



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:

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8.00am—12noon

PARISH OFFICE ADDRESS:

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Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

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Principal
Mrs Michelle Moore
9597 6300

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A 17th May 2020



FIRST READING:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
□ sing to the glory of his name.
□ render him glorious praise.
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! (R)

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.

2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. (R)

SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

PRACTICE

When I arrived in Fiji at the beginning of 1999, I began by studying the Fijian language full time for 5 months. Classes were for two hours each morning. After taking a break for lunch and practicing new words on the staff who were willing to help me, I would then spend 4 hours in the afternoon revising. I would go over and over the sentences I had learnt that day. I would give myself "little tests" to check my memory. Despite trying to vary it there were times I found the going quite tedious. However, I kept going, motivated by the knowledge I would not get a chance like this again for several years. Over time my study became easier. As I increased my vocabulary and became more fluent in the language it became enjoyable. What seemed to be tedious study became liberating with practice.

In the Gospel Jesus tell his disciples "If you love me you will keep my commandments. We can be tempted to think of commandments as oppressive restrictive and inhibitive. More rules to weigh us down so it seems. There is no question. Jesus' expectations of his disciples tell us that the Commandments make demands and require constant practice. Hopefully, what will motivate us is the knowledge that the Commandments were designed so that we would live with complete freedom. This message from Jesus came immediately after washing the disciples' feet. Jesus not only spoke about the Commandments. He practiced what he preached.

Larry Gelwix coached the Highland Rugby Team in Utah, USA from 1976-2012. They had an extraordinary record at schoolboy level. They won 419 games in that time and only lost ten times. As extraordinary as that record is it is not as extraordinary as the moral code Larry Gelwix expected his team to live by. In one interview he spoke about his love of Rugby but said it was not nearly as important as integrity, honour, hard work, commitment, sacrifice, education and family. The focus was more on building people who would be champions in life than on building championship teams. One of the sayings he was known for was 'Practice does not make perfect. It makes permanent.'

This is what the commandments will do for us. They will enable us to live lives of excellence no matter what our chosen endeavours are. The effect will be permanent. However, we must be prepared to continually practice them if we want to experience the liberation they promise.

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

MESSAGE FROM FR ALAN

New Guidelines from the Archdiocese Thursday 14th May 2020



On Tuesday night all the Parishes in Melbourne received new guidelines from the Archdiocese because of the State Government's announcement on Monday May 11th about easing restrictions.

The Archdiocese advises that Parish Churches are permitted to reopen under strict number and hygiene regulations. It has been left to the parishes to assess whether they have the resources available to move forward.

I met with the Parish Pastoral Council (via zoom) last Tuesday night 12th May. The decision was made to reopen our church from Monday 18th May. Mass will be offered in our church from Monday to Friday for the next weeks at 9.15am. In addition, the Church will be open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1.30pm-2.30pm for the next two weeks commencing Tuesday 19th May 2020. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at those times. It was decided not to reopen for Sunday Mass for the next two weeks given the severe limitation on numbers who can attend.

The number of parishioners who can attend each time **is limited to ten**. This applies to both Masses and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Given the current limitations it was determined that the fairest way of managing this is to give as many parishioners as possible the opportunity to attend **either** Mass or Adoration **on one occasion only** for the next two weeks. It is understood this is not perfect, but I believe it is the best we can manage given the circumstances. Should you wish to attend **either Mass or Adoration in the next fortnight** you are asked to contact the Parish Office giving your first and second preferences for the next two weeks. The Parish Office must be contacted by Friday 15th May at 4pm giving your first and second preferences for Monday May 18th. After that the Parish Office needs to be contacted by 12pm the day before for all other occasions. You will be notified by email confirming the day you are able to attend. You must contact the Parish Office at least 24 hours prior if you are unable to attend your allotted date so that the place can be offered to another parishioner.

Those attending Mass are required to be there between 8.50am-9.05am. The doors of the Church will then be locked, and no further admittance will be allowed. Those attending Adoration are to be there between 1.05pm-1.20pm. After that time, the Church doors will be locked with no further admittance allowed. Anyone attending Adoration are free to leave when they choose within the hour. Car parking will be open in front of the Church.

All attendees at Mass and Adoration will have their names checked off on the list by a volunteer upon entry into the Church. Attendees at Mass are required to use hand sanitizer three times: at the beginning, before communion and upon leaving the Church. Communion will be given by the Celebrant only and can only be received on the hand at this time.

