



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

PARISH OFFICE ADDRESS:

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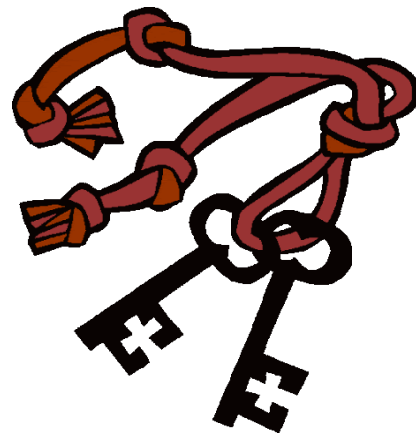
JOCARE—COORDINATOR:

Mrs Kerri Anne Brussen
9401 6392
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Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

St Joseph's Primary
Principal
Mrs Michelle Moore
9597 6300

**21st SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
23rd August 2020**



FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

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

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the

Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.



CLIMATE ACTION GROUP AT ST JOSEPH'S MALVERN

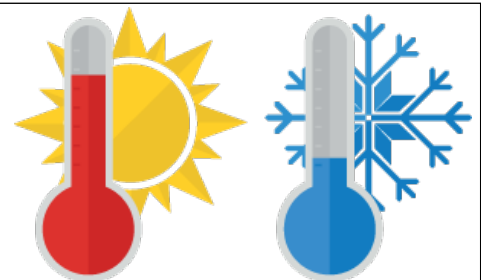
Hi, my name is Brian Regan. I am a member of the Parish Pastoral Council here at St Joseph's parish.

Some members of the Parish Pastoral Council, including myself, have a keen interest in raising awareness of these issues with the parish community of St Joseph's Parish and the broader community. I am presently doing an Animator course with the Global Catholic Climate Action Group which is a world wide environmental group that has taken up the cause of Laudato Si, Pope Francis's encyclical that calls for action on the environment and the plight of the poor.

If you are interested in being involved in a group such as this or would like to discuss this important issue please contact either:

Brian: bregan52@hotmail.com

John: john@daviesfamily.com.au



FR ALAN'S REFLECTION

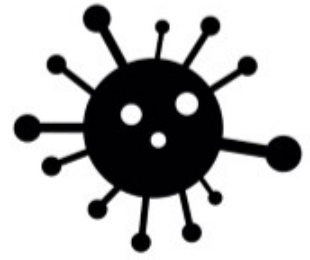
CONFESSION WITH CONVICTION, NOT PERFECTION

How many of us would give the keys to our car to someone knowing that it was likely that they would smash it up? We would think anyone giving their trust in such a situation could not possibly be thinking straight. Yet essentially this is what Jesus basically did in today's Gospel. He gives Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven knowing that Peter would mess it up. It seems that it did not take him long. In next Sunday's Gospel, which immediately follows this one, Jesus will rebuke Peter for failing to understand the true meaning of his mission. Peter will subsequently fail again around a campfire early on Good Friday morning where he would deny ever having known Jesus three times. But Jesus still does it. When Jesus gives Peter the keys to the kingdom, he is saying you are the one who is going to be in charge, you are the one who I am going to found my church upon. It begs the question, why? The reason is despite his weaknesses Peter genuinely loved Jesus and sought to know him, not just intellectually, but at the deepest level of his heart. He believed that Jesus was far more than a teacher. He truly believed that Jesus was the Son of God, the Lord of his life and he gave over his life to serving him. This was the foundation that Christ built his Church upon.

The question Jesus posed to his disciples is the same one for us today, who do we say he is? Do we truly believe that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God? Is he someone we know personally or is he someone we know because it was simply passed on to us by our parents? Is he the one I go to only when I am sick, or in trouble or when I need something? How hard do we try to genuinely get to know him? Is he the one I spend one hour with every week or every month but that is all? Or do I seek God out only at Easter and Christmas? If we operate on those levels, then we will never truly get to know him. If he is just another teacher, another good man then we are not completely giving over our lives to allow his power to completely take over our lives. Once we get to know who he is, once we can confess with conviction that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God, then despite whatever failures may happen to us as a result of our own weakness, Jesus can continue to establish the foundation of his Church because he can work in us and through us. Once we decide to make Jesus the foundation of our lives then whatever life throws at us will never overcome us.

