



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

UNDER THE CARE OF THE VINCENTIAN COMMUNITY

PARISH PRIEST:

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Monday—Friday
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Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

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Principal
Mrs Michelle Moore
9597 6300

PENTECOST SUNDAY YEAR A 31st May 2020



GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Received the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven:
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

FIRST READING:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were

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.

all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. Ⓜ
2. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
And you renew the face of the earth. Ⓜ
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord, Ⓜ



SECOND READING:

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

OUTWARD FOCUS

In 1990 I went to Philadelphia, USA for ten months to do my Spiritual Year with the Vincentian Fathers and Brothers over there. In the first half of that year the focus of the Programme, was on classes, study, and prayer. Some time was put aside for pastoral work and pastoral reflection. In the second half of the year the focus of the programme changed where a lot more time was spent doing pastoral work and pastoral reflection. I had the feeling at that time of being sent out. I was told that the first half of the year was for that purpose: a time of preparation for moving outwards.

Today we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. In both the First Reading and the Gospel we hear the how the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. In the Gospel we hear at the time of this occurring, they were all together behind closed doors for fear of the Jews. In the First Reading we hear how having had received the Holy Spirit, they moved out. Their time with Jesus when he was here on earth was a time of preparation for the day when they would go out and do what he did. The Holy Spirit changed their lives. In the Responsorial Psalm for today we hear the words, 'Lord send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.' This was what the disciples did. They went out and renewed the face of the earth by telling everyone about the life, work, and mission of Jesus Christ.

As people of faith who have received the Holy Spirit through the Sacraments this is our work too. We are told that if we do this, we will have the Holy Spirit working in us. How can we be sure of this since we cannot see the Holy Spirit? The Gospel reading from Monday of the Second week of Easter reminds us that the Spirit blows wherever it pleases... (John3:8). However, whilst we cannot see the Holy Spirit, we can know that the Holy Spirit is working in our lives. I would like to suggest three ways we can do this. In each case they are all focused outwards.

Firstly, if the Holy Spirit is working in us it will show up as love. Love is to want the good of the other and to do something about it. Love is breaking out of ourselves and living for the other. If we are acting like that then we can be sure that the Holy Spirit is breathing through us. A simple question to ask ourselves: What is our attitude when we get up in the morning? Is it about what we can get out of today? Or is it about looking for opportunities to love another person? The fact that the people could hear the disciples preaching to them in their own language tells us a profound theological truth: love is the common denominator which is understood in every language.

Secondly, if the Holy Spirit is working in us, we will be people of peace. We hear in the Gospel Jesus say to his apostles twice, 'Peace be with you.' It is about the connection of our soul at the deepest level to the Spirit of God. What that gives is a peace and serenity, a harmony that can endure any of the changes in our lives and this transcends whether we are in a good place psychologically or not, whether we are healthy or sick or whether we are successful or not. It was receiving and accepting Jesus' message of peace that enabled the

disciples to move beyond the closed doors and face the same people that they had been afraid to face before. The Holy Spirit gave them strength.

Thirdly, if the Holy Spirit is working in us, we will be people who seek to work in harmony with others. The Second Reading reminds us that we are all to place and use our gifts for the service of the community so that the mission that Jesus Christ started is continued. This may mean having to put aside our own needs, our own projects, and our own plans to achieve this. We do not negotiate our relationship with God individually. Striving to work together as one makes us powerful.

In the Second Reading St Paul says, “No one can say “Jesus is Lord unless they are under the influence of the Holy Spirit.’ In other words, if our lives are not outward focused and we close in on ourselves then prayer and any other spiritual practice we may care to take on loses its meaning.

On this Feast Day of Pentecost, we are invited to ask ourselves the following questions: Where do we need the Holy Spirit to transform us? Where do we need the Holy Spirit to come into our lives and burn away those areas where we are prone to focus on ourselves and lose sight of others? In what areas of our lives do we need to set on fire, both individually and as a Church? Where do we need to work together so that our God’s desire that the face of the earth be renewed is realized?

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



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.



