



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:

47 Stanhope Street, Malvern

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



16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A **19th July 2020**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Wisdom
In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

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.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

A MIXTURE

Several years ago, when I was studying for a Masters in Ministry of Theology I wrote an essay entitled "God Mediates Salvation Through Broken Humanity." This essay centred on the book "Schindlers List" by Thomas Keneally. More particularly the focus was on the main character in the book, Oskar Schindler. "Schindlers List" tells the story of Oskar Schindler. He was a Catholic in name only. He was unfaithful to his wife many times over. He was a member of the Nazi Party. He was determined to come to the end of the war with trunks of money. He was an exploiter of Jews as cheap labour in his factory. As the war dragged on, he became increasingly sickened by Hitler's "final solution." He courageously protected his workers from the concentration camps at considerable risk to himself. By the end of the war it was estimated that he had saved the lives of about 1100 Jews. He was twice imprisoned by the Nazis. In the end he was eventually captured by the Russians and never heard of again. It raised the question was Oskar Schindler a good or an evil person?

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus continues the Parable of the Sower and the Seed. This time he speaks about a farmer who planted seedlings but in the middle of the night the enemy came and planted weeds. It is almost impossible to tell which from which until they are fully grown. This parable suggests that good and evil are intertwined, and it is hard if not impossible to distinguish one from the other. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, 'In everyone the weeds of sin will still be mixed in with the good wheat of the Gospel.'

Whenever we encounter humanity in our neighbourhood, in the workplace, in the parish, in the family and in ourselves we discover a mixture of good and bad, truth and falsehood, , humility and pride, saintliness and sinfulness, graciousness and crudity, purity and lasciviousness, honesty and hypocrisy, justice and fraud, faith and doubt. This is the point of the Parable. There is a mixture of these things in us all. William Shakespeare in his play "All Is Well That Ends Well" said, 'The wells of our life is of a mingled form, good and ill together.'

In today's Gospel Jesus illustrates that the good farmer is patient. This is how God is with us. He gives us a chance to change. He is patient enough to see good and evil grow together. We are reminded that passing judgment on people is something only God should do.

While we await God's judgment this Gospel challenges us to look at the thoughts and movements of our hearts. In other words, we need to become more aware of those thoughts and intentions of our heart that lead us towards God and those thoughts that lead us away from him. Which thoughts bring us joy, peace, love, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control, an increase of faith, hope, and love? But then what are the thoughts that leave us with envy, anger, impatience, sarcasm, self-indulgence, and infidelity? We all struggle with good and evil. What will dominate us is what we ultimately allow to be planted within us.

Let us resolve this week to grow spiritually. Let us allow God to show us how we can strengthen our relationship with him. Let us pray in the words of today's Second Reading for the Spirit to help us in our weakness.

MESSAGE FROM FR ALAN



I hope this finds everyone well and having a good week. This week I would like to highlight a few items of interest.

Masses Online

During this time of lockdown masses are being pre-recorded both on the weekends and during the week. The Mass that is pre-recorded on the Saturday night is on the Parish website on Sundays. The Masses during the week are being placed on the website usually by late morning of the same day. These masses are also being watched by Nursing Home residents in our parish.

Meetings (via zoom)

I continue to meet with interested parishioners (via zoom) to share reflections on the Sunday readings each Thursday at 5.00pm. Any parishioner is welcome to join and can do so by emailing me at agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au. It has been suggested to me that I might consider making other times available as 5.00pm on a weekday afternoon is not suitable for many. I am open to suggestions of other suitable times where I could make this available.

Donations for International Students

The donations for International Students continue. Thank you to all who have donated both non-perishable items and gift cards over this past week. It serves as a reminder of what we still can do so please keep the donations coming.

Article on When the Disciple Comes of Age on Parish Website

I would like to take the opportunity to recommend the article currently on our parish website by John Davies, one of our parishioners. In this article John reviews the book "When the Disciple Comes of Age, Christian Identity in the Twenty First Century" by Diarmuid O'Murchu, MSC. I was privileged to be lectured by Diarmuid several years ago. His vision of what Church and discipleship is meant to be is quite inspiring. In reviewing his book John Davies captures his thought very well.

Kildara Centre

Recently I was advised by Sr. Anne Hill csb, Community Leader of the Brigidine Sisters in Victoria that the Brigidine Sisters will be closing their programs by the end of August and moving out of the Kildara Centre by the end of September. There is great sadness that a long-time connection of over twenty years is coming to an end. The Kildara Centre is going to be leased out to Heart of Life (under the governance of the MSC's) for the next 5 years. The property will continue to be owned by the Brigidine Community. Heart of Life is a Centre for Spiritual and Pastoral Formation. They will start moving in in December of this year in readiness to commence their programs in 2021. I have recently met with Paul Beirne, who is the Director of Heart of Life. He is very keen to establish a connection with the parish and continue to make the Kildara Centre available for parish activities wherever possible. I wish to thank the Brigidine Sisters for their hospitality in making the Kildara Centre available to the parish over many years. I would like to thank Sr Catriona Devlin csb and Sr Ursula Nihill csb for their support. I wish to acknowledge the many wonderful programs that have come out of the Kildara Centre over the years because of their efforts. I wish them every blessing in their future endeavours. I take the opportunity to welcome Heart of Life to the Parish. What was initiated by the Brigidine Sisters over twenty years ago will continue with new life and new possibilities.

