



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—Wednesday
8.00am-4.00pm
Thursday-Friday
8.00am—12noon

PARISH OFFICE ADDRESS:

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JOCARE—COORDINATOR:

Mrs Kerri Anne Brussen
9401 6392
jocare@stjosephsmalvern.org.au
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

St Joseph's Primary
Principal
Mrs Michelle Moore
9597 6300



15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A **12th July 2020**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

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.

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

RESPECT

In 1997 pop group Michael Learns to Rock put out a song called "Animals". Some of the words are as follows: 'Animals, wild rivers and waterfalls, I can hear the planet call, show a little respect...In the name of progress everybody's gone too far. In the name of money who do we think we are...'

In 2015 Pope Francis put out an Encyclical called *Laudato Si On Care For Our Common Home*. One of the texts referred to in this Encyclical was today's Second Reading from the Letter from St Paul to the Romans 8:18-23. It speaks about our lack of respect for the environment. Instead of being stewards of creation 'we have felt entitled to plunder it at will'. ([*Laudato Si,2*](#)). We are taking more than what we need. In this passage St Paul speaks about creation groaning. It groans because it is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor (*Laudato Si,2*). This Encyclical wants to draw our attention to the fact that we have moved away from our vocation from being image bearers of our Lord and God to usurping God and making ourselves Lords and Masters of all creation. This choice is reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water and in the air and in all forms of life.

I believe this is the point that Jesus is making in the Gospel when he relates the Parable of the Sower and the Seed. He wants to draw us back to our true vocation of being image bearers of our Lord and God. This time when our world has been profoundly impacted by the Corona Virus -19 Pandemic has also given us an opportunity to push the reset button. What kind of world do we want to create? How open is our heart to receiving God's word regarding this? Will we allow the Word of God to sow a seed within us?

Today's Parable about the Sower and the Seed reminds us that we are interconnected with all of God's creation. The First Reading from the prophet Isaiah speaks about the people returning to Jerusalem to restore their land. The question is will we take steps to restore ours?

MESSAGE FROM FR ALAN



LOCKDOWN AND WHAT WE CAN DO

Good afternoon. I am sure that by now most of you would have heard the Press Release from the Premier of Victoria this afternoon that Metropolitan Melbourne will go back into lockdown as from 11.59pm Wednesday 8th July.

Sadly, it means our Church will have to close again for that period.

I am currently awaiting updated guidelines from the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Once I receive these directions, I will make them available to you.

Over the past few weeks, the Sunday Mass has been pre-recorded and uploaded to the Parish website. That will continue. I will now also do the same for weekday Masses from Tuesday to Friday during this period. The Mass will be pre-recorded in the morning on those days and made available on the Parish website that same afternoon. I will honour any Mass intentions requested during this period. Requests for Mass Intentions can still be made by contacting the Parish Office on 9401 6390 or email info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au

I have arranged meetings (via zoom) every Thursday afternoon at 5.00pm for any parishioner that is interested in joining. It consists of a reading of the Sunday Gospel, shared reflection, and prayers of intercession. These sessions are normally 15-20 minutes duration. A zoom account is not required to join. All that is required is to email me on agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au and I send a link that just needs to be clicked on to connect.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to all who have volunteered in various ministries over these past few weeks. Your generosity made re-opening the Church possible in the first place.

I appreciate this announcement is very disappointing. Let us continue to support each other during this difficult period.

Hot Button Issue-'Signs of Harm'

Unfortunately, because of the latest restrictions it has become necessary to postpone our next Hot Button Issue "Signs of Harm" which was scheduled to take place on Sunday 2nd August. A new date will be set once restrictions are lifted to the point where holding such an event is possible.

Donations for International Students

Since the notice was placed again in last week's bulletin. There have been plenty of donations of non-perishable goods and some gift cards made. What a great response. Please keep the donations coming.