My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM FR ALAN



Change of Mass Times from Monday 1st June 2020—Numbers Increased to 20

As a result of the further easing of restrictions by the State Government to commence on June 1st, the Church will be permitted to hold services for up to **20 people**. As a result of this increase it has been decided to reinstate Sunday Masses in the Parish from next weekend, 6-7 June.

Weekdays

Tuesdays 2nd, 9th and 16th June 9.15am

Thursdays 4th, 11th and 18th June 9.15am

Weekends (6-7 June, 13-14 June, 20-21 June)

Saturdays 6th, 13th and 20th June 10.00am (Readings taken from Saturday Morning Mass)

Saturday 6.00pm (Vigil)

Sunday 10.00am

Sunday 6.00pm

All parishioners are invited to contact the Parish Office either by telephoning 0401 112 380 or emailing info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au to register for **one weekend Mass and one weekday Mass** in that period. The Parish is still required to accurately record the details of everyone who attends Mass. Therefore, any parishioner wishing to attend Mass in this period **must register beforehand** by no later than 9.00am on the previous business day. It is recommended that bookings be made as early as possible.

Should you need to cancel a booking please do so by giving the Parish Office 24 hours notice in order to give another parishioner the opportunity to attend Mass on that day.

This will be in place until Monday 22nd June where it is anticipated that there will be a further easing of restrictions.

Child Safety Update

Over the past few weeks, the Parish Safeguarding Committee have met twice, on 30th April and 21st May.

The Committee is working through the Parish Child Safety Assessment Tool issued by the Archdiocese to ascertain our level of compliance with the Archdiocese's updated requirements.

In particular, the Committee is reviewing and updating various Parish policies associated with safeguarding matters and is also working on an assessment of the safeguarding risks associated with the parish, with the assistance of Catholic Church Insurance (CCI).

Strategies about how to appropriately engage the children and the young people of our

parish in this process are also being investigated.

The Committee will seek input from the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Community on relevant matters before the Child Safety Assessment Tool is finalised later this year.

Book Launch: My Cry is to All That Live: Voices of Women & Earth in the Gospels

Last Monday morning it was my pleasure to attend (via zoom) the Book Launch of '*My Cry is to All That Live: Voices of Women & Earth in the Gospels*' by Mary Burke. It offers a refreshing look at the Gospels drawing on scriptural and theological scholarship, iconography and experiences. It is my intention to order a copy of this book for the Parish Library.

Laudato Si Week

I was also fortunate this past week to be able to attend a few sessions (via YouTube) of "Laudato Si Week." The presenters and the case studies were very engaging. It was interesting to hear about the possible links between climate change and Coronavirus COVID-19.

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 this weekend please click on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89748119424> for Saturday night at 6.00pm and <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86183028021> 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/422734334> should you wish to view this.

Assisting International Students

I would like to draw your attention to the Parish's efforts to assist International Students through the JoCare Office. A box will be located on the verandah near the front door of the parish to drop in donations. I would like to draw your attention to the list of non-perishable items that would prove to be most useful at this time. Please post any donations of grocery cards to the Parish Office.

Have a good week and please stay safe.

Fr. Alan

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS / SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS DONATIONS TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

JoCare is working with a local organisation to support those finding it tough in the present COVID-19 environment. The 100 Coffee Movement exists to help people, organisations and communities build healthy connections. The 100 Coffee Movement are linked with international students and other people who have become marginalised during this pandemic. Through donations of non-perishable pantry items or supermarket gift cards you can support them.



Items:

- Rice
 - Pasta
 - Pasta sauce
 - Dried lentils
 - Canned tuna
 - Canned beans, chick peas etc
 - Long life milk
 - Soap
 - Toothpaste
 - Toilet paper
 - Paper Hand towel
 - Other non-perishable that you may find useful
- \$20.00 Supermarket gift card



A box will be located on the verandah near the front door of the parish to drop in donations. Supermarket gift cards can be posted to the Parish Office. 47 Stanhope Street, Malvern 3144.

