



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

UNDER THE CARE OF THE VINCENTIAN COMMUNITY

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Alan Gibson CM

PARISH PHONE:

9401 6390

PARISH EMAIL & WEB:

info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au
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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



19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A 9th August 2020

FIRST READING:

A reading from the first book of the Kings
Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

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

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'



COMBINED CHARITIES APPEAL

Our 2020 Combined Charities Appeal will take on a different format this year.

We are asking you to click on the link for CDFpay to make your donation.

LINK: [CDFpay for St Joseph's Parish, Malvern](#)

The following Church Organisations will be the recipients: **CatholicCare and Propagation of the Faith.**

Please Note: that the money will be divided equally between both organisations.

If you would prefer to make a cash donation please put in an envelope and mark on the front "**Combined Charities Appeal**" and drop off at the Parish Office.

CDF
pay™ **for Parishes**

FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

SOLITUDE AND RESPONSE

When reflecting on this Sunday's Gospel the first thought was about Jesus' going off to pray. My thoughts then went to the distinction Henri Nouwen makes in his book "Reaching Out" between being alone and being lonely. Nouwen points out that the ability to be alone can result in fruitful solitude. Jesus needed some time in solitude to maintain a clear perspective about his mission. The other thing was Jesus always prayed before making performing a significant action or making an important decision. After spending 40 days praying in the desert and just prior to commencing his public ministry, he called his first disciples to follow him. In today's Gospel, he prayed just before he took the action of approaching the disciples on the water. After that time of praying he invites Peter to come to him. Peter does something extraordinary. He gets out of the boat and starts walking on water amidst a storm. I think sometimes Peter gets a bad rap. He may have subsequently faltered but at least he was the one who had the courage to take that first step and got out of the boat in the first place.

The question is do I spend time with God in prayer so he can speak to me in the solitude of my own heart? What is he inviting me to? What is the "boat" in my life that I need to get out of? Jesus tells us 'Courage, it is I. Do not be afraid.' Pope Francis once said, 'the response to the Lord's call enables us to do extraordinary things.' Like he told Peter on that day on the lake, Jesus tell us, "Come." Like Jesus did for Peter all we need to do is to call out to God and he will help us at once. Could this week be a time that I give greater priority to my relationship with God so that I may gain a clearer perspective as to what it is I need to do? May our prayer this week be, 'Lord increase my faith so that I may have the courage to take that first step to whatever it is you are calling me to.' Just as he wanted his disciples to know, he also wants us to understand that he is always present with us.

MESSAGE FROM FR ALAN



Parish Child Safety Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct

Over the course of this year the Parish Safeguarding Committee has been reviewing the current [Parish Child Safety Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct](#) as they were last reviewed in 2016. Since that time, the Archdiocese has issued updated templates of each of these documents and the Committee has decided to transition the Parish Policy and Code of Conduct to these new versions. As child safeguarding is a matter for all members of the parish, we are very keen to ensure that all members of the community have a say in the policies and practices of the Parish. As such, we invite members of the Parish to review the new proposed Policy and Code of Conduct and to provide feedback on these. These draft documents will accompany the parish bulletin this week. Any feedback can be sent by email to info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au or Father Alan via phone on 9401 6391. We are very grateful for your involvement in this process.

Lockdown Reading

During the week I picked up a couple of articles that may be of interest.

1. The Nexus Between Covid-19 and Human Trafficking: Jeanne Christensen rsm

<https://www.mercyworld.org/newsroom/the-nexus-between-covid-19-and-human-trafficking-jeanne-christensen-rsm/>

Subscribe to Mercy eNews: <https://www.mercyworld.org/newsroom/>

Current Edition: <https://www.mercyworld.org/newsroom/enews/issue-877/>

2. Fairtrade Fortnight: 7-20 August 2020

<https://www.fairtradefairconference.com.au/post/fair-trade-fortnight-2020>

The Fair Trade Association have prepared worship resources.

Zoom Meetings

As mentioned in previous weeks I continue to meet with interested parishioners via zoom on Thursday afternoons at 5.00pm for Gospel sharing, prayers of intercessions, praying together the Our Father and a Final Blessing. The time duration is between 15-20 minutes. This week I would like to offer a second time which will take place on Sunday 16th August at 5.00pm. Any interested parishioners are invited to please email me on aqibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au so I can issue a zoom invitation. Please remember you do not have to have a zoom account to join.

JoCare Visits

I am very pleased to report that the volunteers of JoCare have continued contacting those who are vulnerable and isolated in the Malvern and Stonnington areas. In the first six months of this year 308 points of contact were made by volunteers. This was done by way of phone

calls, sending letters and or cards, and dropping small gifts full thoughtfulness and kindness on verandas. JoCare is an important parish ministry as it serves both those within our parish and beyond. I thank the volunteers of JoCare for their generosity. I also thank Kerri Anne for effectively supporting and leading our volunteers.

