



# 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



## **17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A** **26th July 2020**

**FIRST READING:**

A reading from the first book of the Kings  
*You have asked for wisdom.*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

**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

*He predestined us to become true images of his Son.*

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

## GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He sells everything he owns and buys the field.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

## KiT – KEEP IN TOUCH

Missing Mass and contact with other parishioners?

If you'd like to catch up for a chat with some of your fellow parishioners, feel free to contact any of us below:

Rosie Coulthard	0422 611 522
John Davies	0418 596 983
Lucia Mac	0405 231 207
Damian Coleridge	0407 330 404



# FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

## WHAT DOMINATES?

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus speaks about the kingdom of heaven being like someone having found the treasure in the field and then going off happy after they had discovered it. I was thinking about the book review of Diarmuid O'Murchu's book *"When the Disciple Comes of Age, Christian identity in the Twenty First Century"* by John Davies where the characteristics of the mature disciple are spoken about. It seems to me that the mature disciple invests everything in God through service of others because they have seen the treasure. My mind also went back to the talk given on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July *"The hope that does not disappoint"* by Dr. Mary Healy where she spoke about how the disciples had such an overwhelming sense of the Father's love for them that they knew that it was time to leave the Upper Room and go out and preach the Gospel. Despite the persecution they subsequently faced in doing this they never lost sight of the treasure that they discovered in the Upper Room on that day.

The question is how do we discover that treasure in our lives? Firstly, to pray for it. In the First Reading God tells Solomon to ask for whatever he wants, and it would be granted unto him. This tells us what God the Father is like. God the Father loves us and desires to give us what is good. God grants the prayer of Solomon because he does not pray for selfish reasons. He prays for something that will benefit others as well as himself. He prays for wisdom and understanding. Secondly, when we feel tempted to lose sight of the treasure that God is offering us, we must not start putting the blame on other people or things. Like the disciples when they started preaching the Gospel, we will inevitably face challenges and difficulties in our lives. At those times it can become easy to claim that we have lost our sense of peace because of our husband/wife, children/parents, not having the house or car we want, our finances, inability to lose weight and so on. Thirdly, to understand that we are never meant to live life on our own. When reviewing Diarmuid O'Murchu's book John Davies chose a quote that also struck a chord with me. "None of us can grow into 'the fullness of life' (John 10) without genuine relational interconnectedness with each other and nature. We are all programmed for this connectedness." Jesus spent time in the desert communing with nature prior to commencing his public ministry. In forming a group of disciples, he called others to share in his mission. The disciples in carrying on Jesus' mission after he had returned to the Father, did so by working closely with one another.

The treasure is found when rather than allowing all the external things of life that arise to dominate us, our lives remain focused on doing the Father's will. Doing what God wants leads us into deeper communion with him, with others and with nature. Like the one who found the treasure in the field we are able to go off happy because no matter what subsequently happens in our lives our peace will never be taken away from us unless we allow it to. God becomes the source of our peace, our happiness, and our fulfilment.

# MESSAGE FROM FR ALAN



## ONLINE MASSES

As mentioned in previous bulletins masses for the parish continued to be provided online. I am celebrating the Sunday mass online on Saturday evenings. Last weekend this was uploaded and on the parish website by 7.00pm that same evening. Also, weekday masses are being celebrated from Tuesdays to Fridays each week and are usually on the parish website by 10.30am that same morning. Anyone needing assistance to access these masses online please do not hesitate to contact me on either 9401 6391 or email [agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au](mailto:agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au).

## ZOOM MEETINGS

This week I will offer two times for any parishioner that is interested. As mentioned previously these meeting are for 15-20 minutes duration and consist of a reading of the Sunday Gospel, shared reflection, prayers of the faithful and a blessing. Thursday afternoons at 5.00pm will continue as usual. This week I will also offer this Saturday morning 25<sup>th</sup> July at 10.00am as another alternative time. Please email me on [agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au](mailto:agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au) if you are interested and I will send you the link.

## DONATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

What can I say about this other than the response to this request continues to be excellent. I belong to a Ministers Fraternal Group in the local area. I recently received a donation from the Armadale Uniting Church. I spoke to the Minister there during the week and they have joined in our request for these donations which is great news.

## REQUEST BY CABRINI OUTREACH FOR SEWING OF FACEMASKS

JoCare have been approached by Cabrini Outreach who run several programs for Asylum seekers to see if anyone can sew face masks for Asylum seekers.

If you are a sewer, fledging or otherwise, and are able to make a few extra cloth masks please drop them either at 47 Stanhope Street, Malvern (place them in the grocery box) or to 154 Wattletree Road Malvern, (almost opposite Lincraft). Reception is on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The address at Wattletree Road means you would not have to enter a hospital during lockdown.

Any size, colour, pattern that you are able to sew, is fine. If you have any questions or are able to help please contact Kerri Anne at [jocare@stjosephsmalvern.org.au](mailto:jocare@stjosephsmalvern.org.au) or 0403 572 440. Along with the donations to International Students this represents another outreach opportunity for the parish at this time.

## CALL FOR LAUDATO SI ANIMATORS

The Global Catholic Climate Movement are calling for volunteers willing to become 'Laudato Si animators. The next animator training begins 29<sup>th</sup> July. This is a free online course. Animators come together to learn about Laudato Si and the root causes of climate change. Animators make a statement of love for creation with a final project, taking action in their local communities. Please click on link <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/animators/apply-to-become-a-laudato-si-animator/> if you are interested.

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I appreciate that this time of lockdown may be a great cause of concern for many in our parish community. I wish to repeat the message I put out on the online mass last weekend. If I can assist in any way I am here for you at any time.

Have a good week and please stay safe.

**Fr. Alan**

## LEADING A MISSIONARY PARISH (PART TWO) by Fr Alan Gibson CM

On Thursday night 16<sup>th</sup> July I attended the second zoom session on Leading a Missionary Parish. The topic for the second part of this series was entitled “***The hope that does not disappoint.***” The speaker was Dr. Mary Healy. Dr Healy is a Professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major seminary in Detroit, USA. She was one of the first three women to be appointed a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. She is an international speaker on topics related to Scripture, evangelization, healing, and the spiritual life. I thought I would share with you some of what I gained from the talk she gave on that night.

Currently our Church faces several challenges. The Pandemic has made us aware just how little we are in control of everything. Since the 1940's and 1950's Catholics have been leaving the Church in large numbers. We have had to deal with the sexual abuse crisis. Our access to the Sacraments has been greatly restricted in recent times.

It raises the question is now the right time to turn towards the Word of God? Hebrews 12:26 tells us that God will move what can be shaken and what cannot be shaken will remain. What is unshakeable is God's kingdom that Christ died to give us.

It is when we are stripped of what we have always relied on we realize that we still have God in our lives. This present time as we go through another lockdown gives us the chance to realize this at a deeper level. Dr. Healy believes that the Lord is using this time for the world to receive the Gospel. The soil is being prepared to receive the seed of the Word of God. What is being asked of the Church is to get ready.

Romans 5:5 tells us that hope will not disappoint us. Even though this letter was written to the Romans, Paul wrote this letter from Corinth. At the time Paul wrote this letter the Church in Corinth was in all kinds of trouble. Despite all the problems Paul remained filled with hope. This hope transcends human optimism because it is founded on God himself. It cannot be broken. It cannot be shaken.

If we look back to the disciples around the time of the death and resurrection of Jesus the disciples were commissioned after receiving the best possible formation programme ever. Yet as we know they did not immediately understand what was being asked of them. They were in the Upper Room. They were in lockdown. Jesus word's right at the end of Luke's Gospel and at the beginning of Acts holds the key. In Luke 24:49 Jesus tells his disciples, 'stay in the city.' In Acts 1:4-5 he tells them to 'wait.' The very first step before proclaiming the Gospel is to wait. It is easy for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to just try and go ahead with our plans. The commands to “stay” and “wait” apply to every generation. God usually charges us with impossible tasks, so the call placed upon us is to rely totally on him.