We thank you for your support. Many people are finding this pandemic a tough time and your donation will make life a little easier for those facing difficulties. Donations and gift cards will be given directly to those in need.

Any questions please call the JoCare office: Phone 0403 572 440 or email: jocare@stjosephsmalvern.org.au

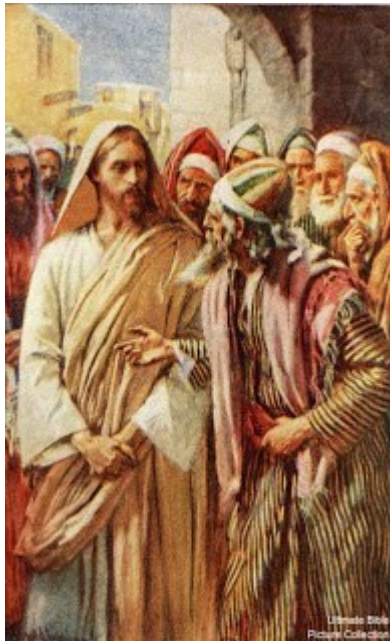
Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Readings: 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12; Mark 12:18-27

THE QUESTION ABOUT THE RESURRECTION

The Sadducees try to set a trap for Jesus. The Sadducees only believed in the Pentateuch. Their story about seven brothers tries to show that that belief in the resurrection was absurd because it was incompatible with the Pentateuch (The first 5 books of the Old Testament). Jesus' response tells us that the resurrected life is very different from the earthly life. The Sadducees example is illogical as it fails to take into consideration the power of God to conquer death and to bring life out of death. Jesus in speaking about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the way he did seemed to imply that they were still alive and continued their relationship with God. Therefore, resurrection was very much part of the Pentateuchal teaching.

How strong is my belief in the resurrection? What difference does this belief make to the way I live my life here and now?



Thursday 4th June 2020

Readings: 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Mark 12:28-34

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT



In the Old Testament there were 613 laws that were to be followed. Jesus in today's Gospel basically reduces those laws from 613 to 2. The two commandments are love of God and love of neighbour. Jesus stresses the fact that one cannot exist without the other.

We are made for love because each one of us has been made in the image of God. Love cannot exist unless we seek communion with other people. It is by loving that we grow and become better people. In today's Gospel Jesus speaks about the importance of love not because he needs it but because it is what is best for us.

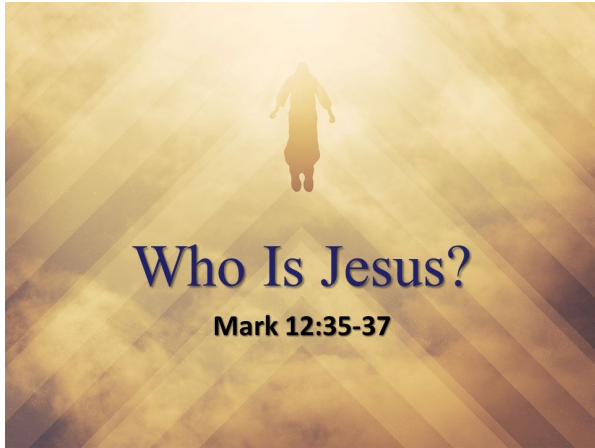
There are three ways of loving God and our neighbour. Firstly, through obedience. When we obey the divine will we also come to understand the worth and dignity of each person. People are to be loved and things are to be used. Relationship breakdown happens when things come to be loved and people are used. Exploiting others for our own purposes will never be part of the divine plan. Secondly, through charity. Charity means that we are prepared to try and love all people without exception. It should not depend upon what that person might be able to do for us in the future. Thirdly, through prayer. Prayer is a response of love to God who has loved us first. However, we must genuinely desire to follow the divine will if our prayer is to be authentic.

It is through obedience, charity, and prayer that we draw ourselves closer to the Kingdom of God.