St Joseph's Refugee Support Group

I would also like to commend the work of the St Joseph's Refugee Support Group during this time. They continue to maintain contact with the asylum seekers in our community. This is a particularly vital work as they are unable to keep up their usual social networks due to the latest restrictions. To find out more about the work that St Joseph's Refugee Support Group are currently doing please go to <https://stjosephsmalvern.org.au/st-josephs-refugee-support-group/>


St Vincent de Paul Society Local Conference

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our local Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for assisting both the Refugee Support Group and JoCare in its work with International students by giving shopping vouchers. Your generosity is most appreciated.

Lockdown Stage 4

I appreciate the latest restrictions are a cause of concern for many of you in our parish community. Please be reassured you all remain in my thoughts and prayers. Along with the other priests of the Archdiocese of Melbourne I continue to meet with the Archbishop on Wednesday afternoons each week. It is good for the purpose of monitoring the current situation. Also hearing what other parishes are doing also helps to keep the vision alive of what is possible.

Fr. Alan

	BULLETIN POSTED If you know of someone who does not has the internet, is house bound and would like a bulletin posted to them, please contact Chris at the Parish Office on 0401 112 380 or email info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au
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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
John Davies

0422 611 522
0418 596 983

Lucia Mac
Damian Coleridge

0405 231 207
0407 330 404

Monday 10th August 2020
Feast of Saint Laurence
Readings: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; John 12:24-26



DYING TO SELF

When a banana tree starts to indicate signs of bearing fruit, it likewise signifies its own death. The leaves wither and die as the fruit develops to maturity. When the time comes for the harvesting of the bananas the shrub must be cut and therefore it dies. However, it does not die in vain but rather gives way to the growth of a young banana tree.

In today’s Gospel we receive Jesus’ analogy of living and dying. We are called to die to being conceited and self-centred so that our lives may bear much fruit. What is it that is in me that needs to die to make this possible? As the First Reading reminds us God loves a cheerful giver.



Tuesday 11th August 2020
Feast of Saint Clare
Readings: Ezekiel 2:8-3:4; Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

DEPENDENCE AND TRUST

William Barclay, in his commentary on this gospel passage says that, if a person focuses on themselves being concerned with the fulfilment of personal ambition and acquiring personal power and prestige, they are aiming for the opposite of what the kingdom of heaven is all about.

In today’s Gospel Jesus tells us that unless we change and become like little children, we will never enter the kingdom of heaven. The reason is if we want to be a citizen of the kingdom heaven, our lives are to be about service, not power, our focus on God and others and not on ourselves. Jesus is not telling adults to go around behaving like little children. What he is telling us is to cultivate the childlike qualities of trust and dependence. Just as a little child depends on and trusts their parents to provide for whatever they need; we are to have that same trust God will also do this for us.

Wednesday 12th August 2020
Readings: Ezekiel 9:1-7, 10:18-22; Matthew 18:15-20

THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION

In today’s Gospel Jesus outlines a four-step process in seeking reconciliation with others who have wronged us. The first step is to have it out with them alone. If that does not work, then take one or two others long with you to help. The third step is to involve the community. The fourth and final step is not to talk with them anymore.

The question is how often do we use the last step as our first and final step bypassing all the others? How often is it rather than seeking the help of others to resolve the matter we want to involve others in the hope that they will join us in condemning the person who has wronged us?



In these moments do we have the courage to confront the other person seeking reconciliation removing all desire to pay them back? St. Clement of Alexandria said, 'For the sake of each of us He laid down His life, worth no less than the universe. He demands of us in return our lives for the sake of each other.'

Thursday 13th August 2020

Readings: Ezekiel 12:1-2; Matthew 18:21-19:1

FORGIVENESS UNLIMITED

In today's Gospel Peter asks Jesus how often must I forgive someone if they wrong me? Jesus' response of seventy-seven times means that there is no limit to forgiveness. This Gospel is quite challenging when we consider it applies to everyone we deal with, even that person who continually offends us by their behaviour. What can help us is a healthy realization that just as others have offended us by their words and actions, there have been times where we too have been guilty of the same offence.

Jesus tells us that the reason we are called to limitless forgiveness is because this is how God deals with us. We are all in need of his love and mercy.



Friday 14th August 2020

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Readings: Ezekiel 16:1-5,60,63; Matthew 19:3-12

COVENANT

A powerful word in scripture is the word "Covenant." It speaks about God's faithfulness. The first reading from the prophet Ezekiel speaks about God's faithfulness to the people of Israel even though they continued to be unfaithful to God. This tells us that God will not give up on us no matter what.