Parish Safeguarding Committee

The Parish Safeguarding Committee continues to meet (via zoom). The Committee is currently working out a strategy of communicating the importance of Child Safety to our children and young people in an appropriate way. Also being worked on is developing our own webpage on the Parish website. The Committee is also working on updating our current Child Safety Policy. Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th July.

REFLECTION ON LEADING A MISSIONARY PARISH

Last Thursday night 2nd July I attended (via zoom) a seminar called Leading a Missionary Parish. The first speaker was Fr. Stephen Langridge. He is parish priest of St Elizabeth of Portugal Parish, Richmond, UK, and an associate of the Divine Renovation parish renewal. When he commenced at his parish the average age was early 60's. The average is now late 20's.

He began with the question is the parish maintenance or mission? He said that both are needed. The question is how to engage people? The characteristics of a missionary parish is that it is outward focused and enjoys greater engagement from its members. He spoke about the importance of how a parish structured itself. If it is not structured correctly then we can create consumers not disciples. One day President Kennedy visited Cape Canaveral. He encountered a janitor and asked him what he was doing. The janitor replied, 'I am helping to put a man on the moon.' This story was shared as an example of the mindset that parishes need to take on. It is about working together to achieve a common missionary goal rather than trying to meet everybody's individual preferences. The passage from the prophet Ezekiel was referred to. Ezekiel is in the valley of dry bones and is asked the question can these bones live? (Ezekiel 37:1-3). The Lord was asking Ezekiel to look and see what he could do. That is our task as parishes, to recover the sense that things can be different.

The question was raised how we change parish communities from being consumers to being disciples. The answer lies in how we see ourselves as members of the parish. Do we see ourselves as hosts or guests? The host is the one who has a deep sense of loyalty to the parish community they belong to and seek to live out their baptismal vocation by serving that community in some active capacity.

Fr. Langridge went on to speak about our Sunday experiences. He raised the question, 'what is it like for someone who visits our Church? What sort of welcome do people have when they come to our Church? For example, do we assume that newcomers know where the newsletters are? Most people will decide within 7 minutes of walking into a Church as to whether they want to return. Most outsiders will check out our websites. I believe that this is true as this forms most of our wedding enquiries here at St Joseph's Malvern. We were left with a few questions to ponder about our parish websites. Are they for the insider or the outsider? Is there a section for the newcomer? The matter of homilies was also touched upon. Are the homilies preached for the insider or the outsider?

When asked how he managed the change in his parish Fr Langridge spoke about the importance of bringing everyone on board. He said that initially when there was an influx of young people coming to the parish regular parishioners wanted to know who they were? One way of responding to this was by organizing parish functions where the younger parishioners were asked to serve the older parishioners.

Overall, I found the session to be worthwhile and look forward to the next session by a different presenter on Thursday evening 16th July.

Fr. Alan Gibson

PRAYER FOR 2020 WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS



Our Theme:
May our prayer lead us to act against human trafficking

SEE: Does human trafficking still exist in the world? Does it occur in our country?

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that there are more than 40 million people in our world today who are victims of human trafficking.

- Some are women and men trafficked into forced labour in factories, agricultural fields, hospitality and domestic servitude;
- Some are children trafficked to pick our coffee or to work in dangerous mines for minerals to make our mobile phones, other electronic goods and cosmetics;
- Some are young girls, boys and women trafficked into sexual exploitation in brothels, dance bars and the pornography industry.
- The current Covid-19 crisis is impacting on people most vulnerable to trafficking because they often live in poverty and lack suitable housing and healthcare.

**Forced labour and human trafficking happens in every country including Australia.
It is a billion dollar industry.**

Yet behind all the statistics is a human person and their story.

JUDGE: How might a good citizen, who is also a Christian, view issues of human trafficking?

The United Nations affirms that trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights, which threatens national security and undermines sustainable development and the rule of law.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and servitude shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Refer (Article 4 Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights>

Pope Francis says that human trafficking is without doubt, a crime against humanity for its violation of human dignity and freedom. Trafficking constitutes an unjustifiable violation of the freedom and dignity of the victims.. This is why it is considered a crime against humanity. Trafficking seriously damages humanity as a whole, tearing apart the human family and the Body of Christ.