Friday 5th June 2020

Readings: 2 Timothy 3:10-17; Mark 12:35-37

THE QUESTION ABOUT DAVID'S SON



Israel's chosen Saviour was the Messiah or Christ. This Messiah would come from the line of David. In today's Gospel Jesus quotes from Psalm 110 to illustrate that he was not only David's Son but God's son as well. He is from the line of David and yet at the same time he transcends the line of David. Therefore, Jesus' Messiahship is for everyone, not just for the Chosen People of Israel.

Those who listened to Jesus that day when he was teaching in the Temple would have had different dispositions. There would have been some who would looking for Jesus to give them the love, truth, and inspiration that they needed. There would have been others like the Scribes who were there waiting to pounce on anything that Jesus said that might be used against him. Others would have employed selective listening. They may not have been hostile, but their listening was superficial.

How about us? Are we open to fully listen to what Jesus as he tries to reveal himself to us? Will we allow him to be the Lord of our lives?

Saturday 6th June 2020

Readings: 2 Timothy 4:1-8; Mark 12:38-44

THE POOR WIDOW

A widow in the time of Jesus would have been one of the poorest classes of people in society. To have lost one's husband meant losing one's entire identity at that time. A widow was exploited and impoverished because they were no longer a wife and they were no longer considered a mother to anyone. A widow symbolized poverty and helplessness. Yet despite this the Gospel tells us that she gave two temple coins to the treasury. It was all she had. Her action showed her total trust that God would provide for her. Jesus in praising her shows us what is most important to God. It is not the size of our offering that matters most of all but rather the generosity of spirit in which the offering is given.

Her action reminds us what constitutes a generous offering to God. A generous offering is given with no strings attached. In other words, if the offering is given without seeking a repayment and recognition of what we have done.

As we hear this Gospel today let us resolve to go about doing good with our hearts set on pleasing the Father who sees all things.





May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.

– Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 244

Meditation on Creation

Breath: Take three deep breaths, fill your lungs thoroughly, holding your breath momentarily and exhaling through your mouth.

Heart: Quiet your inner self – embracing the gift of life with each breath and heartbeat.

Let yourself reflect on these words of St Hildegard of Bingen: ‘Human beings are the thinking heart, called to be co-creators with God in shaping the world.’

Express your gratitude for the wonders of creation’s rhythm of interconnection.

Reflect: How do you feel that this most beautiful place, Earth, is threatened by destruction due to our own actions and neglect?

Ponder the call to be co-creators and not dominators and oppressors of the web of life for now and future generations.

Resolution: Come in touch with the passion/energy you feel to protect this most beautiful place, Earth. In what way(s) might you help sustain Earth’s life?

(Adapted and used with permission by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Written by Sister Barbara Sheehan and Providence Associate Gene Majewski.)

Pray: God of creation, your goodness and glory shine forth through everything you have made. Through the light of faith, help us to see this world, our common home, not as a resource to dominate and exploit, but as a gift to be cherished by all generations. Prompted by your Spirit, we ask this in the name of Jesus, through whom all creation was made. Amen.

(Prayer from Catholic Charities)

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH—Mass Times



Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil—6.00pm
Sunday—10.00 & 6.00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday—NO MASS
Tuesday—9.15am
Wednesday—NO MASS
Thursday—9.15am
Friday—NO MASS
Saturday—10.00am

Reconciliation

by appointment only

PLEASE NOTE!!

Mass Intentions are still being taken for weekday and weekend Masses.



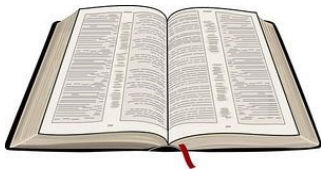
Parish Office is closed until further notice.
Please ring, 9401 6390 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

CHURCH OPEN TIMES

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

PENTECOST SUNDAY (YEAR A)

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-11
SECOND READING: 1Corinthians 12:3-7.1.13
GOSPEL: John 20:19-23



Next Sunday's Readings
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (A)
Exodus 34:4-6.8-9
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18



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:



May 30
May 31
June 1
June 2
June 3
June 4
June 5

MASS INTENTIONS

People of the Parish
People of the Parish

If you are wanting to book a Mass Intention, please call the Parish Office on 9401 6390 or oinfo@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.