



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:

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bulletin@stjosephsmalvern.org.au
www.stjosephsmalvern.org.au

**PARISH BUSINESS
MANAGER/SECRETARY:**

Mrs Chris Earl
0401 112 380
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



20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A 16th August 2020

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

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 gifts and call of God are irrevocable

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.



BULLETIN POSTED

If you know of someone who does not have 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

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
Lucia Mac	0405 231 207
John Davies	0418 596 983
Damian Coleridge	0407 330 404

PLEASE NOTE!!

The Parish Office is closed. Chris can be contacted on 0401 112 380 or info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au if you need assistance.

FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

PERSISTENCE

I have mentioned this involvement in a previous homily given last year but would like to raise it again in a different context.

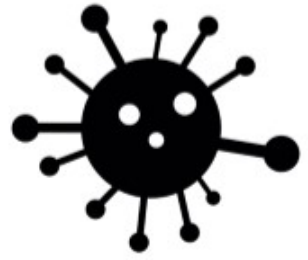
In my previous parish at St Vincent's Ashfield, NSW I, along with 20 parishioners from that parish, were involved with a group known as the Sydney Alliance. The Sydney Alliance is a diverse coalition of community organisations, religious organisations, unions and schools that uses the tools of community organising to make the city a better place to live. During my five year involvement with them I was struck by the persistence of so many to make change happen as they were concerned for the welfare of others. This motivated their determination and they refused to take no for answer. They believed that if they persevered for long enough a change for the better would be effected. I found that it took me beyond the familiar territory of the Church. Out of all the people I encountered through this organisation I don't know how many were part of a Church or even if they believed in God. Regardless, they taught me what it means to have faith and what the mission of the Church is meant to be about.

In the Gospel for this Sunday Jesus moved beyond the area that was familiar to him and entered foreign territory. He encountered a Canaanite woman (a non-Jewish woman) who started calling out to him. Firstly, the Gospel tells us that Jesus ignored her. Secondly, he told her that he was only sent to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Thirdly he told her it was not right to take the food from the children and throw it to the dogs. It seemed that she was not getting anywhere. Yet she persisted. She believed that Jesus had the power to make a difference and that a change for the better would happen. The fact that this Canaanite woman was asking not for her own welfare but for the welfare of her daughter motivated her determination. She knew that the God of Israel loved her daughter as well. Therefore, she responded with humility, not indignation. She said, 'for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of the Master.' Her faith impressed Jesus. He loved how she refused to take no for an answer. He responded by saying 'Woman, you have great faith.'

Most scripture scholars would say that Jesus' initial responses to this Canaanite woman prior to helping her was done for the purpose of testing her faith. I believe that this is true. I also believe that this meeting with the Canaanite woman, who displayed a depth of faith Jesus rarely encountered in his own familiar territory, expanded his vision of what his mission was meant to be about.

From this we learn that the God of Israel loves us all, regardless of our level of faith or whether we have a faith at all. God wants us all to persistently pursue the good of those who need help, of those who are hurting and to keep persevering even when it looks like our cause is being ignored. When we feel like giving up, we only need to look at the example of this Canaanite woman, who came from outside the faith family of her time, and like her simply say, 'Lord, help me.'

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.

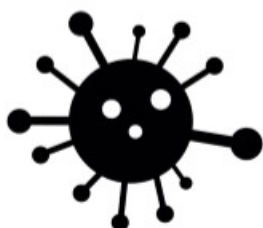
May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.

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.

MESSAGE FROM FR ALAN



Online Masses

Online Masses continue to be celebrated in the parish both on the weekend and on weekdays from Tuesdays to Fridays. I am sorry that there were no online masses for last Thursday, Friday or last weekend. I was unwell but have fully recovered and I resumed celebrating Masses again this past Tuesday. The Weekend Masses can be accessed from the website anytime from Sunday morning and the weekday masses are usually uploaded to the parish website for viewing by 10.30am that same day.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank those parishioners who have assisted me by proclaiming the Word of God at these masses. Since commencing they have subsequently been asked to wear masks and then to carry a worker permit as restrictions tightened. I am very grateful for their generous response to these increased demands.

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 were sent out to all parishioners last week as separate PDF attachments to the bulletin either by email or by post.*** If any parishioner missed out on receiving copies of these documents, please contact Fr Alan. Any feedback can be sent by email to info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au or Fr Alan via phone on 9401 6391. We are very grateful for your involvement in this process.