Peter was sustained in his leadership of the early Church because he knew that despite his failings, Jesus still loved him. Even though we too may sometimes like Peter, abandon the Lord or deny him he still loves us, trusts us, and continues to offer us the keys to his kingdom.

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



Lockdown Reading and videos

1. Book of Revelation

I had a very welcome message from Sr Mary Coloe this past week. Last week she was part of a zoom session on the Book of Revelation and she recorded it. With her permission I now share this video link with you <https://vimeo.com/446766919>. We always have the book of Revelation 12 for the Feast of the Assumption -so I thought it might help us in our understanding of this very challenging book. The title of the session was Apocalypse Now, on the Book of Revelation.

2. Rubber gloves entering Australia from Malaysia could be linked to forced labour, with US restricting imports

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-20/gloves-malaysia-forced-labour-us-detention-order-australia/12292708>

Safeguarding- COVID 19 _Online Safety for Parent and Children

As a result of the current pandemic resulting in our children and young people spending a long period of time in remote learning, the Parish Safeguarding Committee thought that it would be good to share a very comprehensive online safety guide for parents, issued by the eSafety Commissioner to give support to families. Well worth a read for those of you either with children or grandchildren. It is always best to be one step ahead and well-armed with information regarding online content and social media. This will be sent out with our parish bulletins this week as well as being on the parish website.

Laudato Si Animators

Some of you may remember in the bulletin of 26th July 2020 that I mentioned that the Global Climate Movement were calling for volunteers to become Laudato Si Animators and gave the details for anyone who may be interested. I am pleased to advise that Brian Regan took up this invitation. Brian is a parishioner and currently serves on our Parish Pastoral Council. I wish to draw your attention to what Brian has written in the bulletin this week regarding this.

Articles by parishioners

I am pleased to see that articles written by two of our parishioners, John Davies and Nalis Miranda, have appeared on our parish website. These have also been included in this week's bulletin. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage more parishioners to write. It can be theological but need not be.

Bulletin Deadline

I wish to advise that the deadline for the bulletin is 3.00pm on Wednesdays. There are several bulletins that need to be posted and this gives the Parish Office the chance to try and get the bulletin to everyone before the weekend.

Monday 24th August 2020

Feast of St. Bartholomew

Readings: Revelation 21:9-14; John 1:45-51

SINCERITY

We have the Gospel of Jesus' encounter with Nathanael because from the earliest days of the Church Nathanael (a first name which means "Given by God") and Bartholomew (an Aramaic patronym that means "Son of Tolmay") have been identified as the same person. In the Opening Prayer for today's mass we heard the words, 'Strengthen in us, O Lord, the faith by which the blessed Apostle Bartholomew clung wholeheartedly to your Son...'. This prayer captures what should be the desire of every Christian, to cling to Christ with our whole heart, not just when we want something from God but during our entire life. I think today's readings tell us how his is possible for us.

Firstly, it tells us in the Gospel that Nathanael (Bartholomew) was a person who was incapable of deceit. This was a trait in him that was immediately recognized by Jesus. It reminds us of the importance of being sincere in our lives. Let our yes be yes and our no be no. Secondly, it tells us that something significant happened while Nathanael was under the fig tree. His heart was moved by Jesus' words. He understood and he felt understood. Like Peter in last Sunday's Gospel this led him to make a clear confession of faith. To confess our faith is a vital step for us if our desire to cling to Jesus is to be realized. Thirdly, Nathanael would have never met Jesus if it were not for Philip. This reminds us that we need the company of faith filled friends in our lives who will support and encourage us in our faith journey. Fourthly, our confession of faith must be expressed in some concrete action of doing good for others. The martyrdom of St Bartholomew reminds us that we are called to die to self each day.



