



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

UNDER THE CARE OF THE VINCENTIAN COMMUNITY

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closed

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Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

**PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:**

St Joseph's Primary  
Principal  
Mrs Michelle Moore  
9597 6300

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD—YEAR A 24th May 2020



**GOSPEL:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

**FIRST READING:**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and

**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.*

tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Response: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

### **SECOND READING:**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

NATIONAL 18-24 MAY 2020  
**VOLUNTEER**  
CHANGING COMMUNITIES.  
CHANGING LIVES. WEEK

JoCare  
Caring for neighbours

Happy volunteer week. This week is volunteer week and I would like to thank all those who are part of JoCare or have been part of JoCare for your support. Without the gift of your time JoCare would not have been able to touch so many people lives. At the end of 2019, just over 1500 visits had been undertaken since the inception of the program in 2015.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with JoCare or learning mor about what we do, please contact me on: 0403 572 440. We are at the working with one of the local aged care providers who are keen to involve volunteers in letter writing to residents during this pandemic with the view to moving to face to face visiting when safe to do so.

Take care, keep safe and well. Kerri Anne

# FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

## FOLLOWING IN HOPE

In the Old Western Movies, we see the wagon trains moving west along the prairie. As part of these scenes there is always the scout who goes on ahead and having reconnoitered the territory comes back to lead the wagon train forward to safety. Today on this Feast of the Ascension we remember that the Ascension is the transfiguration of the earth by heaven. Jesus has gone on ahead of us to prepare us for the age to come. We are reminded of this in our opening prayer today where it says "...where the Head has gone before in glory the Body is called to follow in hope.

The movie "ET" was made in 1982. It tells the story of Elliot, a ten-year boy who befriends ET, an alien from another world. The end of the movie shows ET preparing to return home. As part of his farewell, ET points to Elliot's heart and says, 'I will be right here.' There are two bookends to Matthew's Gospel. At the beginning of Matthew's Gospel Joseph was told to take Mary home as his wife. She was going to bear a Son who would be called Emmanuel which means "God is with us." At the end of Matthew's Gospel Jesus tells his disciples 'I am with you until the end of time' (Mt: 28:20). This is the way Matthew's Gospel communicates that God is with us. This is who Jesus is. The reason for us to follow in hope is that Jesus is with us wherever we go.

The Liturgy of the Word this Sunday reminds us that we come from the Father and we go back to the Father. The present age we now live in is a prelude of the age to come. Following in hope is choosing to become a disciple of Jesus. Then having made that decision, invite others to join us. The command that Jesus made to his disciples he also makes to us 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mt: 28:19).'

In the "Our Father" we pray the words "thy kingdom come." In other words, we pray that the earth will be transfigured by heaven. There was never a sequel made to the movie ET. Will there be a sequel to the life, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven of Jesus Christ in our lives? That really depends on us and whether we want to play our part in transfiguring the earth. Do we truly believe that Jesus is present with us and is the one who will lead us to the safety of his kingdom? Will we act on that belief and choose to follow in hope? As disciples of Jesus will we bold enough to invite others to join us?

### **PLEASE NOTE!!**

**The Parish Office is closed. Chris can be contacted on 0401 112 380 or [info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au](mailto:info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au) if you needs assistance.**

## **MESSAGE FROM FR. ALAN**



I hope this finds everyone well and having a good week. It was good to have our Church reopen again, albeit under very different circumstances.

Firstly, thank you to all who were able to attend Mass this week. It was good to have you there. Thank you for doing all that was asked of you. I would also like to thank the volunteers representing our Parish Pastoral Council who were there each day to open, close and then clean the Church. Finally, I wish to acknowledge Chris and Kerri Anne who have given a lot of time in working out the logistics. It is through all these efforts that we can open the Church again.

I would like to make a few points. Firstly, I have had a few enquiries from a few parishioners who have already attended about the possibility of attending a second mass next week if there is still a space available? That may be possible on the understanding that first preferences would have to be given to those who have not had a chance to attend mass yet. Secondly, those wishing to attend mass are asked to contact the Parish Office by no later than 9.00am on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May for the Mass on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>. For the other Masses this coming week please contact the Parish Office by 9.00am the day before the day you wish to attend. Thirdly, just a gentle reminder on the day you are attending mass please be there and take a seat inside the Church between 8.50am-9.05am. Regulations are such that we are not in a position to allow entry to someone who arrives unannounced. Fourthly, after reflecting upon this week those attending will only be required to hand sanitize twice; upon entering and before receiving communion. Hand sanitizer will be available upon leaving the Church for those who wish to use it again.

The process may sound complex but in practice is quite simple if we all play our part.