St Vincent De Paul Society Local Conference

The local Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society and those they support wish to convey their deep appreciation to all parishioners who donated to the Winter Appeal this year. The total raised for the Winter appeal was \$4840 which is great considering the way the appeal had to run this year.

The Local Conference continues to do their work, albeit in a different way from their usual practice. They now require a Permit to visit, that is letterbox drop, and their operating hours are restricted. I thank the local Conference for persisting by doing what they can. 2 longstanding conference members, Eileen Matthews and Frank Johns have been given Emeritus Awards by the Society for their many years of dedication and loyalty to the St Joseph's Conference. A small plaque and letter of appreciation comprise the award. The parish also congratulates both Eileen and Frank on this wonderful achievement.

Lockdown Reading

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

1. **Textile Mountain: The Hidden Burden of our Fashion Waste**
<https://www.textilemountainfilm.com/>
2. **Social Policy Connections**
<https://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/>
3. **Was there slavery in Australia? Yes. It shouldn't even be up for debate.**
<https://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/?p=17012>

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 agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au so I can issue a zoom invitation. Please remember you do not have to have a zoom account to join.

JoCare

During the week JoCare volunteers met (via zoom) with our local Federal Member for Higgins, Dr Katie Allen MP. They had the opportunity to explain the work of JoCare and to share with her the work they are doing in maintaining contact and offering ongoing friendship and support to others in the community. I was present at this meeting along with Kerri Anne, the Coordinator of JoCare. Dr Katie Allen was very interested to hear about the work being carried out and thanked the volunteers for their generous service to the community.

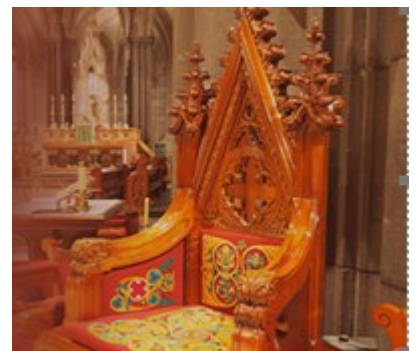
Wishing you all a very good week ahead.

Fr. Alan

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL: A CLOSER LOOK

During lockdown, we're already learning to adapt without many simple pleasures like going to cafés, or restaurants, or a bookshop. But also, one of the things we miss is being in and around those beautiful sacred spaces that we frequent each week for Mass. That's why we're running a series on spaces around the Archdiocese – particularly St Patrick's Cathedral – that reminds people of the beauty around us in the Archdiocese, but also to inspire hope that we'll come to these places with new appreciation once the lockdown ends.

LINK: <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/News/ArtMID/416/ArticleID/24555/St-Patrick%e2%80%99s-Cathedral-A-closer-look>

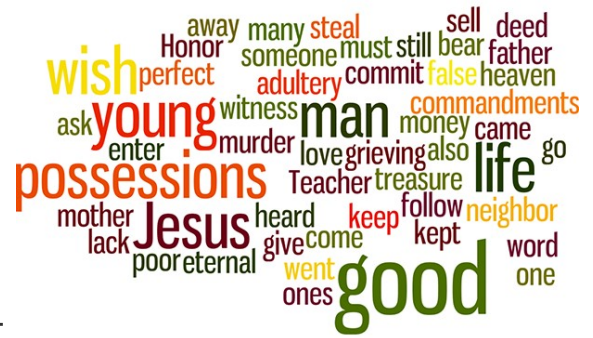


Monday 17th August 2020

Readings: Ezekiel 24:15-24; Matthew 19:16-22

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

A couple of Sundays ago I shared in a homily about my experience of an Alpha video I watched and how the words of two famous people, Jim Carrey and Freddie Mercury illustrated that money could buy a lot of things but was not the answer to happiness. The answer to that is a living loving relationship that lasts forever and the only one who can provide that is God. This is the point that Jesus makes to the rich young man in today's Gospel. He told him to go sell everything he had and give it to the poor and then to come and follow him. Jesus wants him to understand it is not what you have in your life but rather who you have in your life is what really matters. The Gospel tells us that he goes away from Jesus sad. It is because he was looking in the wrong place for happiness. It is only God who can satisfy the deepest yearnings of the human heart.



Tuesday 18th August 2020

Readings: Ezekiel 28:1-10; Matthew 19:23-30

THE RICH AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN



In today's Gospel we hear Jesus say, "it is much harder for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle."