Tuesday 25th August 2020

Readings: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3,14-17;

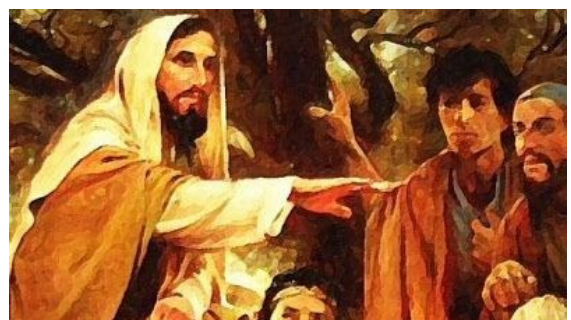
Matthew 23:23-26

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

I read a story about Adolf Hitler and how he had made free use of Christian vocabulary. He would talk about the blessings of God and that the Christian confessions would form the foundation of his new government. He would tell pious stories to the press, especially church papers. He showed his tattered bible and related how he drew great strength from it. It was a classic case of someone being a master of outward religiosity but on the inside a completely different reality was taking place.

In today's Gospel Jesus challenged the Scribes and the Pharisees for the same reasons. They were quick to proclaim how attentive they were to all the external observances of religion like tithing, and diligently cleaning the outside of cups and dishes because all these things could be seen by others and thus earn them praise and admiration. In contrast their inner world was devoid of justice, mercy, and good faith. These things did not matter as they could not be seen by others. That is why Jesus labelled them hypocrites.

Today's Gospel challenges us to reflect on whether there are aspects of hypocrisy as well in our own lives. If so, where do we seek to appear to others what we are not? Where are we concerned to win the admiration and praise of others and forget what really matters most of all? Today's Gospel reminds us that what we present to others should be the way things really are. We should be motivated to live good lives regardless of whether other people see our good deeds. God sees our hearts and cannot be fooled.



Wednesday 26th August 2020

**Readings: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10,16-18;
Matthew 23:27-32**



DECEIT

In Last Monday's Gospel we heard Jesus refer to Nathanael (St Bartholomew) as a person as incapable of deceit. In contrast we hear in today's Gospel Jesus dealing with the Scribes and the Pharisees and denouncing them in the strongest possible terms. The reason was they were living lives of wilful deceit. It stemmed from being insincere, pretentious and there being a total lack of congruity between their outward and inward dispositions. Jesus encourages us to live authentic lives, accepting ourselves as we really are. There is no need to put on a show before others as what we have and what we are ultimately comes from God.

Thursday 27th August 2020

Saint Monica

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 24:42-51

THERE IS NO TOMORROW

There is a story about three young devils who were taking final examination in Hell. Satan was giving the exam and said to them "Just one question, what will you do on earth to bring a rich harvest of souls to me?" The first devil answered that he would tell people that there is no God. Satan told him it was a bad approach. Too many people know that God exists, and certainly hope that he does when they are about to die. The second devil answered that he would tell people hell does not exist. Satan told him that was also a bad approach. Many people know that hell exists because their lives are hell right now. The third devil answered I will simply tell them there is always tomorrow. Therefore, there is no hurry to change. Satan was delighted with this. He told the third devil he had graduated as that approach would bring many souls to him.



In today's Gospel we learn that tomorrow is a dangerous word because there will come a time in our lives when we will run out of tomorrows. If there is something in our lives we need to change for the better then the time to do it is now. The problem is change can be painful and the more painful it is then we have a greater tendency to put it off. The Gospel reminds us of the importance of staying awake. In other words, we are called to be aware that life is short and can end at any moment. If we are vigilant by living lives doing what God wants us to do and not delaying, then it will not matter when the Lord comes for us because when he does come for us, he will find us ready.

Friday 28th August 2020

Saint Augustine

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25;

Matthew 25:1-13

MAXIMISING OUR GOD GIVEN POTENTIAL

St. Francis de Sales in his *Spiritual Diary* (pp. 19-20) and quoted by the 365 Days With The Lord 2007, says: 'the worst things that can befall persons who have good will is to want to be what they cannot be and not want to be what they necessarily must be. They conceive desires to do great things which perhaps will never be expected of them; in the meantime, they neglect the little things which God puts into their hands.