Attendees at Adoration are required to use hand sanitizer twice: upon entry and leaving the Church. At the conclusion of both Mass and Adoration all those attending will be asked by the Celebrant to leave immediately to allow the necessary cleaning of the Church to take place. To adhere to the rules of social distancing, directions of how to leave will be given at that time. Please follow all directions from either the Celebrant or the assigned parish volunteer for that day.

These guidelines will be reviewed again at the end of May.

I appreciate that these are extraordinary measures. I ask for your patience and understanding during these extraordinary times as we begin the long road back to normality.

PLEASE SEE FR ALAN'S MESSAGE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE REGARDING ATTENDING MASS OVER THE NEXT 2 WEEKS.

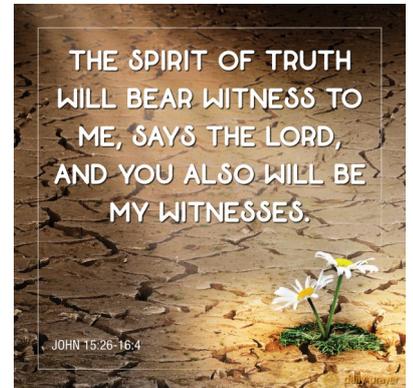
IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND A MASS IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS PLEASE NOTIFY THE PARISH OFFICE ON 9401 6390, AS PER THE LETTER.

Monday 18th May 2020

Readings: Acts: 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4

GIVING WITNESS

Today's Gospel continues Jesus' farewell address to his disciples. It is the second discourse after the Last Supper. Jesus tells his disciples what future they could expect to face if they chose to remain his followers. They would face persecution from people who have never known God but who will be convinced that their acts of persecution will be based on legitimate religious grounds. He tells them not to fear because even though he will no longer be physically present with them at that time, he will be present through the power of the Holy Spirit. They are encouraged not to be afraid when that time comes. They would not be on their own. The Holy Spirit would be there to act as their advocate to give them power so that they would not only fearlessly proclaim the facts about the life of Christ but would also convey the meaning of that life.



The reality of life for a Christian in the Early Church was one of persecution until the Roman Empire accepted Christianity under the Emperor Constantine in 313AD. This will be in evidence as we follow the First Reading from the Book of Acts this week. These times remind us of our role as Christians. We are not called to go looking for persecution. However, we are called to accept persecution for the sake of authentic witness to our faith when those occasions arise. This may seem like a daunting task, but Jesus also reminds us that we are never on our own. We also have the Holy Spirit there with us as our Advocate. All we need to do is call upon the power that the Holy Spirit gives us and allow ourselves to be led by that same Spirit.

Tuesday 19th May 2020

Readings: Acts: 16:22-34; John 16:5-11

CONVICTION



Sometimes we have experiences when deep down inside of us we know what we did or said was wrong or there is something that we ought to be doing. These experiences can be uncomfortable. They can also be liberating because they represent opportunity. It shows us that the Holy Spirit is trying to convict us. Conviction can be misunderstood as being burdened by guilt. However, conviction is a healthy guilt based on the knowledge that God loves me and is asking me to keep moving forward with him.

Jesus speaks to his disciples and observed that they were feeling sad. He encourages them to rejoice because he would still be present with them through the power of the Holy Spirit everywhere they went. The role of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world of sin, condemnation and righteousness in the hope that the world will be transformed. Jesus is asking his disciples to look beyond

the material to see with the eyes of faith what he is trying to do.

Times of conviction are graced moments because the Holy Spirit is attempting to lead us in order that we may see with the eyes of faith what is most important in our lives. They remind us that God loves us too much to leave us on our own. Through the power of the Holy Spirit he is with us wherever we go.

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Readings: Acts: 17:15,22-18:1; John 16:12-15

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Sometimes we have heard the saying, 'Well that's your truth, well here is my truth.' When presented like this truth becomes relative. Jesus' words about the Spirit of Truth reminds us that there is an objective truth that comes from God which transcends everything else.

Pope Paul VI in his *Dominum et Vivificantem*, says: "The Spirit will help people understand the correct meaning of the content of Christ's message; He will ensure the continuity and identity of understanding....the same truth which the Apostles heard from their Master." The Holy Spirit does not come with a separate doctrine. The purpose of the Spirit is to show that God revealed himself in Jesus Christ and lead us to proper understanding of why this is so.