Jesus was not opposed to wealth per se. In fact he was for it for the opposite of wealth is poverty. People living in poverty is not part of God's plan. What he was warning against was living our lives relying on false securities. Jesus wants us to have wealth, but we are to share our wealth. We are called to be free from attaching ourselves

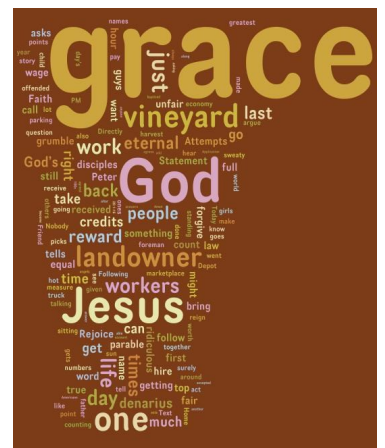
to material things so that we are able to attach ourselves to God.

Wednesday 19th August 2020

Readings: Ezekiel 34:1-11; Matthew 20:1-16

GENEROSITY

When reading this Gospel story about the workers in the vineyard our initial reaction could be one of indignation. We might think that it is not fair why should those who came at the last hour get the same amount as those who had been working all day? But the story should be read from a different angle. In this parable, Jesus wants to give us an important lesson on the generosity and love of God which are offered as pure gifts or as free gifts to all of us. Therefore, instead of being envious, we are called to be generous. Generosity means that we rejoice in the success and good fortune of others. If we are generous towards others like the landowner was in this story, then God will be generous towards us.



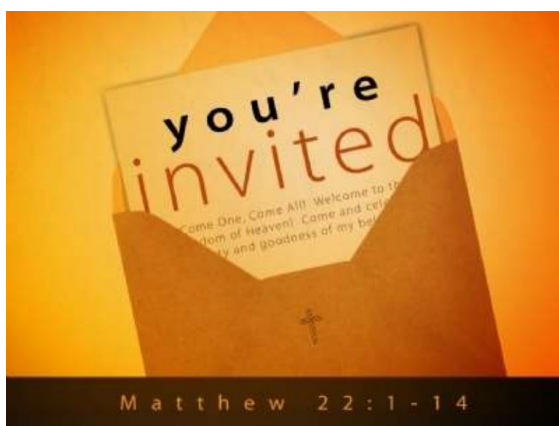
Thursday 20th August 2020
Feast of St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor
Readings: Ezekiel 36:23-28; Matthew 22:1-14

INDIFFERENCE

At the end of the movie Patch Adams, Patch is called before a board of doctors to explain why he had opened and ran a medical clearance without a licence. When it was put to him that someone could have died as a result of his actions, he responded by saying, 'death is not the enemy. If you want to fight a real disease then how about indifference?'

In the Gospel for today a king issues an invitation to his banquet but those who were first invited declined the invitation. They were indifferent to what the King was offering them and made all kinds of excuses why they could not accept. They had other priorities.

Each day God extends his invitation to us to draw close to him. Let us accept the invitation and not allow other things to take priority. Borrowing a few words from the First Reading what will God see, a heart of stone because we are indifferent or a heart of flesh showing that we want to belong to him by seeking and working for the good of others?



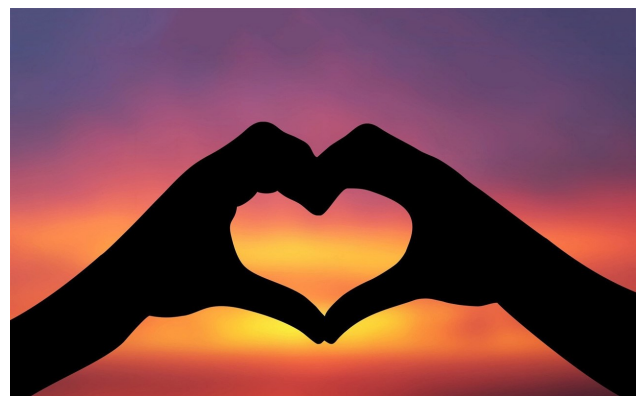
Friday 21st August 2020
Feast of St Pius X, Pope
Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Matthew 22:34-40

COVENANT

When a couple get married in a Church they promise before God to take each for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health and to love each other all the days of their lives until death separates them. The promise they make to each other is a Covenant. Just as God made a Covenant to love us and never give up on us no matter what, the couple also make this promise to one another.