Prayer in a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between preserving their health
or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their
schools close
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the
economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around
each other,
let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our
neighbours.

Amen.

- by Fr Larry Tensi, Cincinnati.

“QUERIDA AMAZONIA”

by Fr. Alan Gibson CM

Earlier this year, Pope Francis wrote “Querida Amazonia.” It was his response to the 2019 Synod of Bishops on the Amazon.



In this inspiring document, Pope Francis strongly endorsed the **role of indigenous people as the guardians of creation**. He also laid out in plain terms what we should call the acts of those businesses that harm the Amazon: **“injustice and crime”**.

On 14 July, Catholics from all over Oceania came together to reflect, pray, and discuss how we can apply Pope Francis’ teachings to our region.

Both Nalis Miranda and I from the parish chose to attend this gathering (via zoom). The opening speaker was Cardinal John Ribat from Papua New Guinea. He spoke about his time with the Synod in the Amazon. He said two learnings that he took away was regarding the land and the sea. He said that there were similarities between the problems that existed in the Amazon and those that existed in the Pacific Islands.

Regarding the land he said that there was a problem of “land grabbing” in both the Amazon and Papua New Guinea. This was a cause of great unhappiness to the people. They are surprised at how they lose their land. The people from the villages in Papua New Guinea do not understand the processes of where and how they lose their whole lives. Logging has been in place in Papua New Guinea for many years. Companies come in seeking to use the land for their work. They come up with an agreement for the people of the villages to sign. The people of the villages are signing up for more than what they had thought they had signed up for. In the end they find out that they do not own their land anymore.

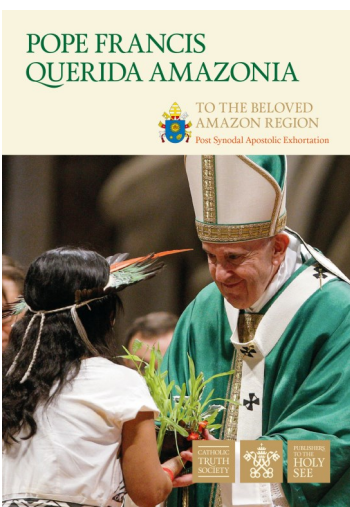
Also, people are being separated from their land. Companies seeking labour come in and promise people a good a good job if they are prepared to leave their villages and go to another place to work. When they go, they find that the promises originally made to them are not kept and the result is that they wind up being exploited. People are not being told the truth.

Regarding water in Papua New Guinea Cardinal Ribat said that there was a problem with seabed mining. Companies are not aware about the deep impact their mining will cause. Although this has ceased for the time being the licence to mine is still alive which means that the licence can still be sold to anyone. The mining is not just on the seabed of the ocean but is also very close to where people go fishing for their livelihood. Companies do not carry out any studies of how their mining will affect the tuna fish and other forms of sea life in the area.

In response people from the Papua New Guinea and other parts of the Pacific have come together to protest. They want all seabed mining in the Pacific is to cease.

The Synod of Amazon represented a call to come together to see what we can do. How can we get our people to come together to come up with a situation that helps all of us? The question who is watching? We know that God is watching. The fact is that humanity is turning their backs on what is really happening, and this is what Pope Francis is talking about when he expresses his deep concern about the environment.

This Synod in the Amazon represented the first time that the Papal Encyclical Laudato Si was applied to any part of the world. The purpose of Querida Amazonia was to read and reflect on the issues and how to respond to them.



In writing “Querida Amazonia” Pope Francis spoke of 4 dreams:

- (i) the social circumstances of people and the stories that need to be shared.
- (ii) to cultivate and maintain ecosystems that preserve beauty.
- (iii) that all cultures are recognized so that the richness of each culture informs all of us.
- (iv) that the church allows herself to be guided by social and ecological values so that we can all become integrated with the earth.

This document illuminates seven recommended pathways that we should follow. The one that stood out to me was the importance of everyone being educated in the beauty of creation so that we can all play our role in looking after our world and each other in the way that God intended. When reflecting upon what is happening in our part of the world at this present time and how we should respond it seems to me that this is a good place to start.

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.

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.



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH—Mass Times



Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil—6.00pm

Sunday—10.00am & 6.00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday—NO MASS

Tuesday—MASS ONLINE

Wednesday—MASS ONLINE

Thursday—MASS ONLINE

Friday—MASS ONLINE

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

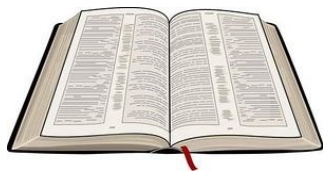
Due to the new restrictions announced by the Victorian State Government on Tuesday 7th July 2020, it is with much regret that the Church needs to close for the next 6 weeks. Unfortunately this means personal visits to the Church are not permitted until further notice.

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

FIRST READING: Wisdom 12:13.16-19

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-27

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-43



Next Sunday's Readings

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

Romans 8:28-30

Matthew 13:44-52



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:

Benny Bantleman

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 19th July People of the Parish

Tuesday 21st July Deceased Members of the Murphy Family (dec)

Wednesday 22nd July

Thursday 23rd July Benny Bantleman (an)

Friday 24th July

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.