In today's First Reading we hear how St Paul experienced derision when attempting to preach to the community in Athens the objective truth about God. When he told them about the resurrection, they laughed at him in attempt to make the truth relative. Attempting to relativise the truth usually takes place when our interests are being threatened and it is something we need to be on our guard against. No one who lives outside the truth can claim to be a disciple of Christ. Attempting to relativise the message of God's word is destructive. It leads to falsehood and insincerity. In turn this blocks us from being able to receive the "Spirit of Truth" which as Jesus reminds us will lead us to the complete truth. Whether we are taking this on or not can always be answered by asking ourselves the question: is what I believe separate from Christ's teaching?

Thursday 21st May 2020

Readings: Acts: 18:1-8; John 16:16-20

TIMES OF INTERVAL

The message from today's Gospel is Jesus telling his disciples that in the long run things will be better than ever before. Their grief will be turned into joy. However, he also warns them that there will be intervals before all this takes place. The term 'a little while' is used seven times in this short passage. Jesus encouraged his disciples to use these times of interval as a time of preparation to receive him fully as Risen Lord.



We can also experience this in our Christian lives. For example, there can be times where we feel that God is very close to us. At other times we can feel that God has abandoned us. This is a reality of our human condition. It is at those times we feel abandoned that we are asked to look with the eyes of faith to see

that God is still present with us. Times of interval can represent an opportunity for us to grow in faith. A concrete way of

responding to this Gospel is by way of prayer. Persistence in prayer, regardless of whether we experience desolation or consolation is the pathway to deep abiding joy in our lives.

Friday 22nd May 2020

Readings: Acts: 18:9-18; John 16:20-23

REAL JOY

Once again, our attention is directed towards the real meaning of joy. Real joy does not depend on everything going right in our lives. Real joy consists in looking for and finding strength and consolation amid the trials of life. Being placed before a tribunal did not deter Paul from staying in Corinth for 18 months to preach the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Jesus uses the image of a woman expecting a child to illustrate that times of suffering does not have the last word. On the contrary it is the road to new life. Jesus confirms this when he tells his disciples that their hearts will rejoice because they will see him again after the Resurrection. When we experience trials in our lives hopefully we will discover the real joy that Jesus offers us, a joy that cannot be taken away.



Saturday 23rd May 2020

Readings: Acts: 18:23-28; John 16:23-28

A RELATABLE GOD

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.
John 16:24

When John F. Kennedy was President of the United States, Life magazine published photos of his children, John Jr. and Caroline, playing with their toys on the floor of the Oval Office. Those images captured the hearts of the American people. Why? Because it showed that whilst Kennedy was the President of the United States on one level, on another level he was also a father like any other father.

In today's gospel Jesus says: "Whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give you," (v. 23). This tells us, whilst we should not lose our sense of being in awe of God, God is also someone whom we come before in confidence before because we are his beloved children. We have the promise of Jesus.

Anything we ask for in God's name will be granted to us.

God loves us like a parent loves their children. Therefore, let us place ourselves in his hands. Let us focus on seeking his will for our lives and he will never forsake and forget us.

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.



ThisDay's
Smile

Smile at each other, smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other—it doesn't matter who it is—and that will help you to grow up in greater love for each other.

Mother Teresa

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH—Mass Times



Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil—MO MASS
Sunday—NO MASS

Weekday Masses

Monday—9:15am
Tuesday—9:15am
Wednesday—9:15am
Thursday—9:15am
Friday—9:15am

Reconciliation

by appointment only

PLEASE NOTE!!

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



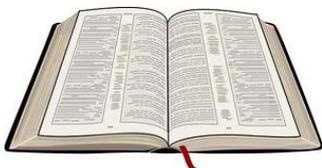
Parish Office is now open
Monday-Friday 8.00am-12noon
Please ring, 9401 6390 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

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.

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

FIRST READING: Acts 8:5-8.14-17
SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:15-18
GOSPEL: John 14:15-21



Next Sunday's Readings

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (A)
Acts 1:1-11
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20



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:

Sr Madeleine Maher (sister of Bridget Maher, who died in Ireland), Monica Brew

ANNIVERSARIES:

Roland Elias, Bruno Volpe, Louisa Volpe



MASS INTENTIONS

May 16 People of the Parish
May 17 Bruno Volpe (an)
May 18
May 19
May 20
May 21 Roland Elias (an)(
May 22 Louisa Volpe (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.