Covenant forms the basis of Jesus teaching about Marriage in today's Gospel. A couple getting married form a covenant with God and one another. This Covenant is that after God the couple make each other their top priority. Just as it was the people in the Prophet Ezekiel's time there will be times in the marriage where both parties will fail to live up to this ideal. This is where the process of reconciliation becomes so important. If the couple have been sincere in striving towards being one in mind and heart, they will do everything possible to resolve whatever problems have arisen.

Jesus' teaching on marriage is challenging because just as God does not give up on us, he does not want us to give up on each other.



Saturday 15th August 2020

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26;

Luke 1:39-56

Today we are celebrating the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. It is the fourth dogma on Virgin Mary, proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in his *Munificentissimus Deus* in 1950.

The word Assumption means, "To be taken up." body and soul to heaven. It is not like the Ascension because Jesus did this by his own power. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was done by the power of God. In doing so God completed the work he had commenced at her Immaculate Conception where he removed the effects of sin from her body. God's power was recognized by Mary in her prayer in today's Gospel known as *The Magnificat*. This prayer tells us that a grateful heart, an open heart, is a heart that can receive more from God. Part of our own prayer should focus on all the blessings we have received and thank God for it.

The readings chosen for today remind us of God's power over everything, even sin and death. This Feast also reminds us of our Christian hope in the resurrection of the body. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary calls us to dream, to imagine, to hope and to believe that God can do far greater than what we ever imagined or hoped for.



I wish to advise that the third edition of Catholic Education Today for 2020 is now available on the Catholic Education Melbourne website www.cem.edu.au under News and Events / [Catholic Education Today](#).

The Term 3 edition focuses on 'stepping up' with articles that explore school transitions and how to support your child through changes at all levels of school from beginning in Foundation to leaving secondary.

This issue explores how a school changed its language offering and involved the whole community. It also contains guidance to help families build resilience, looks at how our students are building connections with the vulnerable through the Letter Project, and celebrates events around the Archdiocese.

As this edition has not been printed please use this link to the [online version](#).

Yours sincerely

Jim Miles

Executive Director

JOCARE

Many thanks to everyone who have contributed so generously to our appeal for pantry items and supermarket vouchers for international students. The response has been tremendous and the number of vouchers donated so fresh good can also be purchased has been overwhelming. The organisation we have been working with are very grateful.



Given the new restrictions in place, we wanted to assure you we have worked out a way of giving the vouchers to the students. We are still working on a plan for the food care packages, we were to pack them this weekend. Once we understand the new guidelines fully we will be able to ascertain how we can safely distribute the donations. We will ensure that they will be provided to those in need, it may just be a little later than expected.

JoCare has been busy, we are now supporting a number of residents in aged care facilities through a pen pal program. The response has been wonderful, and the facilities have been providing photos of residents reading their cards and letters. We also have a small number of volunteers who are supporting staff in providing a daily bulletin full of fun positive information for the residents to read.

Several of our volunteers are providing phone contact to parishioners and members of the local community. Many have commented to me how it is so much harder this second time around. Volunteers are also assisting with face mask sewing.

If you would like to know more about how you maybe able to assist during this pandemic or if you have an idea that we maybe able to implement to support others, please contact Kerri Anne on 0403 572 440 (Mon, Tue, Thurs).

Take care, keep safe and well
Kerri Anne



The Community Volunteers
Scheme (CVS) funded by the
Australian Government



St Joseph's Refugee Support Group – and COVID-19 August 2020

Unfortunately, we are all still experiencing the effects of COVID-19. With the declaration of a State of Emergency we are facing the realities of long term isolation. For many of us this means trying to maintain contact with family and friends via phone calls, Chat sessions or Zoom. For others who have few contacts or resources, it means sustained isolation and loneliness. This is particularly true for asylum seekers living in the community who have not developed social networks, and who have few resources, either social or financial.

Connections through school, religious groups and neighbours have disappeared. Many have lost their jobs and most have no access to benefits, while others have no right to work even if jobs were available. Yet the costs of living must still be met, somehow. If they have managed to find a home they must still find the money to pay for rent, food, and other necessities. Their only resource is to turn to charities. These charities are stretching their income over ever-increasing needs but also facing the fact that many of their staff are self-isolating and fund raising is not bringing in enough to meet the need.

What can we do to help? We are offering as much practical help as we can. Recently (with the aid the Malvern conference of St Vincent de Paul) we were able to send shopping vouchers to a number of households. We have assisted with study costs leading to independence. We continue to contribute to the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project, which is receiving many requests for assistance with rent and food. We continue to have telephone contact with a number of people who, like us, are feeling confined and isolated. Those with children are trying to manage home schooling.

Of course, freedom to move and to visit is still a long way off. Until then, we offer our prayers, our thoughts and our compassion, but we also need to address immediate physical needs. Money is by no means a complete answer, but it can help. We are most grateful for the ongoing support of our generous donors but to continue to offer help we still need to ask for funds.