In today's Gospel Jesus again reminds us that there only two things in life that are certain. Firstly, the world will come to an end one day. Secondly, there will come the time when we will die. The message for us is to live our life now to the full maximising our God given potential. This means identifying where we are to use the gifts that God has given us and not waste time doing things we were never called to do. We are called to do good for others without being concerned about whether it is noticed by others or not. How well we prepare for that day when the Lord will come for us will be determined by the way we have lived our lives.



Saturday 29th August 2020

The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Mark 6:17-29

THE TRUTH LIVES ON

In one of the final scenes of the movie *A few good men* Tom Cruise demands the truth from Jack Nicholson. Jack Nicholson replied by shouting 'Truth! You can't handle the truth.

This pretty sums up the message from today's Gospel John the Baptist is beheaded because he had told King Herod the truth that it was not lawful to have his brother Philip's wife. Herodias, the wife in question, was furious and subsequently planned and succeeded in having John the Baptist executed. The reason was she could not handle the truth.

This is story of what can happen when we allow pride to overtake us. We can lose our sense of reason. We content ourselves with our own version of the truth and cannot handle it when someone confronts us with the real truth of our lives.

Christ died on the cross because there were many who could not handle the truth of the Gospel. They thought that by doing away with him then the truth would also be buried in the tomb with him. Yet by his resurrection God's truth lives on, a truth for which there is no comparable substitute.



What Makes St Joseph's a Special Parish

This article was written by **John Davies**, a member of the Parish Pastoral Council. It first appeared in the [Sense of the Faithful](#) website.



You may remember the film 'The Castle' where the lawyer says 'it's just the vibe'. Well, St Joseph's is like that; it's just the vibe of the place.

Why; it's hard to pin point, but a big part of it would be that it is a Vincentian Parish; and consistently, we've had great priests. It's only a small parish with about 500 families in the area; so people get to know each other and form a 'community' which is what faith is all about!

Even though, St Joseph's is an inner city parish; it's not a wealthy parish; we have a Church which is 110 years old and a presbytery which is not far behind. Both of these need considerable upkeep so money is not plentiful.

We've got some great volunteers, not enough of course but isn't that always the way. At St Joseph's we try to get to know people and get them involved. We have quite a few parish events each year, a BBQ, a Christmas in July Lunch, a musical soiree and a Parish Dinner.

Outreach has become a significant change in the way St Joseph's responds to the local community in the last decade. We have a significant Refugee Support group, which raises funds to support refugees. And a dedicated group of people who actively get involved with new refugees to help them get settled and acquire the goods that they need for daily life in Melbourne.

We have an excellent local chapter of the St Vincent de Paul Society which is almost as old as the Parish, over 100 years. It runs as an independent chapter with a small but dedicated group of local men and women. The chapter raises around \$30,000 per year and dispenses it to people in need. During this time of Pandemic, they are still able to assist with food vouchers. It is a non-invasive outreach conducted with compassion and respect for people's situation.

Another local outreach program is JoCare which supports isolated and lonely people, mostly elderly either in their homes or in Aged Care facilities in the Stonnington area. JoCare has recruited and trained around 40 volunteers who befriend people who don't have many friends by regular visits; through now it's by regular phone calls during the lockdown. JoCare completed 550 visits in 2019 and most of our volunteers are not Catholics.

St Joseph's is brainstorming how the parish will operate post-Covid 19; we doubt that life will return to normal unless a vaccine is discovered. The question we are asking is how do we enable Catholics to maintain involvement in the parish and practicing their faith in the future, especially older Catholics? We are experimenting with upgrading our website; including weekly news, reflections, readings of the day and weekly or even daily Mass, all available at the click of an icon or link.

We'd love to hear what other parishes are doing or thinking on this subject? If any parish would like more details of St Joseph's Outreach programs or if would like to volunteer at St Joseph's? Please contact me, John Davies, via the Sense of the Faithful website.