As you all are probably aware the State Government plans to further ease restrictions on June 1<sup>st</sup>. It may mean that the numbers permitted to attend mass could possibly increase. Should that occur more volunteers will be required. Could I ask if you could give some thought to making yourself available.

The measures that the Parish has had to instigate this week to reopen will remain in place until further notice.

### **Zoom Meetings**

Currently I am setting up zoom meetings on Saturday night at 6.00pm and Sunday morning at 10.00am. This consists of a reading of the Gospel, a homily, and prayers of intercession. Should you wish to join me please click on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81375177320?pwd=aHhJUll0RTc0QTZVN2JlcU1NRS9mQT09> for Saturday night at 6.00pm and <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85075354733?pwd=aVJ1cnRHZktKdmQvU2lYd2p3YmExdz09> for Sunday morning at 10.00am.

### **My Homilies Online**

Also, I will be doing a pre-recorded reading of Sunday's Gospel each week accompanied by a homily. Please click on <https://vimeo.com/420567736> should you wish to view this.

Take care and keep safe.

**Fr Alan**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
**(Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians)**  
**Readings: Ecclesiasticus 4:12-21;**  
**1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 19:25-27**  
**FAITHFULNESS**



The Feast day of Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844. It is a time where we remember that the Early Church in Australia had no priests until 1820. Up until that time there was no access to the Sacraments. Therefore, the Catholic population had to find other ways to keep the faith alive. Their challenge is one we could appreciate in our own time given our recent experiences. It was largely through praying the Rosary that kept their faith alive back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Australia became the first nation in the world to have, Mary, Help of Christians as Patroness.

One of the aspects that has been focused on for this Feast Day is Mary's role as intercessor. In today's Gospel we hear how Mary stood near the cross of Jesus. The disciples, except for John, had all run away. Mary was the one who did not abandon Jesus in his hour of need. Her stance at the foot of the cross reminds us to keep loving when loving is hard. Mary did not let Jesus down.

She will not let us down either. As Jesus gave his mother to John, Mary is also given to us as well. Therefore, let us pray to her with confidence asking for her intercession, particularly at those times in our lives we find that loving is hard.

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
**(Feast of St Philip Neri)**  
**Readings: Acts 20:17-27; John 17:1-11**  
**THE FAREWELL DISCOURSES**

Both readings are farewell discourses. Both Paul and Jesus give a testament of their lives. Both state that they have completed the work that God has given them to do with constancy and perseverance. This is more important than life itself. They are both on the way to Jerusalem where they will suffer persecution and death. Paul gives his farewell address to the Ephesians. They have both sought to make God known to their followers who will have the responsibility of carrying on their work. In both cases the motivation for their work is to make God known and in turn be glorified.

The message from both discourses is that the disciple will be bound to experience obstacles in carrying their work. There is no guarantee of success. The qualities needed for a disciple are courage, confidence, constancy and perseverance.

There are three practices in our daily life that we can carry out to assist us sustain these qualities. The first is prayer where we open ourselves to God allowing God to transform us. The second thing is willingness to take up our crosses daily as this shows our love and devotion to the Father. The third thing is faithfulness to God through give wholehearted service to our neighbour.

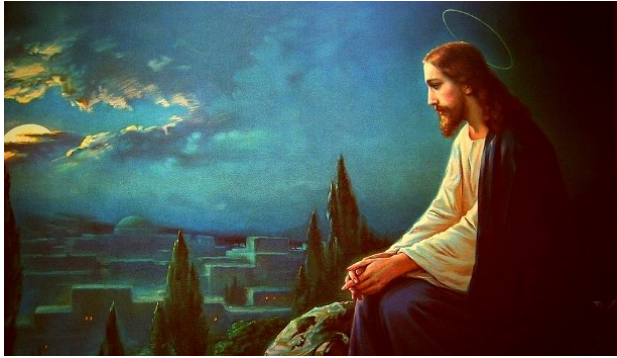
These three practices will help us complete the work that God has given us to do.



Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Readings: Acts 20:28-38; John 17:11-19

## OUR DUTY AS CHRIST'S FOLLOWERS



Today we continue with the farewell discourses of both Paul in our first reading and Jesus in today's Gospel. There are two similarities present in both readings. Firstly, their followers are consecrated to continue the work that has been begun. They are reminded that their duty is a sacred one. Secondly, they are called to vigilant. They are to be on guard against anything or anyone that threatens the unity of the community.

