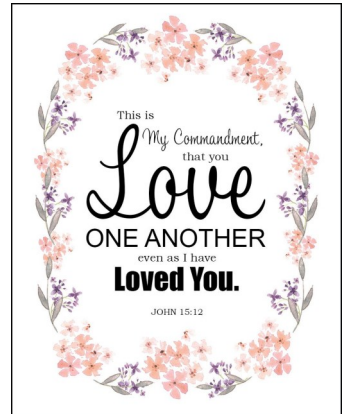
Friday 15th May 2020

Readings: Acts 15:22-31; John 15:12-17

JESUS' COMMANDMENT

Growing up I remember one of the versions I read about the story of Cinderella. This story related how after Cinderella got married to the Prince, she made her two stepsisters her ladies in waiting. I like this version because even though Cinderella's two stepsisters had ill-treated her, she responded with love, not revenge.

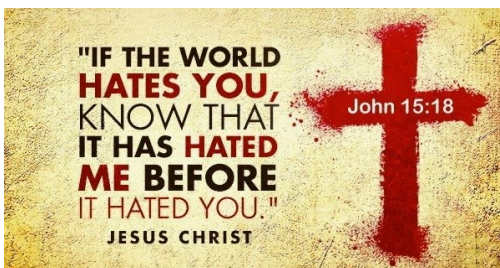
This is the love that Jesus speaks about in today's Gospel when he tells us to love another. It is a crucifying love as it means what we sometimes must lay down is our desire for revenge when someone ill treats us. We must love others even if they do not love us back.



Saturday 16th May 2020

Readings: Acts 16:1-10; John 15:18-21

THE WORLD'S HATRED



During the time of China's Boxer Rebellion of 1900 insurgents invaded a mission station where 100 Christians were living. They blocked all the gates but one. In front of the gate they did not block they placed a cross on the ground in front of the entrance. They then told these 100 Christians that anyone who trampled on the cross on their way out would be allowed to go free. The first seven did this and were freed. However, the eighth person refused to do this. In-

stead she knelt beside the cross and went to face the firing squad. Strengthened by her courage the other 92 remaining Christians did the same and likewise faced the firing squad.

In today's Gospel Jesus told his disciples that being a Christian would not be easy. They would face persecution from their own fellow Jews and from the Roman authorities. This could even result in death.

We probably will not face persecution of this kind in our lifetime for the sake of our Christian faith, but it could happen in other ways. Sometimes we may be ostracised, ridiculed or face indifference as a result of our beliefs. What will our response be should this happen to us?

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.



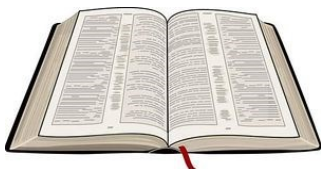
Parish Office is closed until further notice.
Please ring, 9401 6391 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

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.

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year A)

FIRST READING: Acts 6:1-7
SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:4-9
GOSPEL: John 14:1-12



Next Sunday's Readings

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)
Acts 8:5-8.14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21



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

May 9 People of the Parish
May 10 For all Mothers in the Parish
May 12
May 13
May 14
May 15

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.