Walking the Talk on the Role of Women



*This article was written by **Nalis Miranda**, a member of our Parish Pastoral Council, and originally published on the [Sense of the Faithful](#) website and in the Spring 2020 edition of 'Swag' magazine.*

The time is now. In her recent article, Mary Coloe has vigorously reiterated the long overdue case for women in church life. We know worthy, talented Catholic women are repeatedly denied a seat at tables of church power, tables where the big decisions are made. We know that even at local parish level, worthy women are denied opportunities to serve, despite ever declining number of priests and men entering the seminary. We know amongst us, there are many generous devout women able to take positions of leadership, preach, provide pastoral care to fellow parishioners.

Passive acceptance of the status quo is not an option. But the question remains – what can be done now, bottom up from local parishes, given the slow momentum of change, top down from Rome? What small reasonable steps can parishes take? Do parishes have courage to step boldly into a fairer future for our women in church life? Longer term, ordination of women priests is desirable to maintain vigorous parish life. But realistically, this may not happen for a very long time.

At St Joseph's Malvern, thanks to our enlightened Parish Priest and Parish council, inclusion of Women is a "hot button issue", and has been for quite some time. We aim to "walk the talk" to the extent we are able to. Inclusion of women is a topic at our monthly Parish council where new opportunities are sought and implemented. At St Joseph's Malvern our investigations into greater roles for women activities include:

1. Sunday sermons delivered by women -in progress – women deliver Sunday mass sermons quarterly (with increasing frequency after Covid restrictions lifted)
2. Worship activities led by Women in church (awaiting lifting of restrictions) – Communion services for women and men – Adoration – women leading prayer whilst the Blessed sacrament is exposed – Bible Study and Prayer Groups for other women
3. Funeral services conducted by women (under consideration)
4. Seminars/women's interest groups run by women (under consideration) – On topics of interest to other women, on line, or face to face
5. Pastoral Services by women to other women (under consideration) – Support for women seeking pastoral care from women.

To better equip laywomen and men for greater involvement in church life, some theological training and knowledge, we believe, would be very useful. St Joseph's is examining training options currently. These are essentially, little steps taken by St Joseph's Malvern, to bridge the gap.