If you can help, please donate as follows:

Cheques should be made payable to:

“St. Joseph's Catholic Church Refugee Support Group”

and sent to: St Joseph's Parish Refugee Support Group

St. Joseph's Parish, 47 Stanhope Street, Malvern 3144.

If you require a receipt, please include your name and postal address.

Funds can also be transferred online:

Bank details: St. Joseph's Parish Refugee Support Group / (CDF Account with NAB):

BSB 083 347 Acc.No. 392 506 587

Please provide your surname in the reference section. If you require a receipt, please email your name and postal address to Barry O'Reilly – barryoreilly2@bigpond.com

Leading a Missionary Parish Part 3 by Fr. Alan Gibson



Last Thursday week I attended (via zoom) the third session in the series “Leading a Missionary Parish.” The speaker on this occasion was Fr.

James Mallon who is the author of the book *Divine Renovation*. I would like to share what I picked up on that night from his talk.

The Coronavirus COVID-19 is unique in that it has affected the whole world. It seems like we are living in apocalyptic times. The word Apocalypse means to remove the veil. As the veil is being removed in this present time what is being revealed about our society? About the Church? Our Archdiocese? About our parish? About myself? Apocalyptic times are a time of repentance. This is a season where the Church is called to repentance. When repentance is spoken about the predominant thought is that it is repentance for sin. However, it is really about metanoia which means a change, a transformation. Jesus told us in the Gospel that the Kingdom of God is in our midst. Let this change you. Let your mind be blown. When was the last time we allowed God to blow our minds?

People quite often ask, ‘When are we going back to normal?’ This time of pandemic is a time of interruption, but it is also a time of disruption. This means that “normal” is going to be redefined in the future. It could be compared to a mini ice age which was experienced in Europe in the early part of the twentieth century where the impact was long lasting. This current period is turning into something. In Mark 2:1-5 we hear the story of the healing of the paralytic. The focus here is on the 4 people who brought this man to Jesus. Firstly, they had the desire to bring him to Jesus. By bringing him to the feet of Jesus they brought him as close as they could. Secondly, they had a conviction that Jesus would make a difference. Thirdly, they had the will to make it happen.

The desire is a litmus test of our Church. This is the first question we as Church need to ask ourselves before we plan. Are we healthy? The 4 people who brought the paralytic man to Jesus went to a whole lot of trouble to do so. They could have looked at the crowd and decided it was all too hard and then just left the man near the house thinking “oh well, close enough” and went away hoping something would happen. However, they had the conviction because they truly believed that Jesus would make a difference. The fact that they tore a hole in the roof of Peter’s house to lower the man so he could get as close as possible to Jesus bore testimony to the fact that they had the will.

As a Church we have some hard things to go through if we want to adhere to something real. The temptation for us as Church is to think, “oh well, close enough.” For example, a parish can get excited about having 30 people in their community confirmed but then subsequently they are not seen again. They leave. The question is were they really brought to the feet of Jesus? This is just one example. Fr Mallon then spoke about how he is just about to take up an appointment in a diocese where they made the radical decision to reduce the number of parishes from 95 to 20. This has involved a profound changing of structures and deep rethinking of how pastoral leadership should be exercised. Hard decisions had to be made and of course not everyone was happy.

This time of lockdown gives us the opportunity as a Church to hit the reset button, think about where we are now and what kind of Church do we want to be part of in the future? If we want change then we must have the desire to make it happen, the conviction that it will make a difference and the will to follow it through. The focus always must be will this bring people to the feet of Jesus? In the process it is important to consult to engage a critical mass of people in our communities so that together hard decisions are faced and made and subsequently implemented. However, if we wait for 100% agreement then metanoia, transformation will not take place. We will probably settle for “oh well, close enough.”

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.



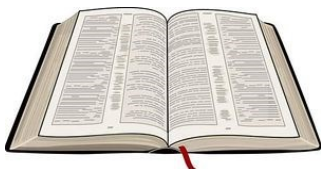
Parish Office is closed until further notice.
Please ring, 9401 6390 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

CLOSURE OF CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Due to the new restrictions announced by the Victorian State Government on Sunday 2nd August 2020, it is with much regret that the Church will remain closed for the next 6 weeks. Unfortunately this means personal visits to the Church are not permitted until further notice.

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9.11-13
SECOND READING: Romans 9:1-5
GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33



Next Sunday's Readings

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Isaiah 56:1.6-7
Romans 11:13-15.29-32
Matthew 15:21-28



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:

Agnes McGready, Patricia Mumford

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Aug 8	People of the Parish
Tuesday Aug 11	Agnes McGready (an)
Wednesday Aug 12	
Thursday Aug 13	
Friday Aug 14	
Saturday Aug 15	Patricia Mumford (an)

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.