ACRATH's work is inspired by Jesus who said: "I have come that all may have life and have it to the full." John 10:10.

Our vision is of a world free of human trafficking



www.acrath.org.au
People are NOT for sale

Wisdom from the Prophet Micah 6:8

This is what the LORD requires, this is what is sought and longed for, only this – that you act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.

In what ways do the views of these leaders who work to address present challenges speak to you on this 2020 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons?

Produced by ACRATH acrath.org.au

Our Theme:

May our prayer lead us to act against human trafficking

ACT:

What will you do personally or with others to stop human trafficking?

Some specific actions to consider and discuss:

- Become an ethical consumer of coffee, chocolate, fashion and electronic goods etc;
- Ensure your school/workplace staff room and your own kitchen use only slavery free products;
- Talk with 4-5 friends or family members about the issue of human trafficking;
- Check out the following website to further educate yourself- <https://acrath.org.au/>
- Arrange a display or forum to raise awareness of the extent of the crime of human trafficking in and beyond Australia'
- Put a notice in the school/parish bulletin about 2020 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons;
- Organize a fund-raising activity to support ACRATH's work against human trafficking;
- Organize a letter-writing campaign asking federal politicians to support groups such as ACRATH to work with victims of human trafficking in Australia.

Praying together for an end to human trafficking:

Loving God, it's hard to express what our minds can hardly comprehend or our hearts feel when we learn of people like us being trafficked because of human greed.

Response: May our prayer and actions cast light on the crime of human trafficking and help bring it to an end.

It's difficult to hear of people being threatened, deceived and forced into sexual exploitation or forced labour. Response

We remember all who have been trafficked and robbed of their God-given dignity, that they will be strengthened by love and support that is tender and good. Response

Give us faith and courage to stand in solidarity with all trafficked persons that together we will find the freedom that is your gift and thus create a safer world. Response

Other prayers may be added at this time.....

SONGS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO USE

<https://acrath.org.au/resources/videos/> (Can You See Me?)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_9DI5XQyKI&feature=youtu.be

Let There Be Light – Steph Macleod, Featuring Becky Dawson



A FINAL FREEDOM BLESSING FOR OUR COMMON LIFE:

God of today and tomorrow, may there be blessings of true justice for us and for all people who have been trafficked. **ALL: AMEN**

God of each one's story, may there be blessings of tender love for us and for all who have been trafficked into abuse and sufferings. **ALL: AMEN**

God we are so small, give us your Light and help us humbly remember that you love and cherish each person and that we are all your children. **ALL: 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!!

All Mass Intentions are being said by Fr Alan each morning at a private Mass.



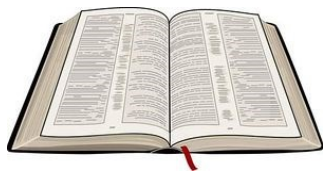
Parish Office is closed until further notice.
Please ring, 9401 6390 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

CLOSURE OF CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Due to the new restrictions announced by the Victorian State Government on Tuesday 7th July 2020, it is with much regret that the Church needs to close for the next 6 weeks. Unfortunately this means personal visits to the Church are not permitted until further notice.

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-11
SECOND READING: Romans 8:18-23
GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-23



Next Sunday's Readings

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Wisdom 12:13.16-19
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

BAPTISM: Wyatt James Lachlan Milton

THE SICK: John & Marie Horan, Mim Nerlich, Barbara Westcott, Janet Murphy, Mal Logan, Anne Peric, Br Paul Smith fsc

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Lillian McDougall, Cyril McGann

ANNIVERSARIES:

Frank Romano



MASS INTENTIONS

July 11 People of the Parish
July 12 Nadine Therese Livera (an)
July 12 People of the Parish
July 14 Frank Romano (an)
July 18 People of the Parish
July 19
July 19

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.