Today's Gospel speaks about love of God and neighbour and the Covenant each of us are called to make with God. The first is to put God first. The second part is to commit to love in a way that is totally other-centred. He combines the two commandments in such a way that one cannot be fulfilled without the other. There can be no love of God without loving other human persons, made in his image. This is the key to happiness and fulfilment, not only for those who are getting married but for all of us.

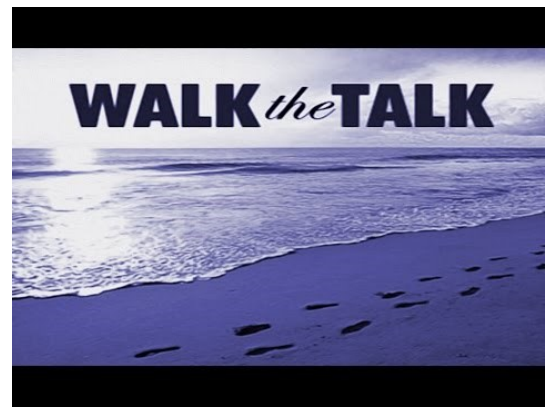
Therefore, let us today make a Covenant with God to put him first in our lives. This means setting aside some part of our day to spend time with him in prayer and seeking to live out his will in our everyday life. Connected with this let us move beyond the confines of our own wants and seek the good of others.



Saturday 22nd August 2020
Feast of Our Lady, Mother and Queen
Readings: Ezekiel 43:1-7; Matthew 23:1-12

AUTHENTIC LIVING

In today's Gospel Jesus challenges the Scribes and Pharisees because there was a complete dichotomy between what they professed to believe and the way they lived their lives, particularly how they ill-treated others.



There are three characteristic marks of authentic Christian living. The first is humility. In the Gospel Jesus says those who are humble will be exalted. True humility is a healthy self-knowledge of our strengths and weaknesses. Secondly, our words and actions have to be consistent with one another. Although Jesus was a teacher with very little status in his society, he captivated the crowds because they instinctively knew that he lived what he taught. The third characteristic is obedience. This goes far beyond the external observance that was exercised by the scribes and the Pharisees. Practicing obedience is a challenge because it means submitting our own will to the will of God. There will be times it will also entail submitting our will to the will of another.

Am I living my faith in an authentic way, or do I live one way externally for all to see, while internally I am very different? And so, let us make a hidden act of charity today without seeking anything in return.



Exile and COVID—Reflections from Fr John Hill CSsR

"I never thought I would see this in my lifetime." How many people would be saying something like this, especially in Victoria at this difficult time. COVID-19 and government measures to prevent its spread have turned our lives upside down. We have experienced, and some of us are still experiencing massive dislocation in our lives. The bible calls this experience "exile".

Fr John Hill CSsR has studied and written extensively on exile. In the Bible, exile occurred when the people broke their covenant with God. Fr John has provided some thoughts for the Majellan on what exile means in these times of COVID.

LINK: <https://majellan.media/covid-19-reflection-john-hill-cssr/>



CARITAS AUSTRALIA
SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR LEBANON



It is with great heartbreak that we learnt of the explosion in Beirut which killed over 100 people and wounded thousands. Lebanon has suffered multiple waves of conflict and disaster.

Caritas Australia has committed to provide immediate response in the form of crucial financial support as part of its already established Middle East Regional Appeal. Additionally, through its in-country staff and partners in Lebanon, the wider Caritas network is working to deliver:

- *Food and water.*
- *Hygiene kits including masks and soap.*
- *Material for shelter repairs and the clean-up of debris.*
- *Medication and other health services.*

If you would like to donate, please use the link below or call 1800 024 413.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response/middle-east-emergency-appeal>

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON

following the Beirut blast

God of Compassion,

You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve.

We pray for the people of Lebanon in this time of disaster.

Embrace those who died so suddenly and console those
who grieve for loved ones.