This duty has now been passed on to us. We are called to be other worldly. This does not mean that we are called to live a separate existence from everyone else. What it means is that we are called to live lives of holiness in this world. We are called to be vigilant against anything that might take us away from God. Should others ever attack us for our faith we should respond by trying to win them over with kindness. Seeking to overcome hatred with love marks us as genuine followers of Jesus. The Gospel reminds us that we should do all this with confidence. Jesus in his prayer shows that God's deepest desire is always to protect us.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Readings: Acts 22:30,23:6-11; John 17:20-26

## THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Once again Jesus prays for the unity of his followers. He emphasises that this unity is based upon the unified relationship that the Father and the Son enjoy. Jesus prays that his followers will always seek to be dependent on God.

Today's gospel reading presents the conclusion of Jesus' High-Priestly Prayer. We are reminded of God's desire that all of us live in unity with one another. It also reminds us of the importance of striving for this ideal when we experience a breakdown in our family life, or where there is discord in our parish communities, dissension in civil society and where nations are hostile to one another.

May we always strive to be one as Jesus and the Father are one and rely on God to help us with this.



## PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES OR ENVELOPES

If anyone still needs to return their Project Compassion box or envelopes, please return to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Receipts will be issued, where requested, as soon as possible.

Thank you.



## 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

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Readings: Acts 25:13-21; John 21:15-19**

**FORGIVENESS AND CALLING PEOPLE FORWARD**



We are told how imperative it is for us as Christians to be able to forgive others when they offend us. Sometimes we can resist this as we feel the other person has not done anything to deserve it. I think it is important to remember what forgiveness is and what it is not. Forgiveness is not deserved. It is a gift. Forgiveness is not about forgetting or pretending that what happened did not really matter. Some things are impossible to forget, and we may have every right to feel anger and hurt towards the other person for what they did to us. Forgiveness is acknowledging all that has happened and making the decision to move on anyway.

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus asking Peter three times; 'Do you love me?' This was after Peter had denied Jesus three times before his death. By posing these three questions and giving the answers 'Feed my lambs' 'feed my sheep' Jesus show acknowledges what had happened and offers Peter the chance to nullify his earlier betrayal. After Peter says "Yes Lord I know I love you' Jesus calls him forward to join him once again in his mission.

Sometimes the biggest mistake we can make when confronted with our sinfulness is to ever think that God has given up on us. God is never like that. Today's Gospel scene reminds us of God's love and mercy. God will always give us a chance to respond. All we need to do is respond to his invitation to keep moving forward. We are called to treat others with the same compassion God treats us with.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Readings: Acts 28:16-20,30-31; John 21:20-25**

**YOU ARE UNIQUE**

God calls us in so many ways and this is illustrated in today's Gospel. Peter and John are both called as disciples of Jesus and each is given a different task to fulfil. But what is intriguing is when Peter questions John's role. He asks Jesus: 'What about him, Lord?' Jesus said to him: 'If I want him to stay behind till I come, what does it matter to you? You are to follow me,' (vv. 21-22).

In 1998 a song called "Stay the Same" came out. It was sung by Joey McIntyre and the chorus contained the following words: 'Don't you ever wish you were someone else. You were meant to be the way you are exactly.' This Gospel reminds us not to compare ourselves with others. Worrying about ourselves in comparison with others, even in questions of holiness and apostolic ability, is a mistake. We lose sight of what matters most and that is to serve God with all our hearts. Rather than concerning ourselves with how God might be operating in another person's life, we should rejoice that he is and that they are responding. What we need to focus on is that God is calling us and that we should seek to grow in our friendship with him.



# 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 for weekday Masses only.*



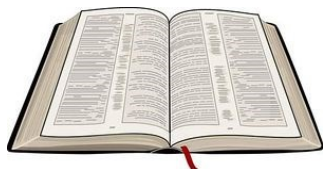
Parish Office is closed until further notice.  
Please ring, 9401 6391 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

## CHURCH OPEN TIMES

Due to the easing of some restrictions announced by the State Government, the Church, by bookings only, is now open only for weekday Masses. Unfortunately this means personal visits to the Church are not permitted until further notice.

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

**FIRST READING:** Acts 1:1-11  
**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 1:17-23  
**GOSPEL:** Matthew 28:16-20



### Next Sunday's Readings

**PENTECOST SUNDAY (YEAR A)**  
Acts 2:1-11  
1 Corinthians 12:3-7.12-13  
John 20:19-23



## 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:

Joseph Marziale

## MASS INTENTIONS

May 23  
May 24 People of the Parish  
May 25 Joseph Marziale (an)  
May 26 Bill Grafen (dec)  
May 27 Marco Cimino (Int)  
May 28  
May 29

**If you are wanting to book a Mass Intention, please contact the Parish Office on 9401 6390 or [orinfo@stjosephsmalvern.org.au](mailto:orinfo@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.*