“Baptized” was not yet a sacrament in the time of Jesus. The meaning in the time of Jesus was to immerse, soak, plunge into water. As John was baptizing, he was basically saying, 'I am plunging you into water but the one who comes after me will plunge you into the Spirit of God.' Receiving baptism was Jesus' first act before going into public ministry. Jesus being plunged was done for the purpose of identifying himself completely with sinners. If you read this passage you will notice that the heavens remained open and continued to remain open during his public ministry. Jesus is the model for us. He began to proclaim the Good News in power after receiving the Holy Spirit. The spirit led him into the desert, and it was there that he was able to resist the temptations of the evil one. Our mission as disciples is to be filled by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-3. Who was in the Upper Room? There were about 120 people there-the entire Early Church. They were plunged into the fire of God's love. This was a perceptible life changing experience. Going back to Romans 5:5 they had an overwhelming revelation of the Father's love. The second thing is that they had an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. At that moment they had a revelation of the Lordship of Jesus. St Paul said that no could say it and really know it without the power of the Holy Spirit.

This knowledge should bring us joy because it reminds us that we cannot be dominated by anything else. Luke goes on to explain what happened to these disciples. It was then that they fully understood what God's plan was. They knew then the time of waiting was over, and it was the right time to leave the Upper Room. They subsequently went out to all the corners of the Roman Empire to proclaim the Good News. This joy of proclaiming the Gospel did not cease even in the face of great persecution. By the time Christianity had become legal in the Roman Empire about half of the population had converted.

At the end of his time Paul was imprisoned but still went on boldly proclaiming the Gospel. Luke does not finish Paul's story in the Book of Acts. This was a deliberate act because the message is the story is meant to be continued on in us. Referring to Zechariah 4:6, Dr Healy reminded us that Jesus did not die for a lukewarm, powerless Church. No matter what happens Jesus is alive and victorious.

I took away a few thoughts from this talk. What does it mean to "stay" and "wait" for the Church in our time? Are we being asked to be Church in ways that we had never thought of previously? Could this time of pandemic be an opportunity for us to deepen our relationship with God? It is natural at this time to hold some fear about what is happening right now, but can we still be open enough to allow God and not fear to be the dominant force in our lives? The disciples having experienced the Father's love for them and understood the implications of their call went ahead and focused on what they could do despite all the challenges they faced. If we wish to lead others to Christ, then living a hope filled life is the best witness we can give.

### **REQUEST BY CABRINI OUTREACH FOR SEWING OF FACEMASKS**

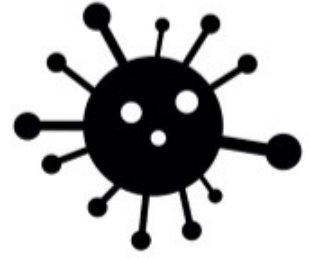
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## Prayer in a Pandemic



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.

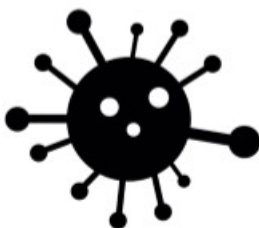
May we who have to cancel our trips  
remember those that have no place to go.

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.

# ST JOSEPH'S PARISH—Mass Times



## Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil—MASS ONLINE  
Sunday—NO MASS

## 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.



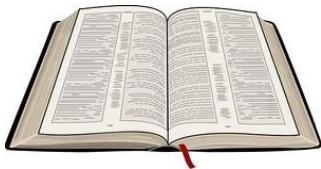
Parish Office is closed until further notice.  
Please ring, 9401 6390 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

## 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.

## 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

**FIRST READING:** 1 Kings 3:5.7-12  
**SECOND READING:** Romans 8:28-30  
**GOSPEL:** Matthew 13:44-52



### Next Sunday's Readings

## 18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 55:1-3  
Romans 8:35.37-39  
Matthew 14:13-21



## 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:



## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 25th July People of the Parish  
Sunday 26th July People of the Parish  
Tuesday 28th July  
Wednesday 29th July  
Thursday 30th July  
Friday 31st July

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