United in solidarity with our Lebanese sisters and brothers we pray:

For healing and strength for those injured and suffering

That the international community will respond with generosity
and compassion

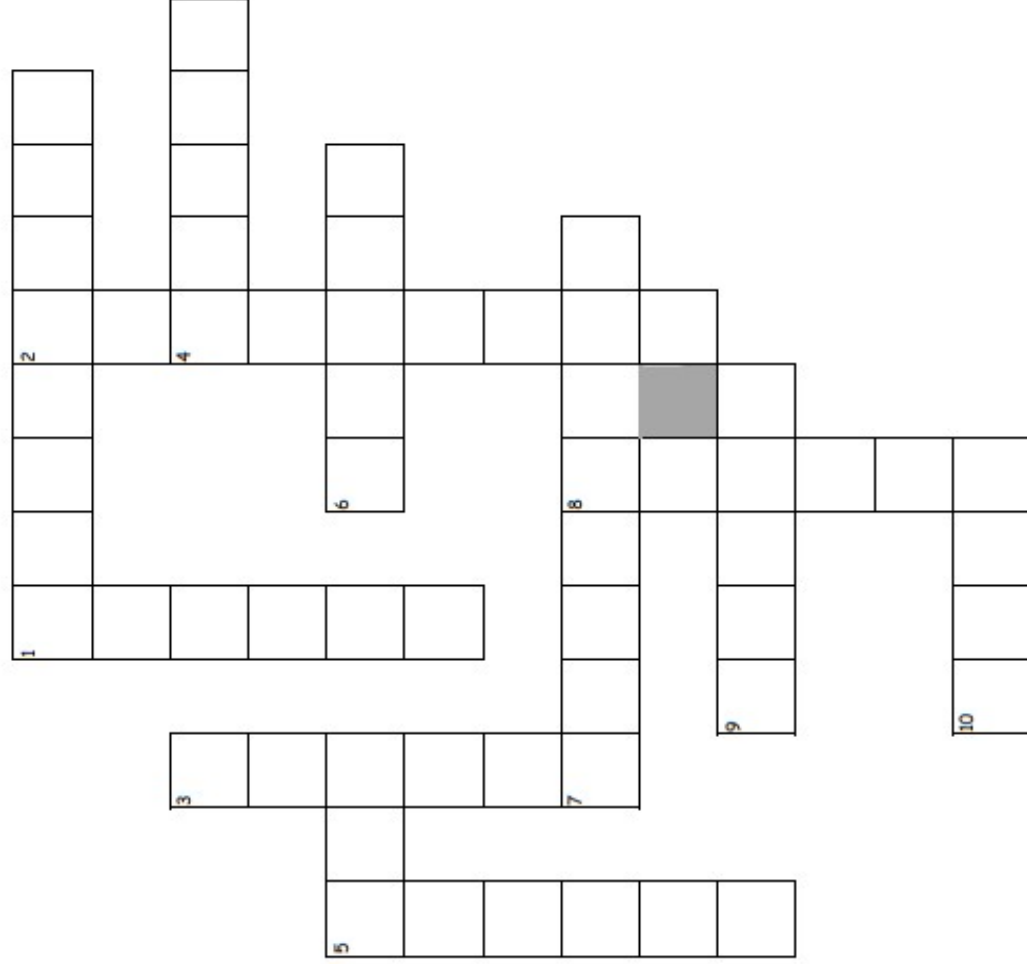
And that stability and peace will be restored in Lebanon.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

- Jo Brady RSJ Caritas Australia

CROSSWORD

The woman had much faith



Across

- 1: very young people
- 4: Jesus described the people of Israel as like a flock of lost _____
- 5: a four-legged animal that barks
- 6: belief
- 7: father is to son, as mother is to what?
- 9: the opposite of man
- 10: what we eat

Down

- 1: Jesus spoke to a woman who came from this place
- 2: Jesus' followers
- 3: pleaded
- 5: the woman told Jesus her daughter was full of these
- 8: cured

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

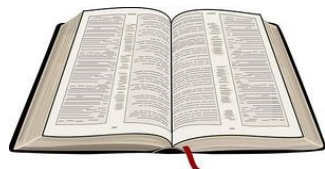
Due to the new restrictions announced by the Victorian State Government on Sunday 2nd August 2020, it is with much regret that the Church still needs to remain closed for the next 6 weeks. Unfortunately this means personal visits to the Church are not permitted until further notice.

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1.6-7

SECOND READING: Romans 11:13-15.29.32

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28



Next Sunday's Readings

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 22:19-23

Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16:13-20



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:

Colin Crawford (brother of Marie Grafen)

ANNIVERSARIES:

Patricia Mumford, Thomas Burke, Raymond Leslie Smith



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday August 15

Patricia Mumford (an)

Tuesday August 18

Thomas Burke (an)

Wednesday August 19

Raymond Leslie smith (an)

Thursday August 20

Barry O'Sullivan (an)

Friday August 21

Saturday August 22

People of the Parish

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.