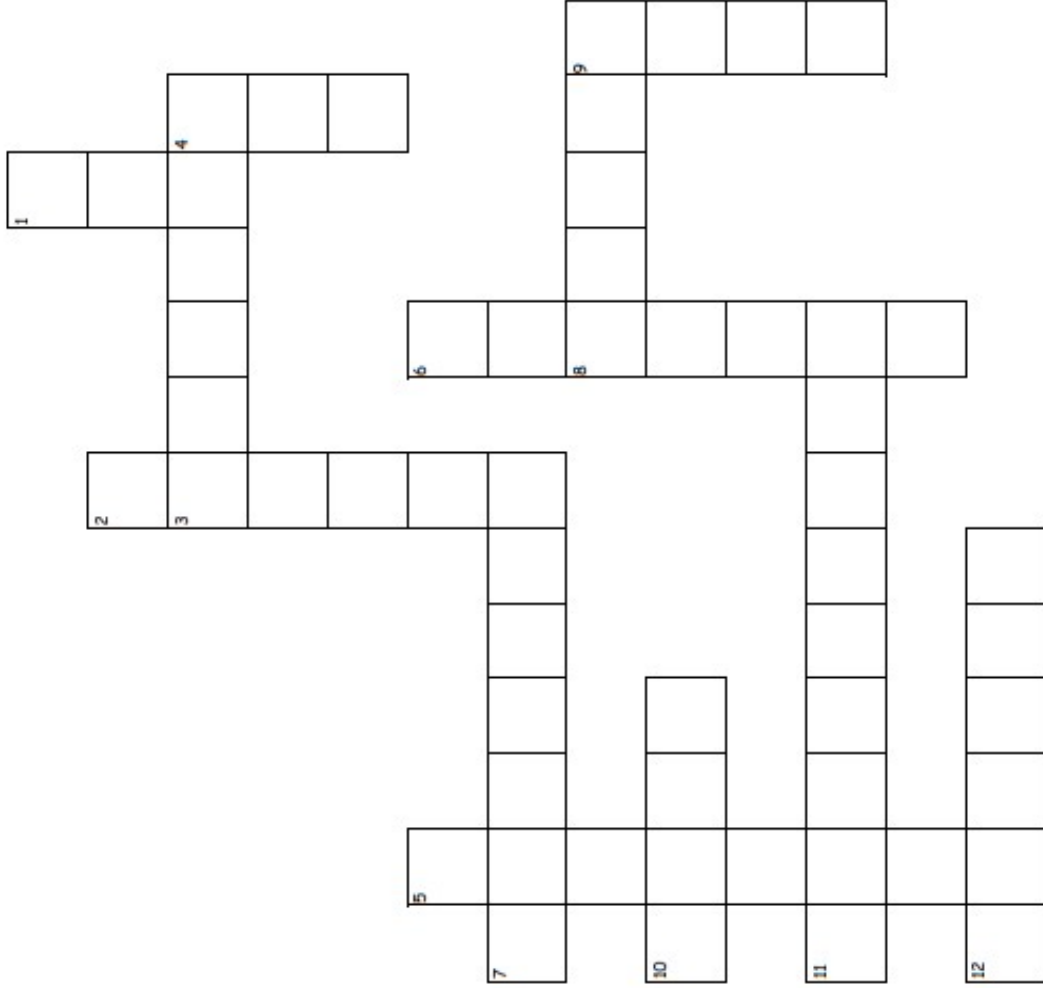
If other parishes can take similar small, meaningful steps to promote meaningful involvement of their women in parish life, would that not eventually, collectively, harness a groundswell of support, loud enough, that Rome would take notice? Let's pray for courage and boldness to take action.

Eventually our goal is to lead more people to God. But without an open and inclusive approach, our beloved Catholic Church, with its unique theology and traditions would struggle to endure into the future. The time to act is now.

CROSSWORD

Who do you say I am?

Mt 16:13-20



Across

- 3: being alive
- 7: God's chosen one
- 8: Jesus gave Simon this new name
- 10: these are used to unlock things
- 11: Jesus' followers
- 12: Jesus said "On this rock I will build my _____"

Down

- 1: Simon was the _____ of Jonah
- 2: a prophet whose name begins with 'E'
- 4: our Father in heaven
- 5: a prophet whose name begins with 'J'
- 6: some people thought Jesus was John the _____
- 9: the name Peter means _____

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.



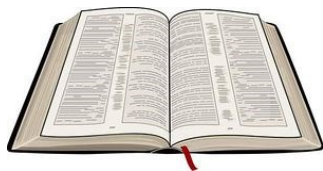
Parish Office is closed until further notice.
Please ring, 9401 6390 before you stop by to make sure there is someone in attendance.

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.

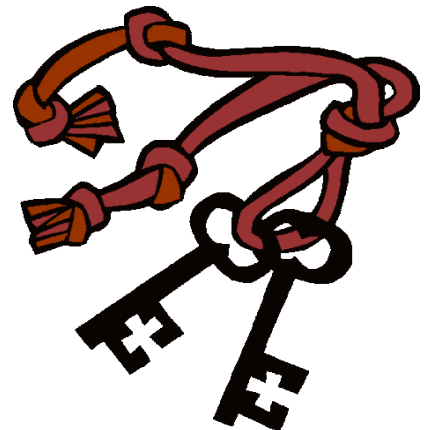
21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:19-23
SECOND READING: Romans 11:33-36
GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20



Next Sunday's Readings

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Jeremiah 20:7-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27



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:

Roland McGready, Brett Metcalf



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday August 22	People of the Parish
Tuesday August 25	Roland McGready (an)
Wednesday August 26	Fortunata Cardini (nee Schiavello) (rec dec)
Thursday August 27	
Friday August 28	
Saturday August 29	Brett Metcalf (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.