



# 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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www.stjosephsmalvern.org.au

**PARISH BUSINESS**

**MANAGER/SECRETARY:**

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:**

Kerri Anne Brussen  
9401 6392  
jocare@stjosephsmalvern.org.au  
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

**PARISH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:**

St Joseph's Primary  
Principal  
Michelle Moore  
9597 6300



## 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B 8th December 2020

**FIRST READING:**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them'  
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her  
that her time of service is ended,  
that her sin is atoned for,  
that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
let every cliff become a plain,

**ST JOSEPH'S IS A CHILD SAFE PARISH**

*St Joseph's Malvern is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children,  
young people and vulnerable adults.*

and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'  
Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.  
Shout with a loud voice,  
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
Shout without fear,  
say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God.'  
Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.  
The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.  
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,  
holding them against his breast  
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.



## **SECOND READING:**

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

## **GOSPEL:**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet

Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
he will prepare your way.  
A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



## PARISH OFFICE REOPENING

The current directions from the Victorian Government are that if staff can work from home then they must still work from home. This is supported in the directions given to Parishes from the Archdiocese regarding Parish Staff.

**As part of Parish's Return to Work Road Map, the Parish Office will be open for the next two Mondays (7th & 14th December) from 9.00am-11.00am.**

Outside of these hours anyone seeking assistance from the Parish Office is asked to please contact Fr Alan on 94016391 beforehand to arrange a time.

Chris can also be reached on  
0401 112 380 or  
[info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au](mailto:info@stjosephsmalvern.org.au)



## TAP MACHINE

The Parish Tap Machine has been reactivated and now available to use.

Your Stewardship and loose collection contributions can be made this way if you do not have any Stewardship envelopes at the moment.

Donations to the Parish can also be made using the tap machine.

You will find the tap machine near the exit door as you leave the Church.

# Message from Fr Alan



## REGISTERING FOR WEEKEND MASSES

Reconfiguration of the Church has been carried out over the past few days. Therefore, from this weekend (5/6 December) the numbers permitted to attend Mass has increased to 50.

There are two Masses being offered this weekend – Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 10.00am.

All parishioners are now welcome to register for any weekend Mass they wish to attend. Bookings for next weekend's Masses (December 12/13) will commence through Trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/BNIWQ> on Monday 7th December at 9.00am and conclude on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am (or prior if masses are completely booked out beforehand). When registering you need a confirmation email which is immediately sent to your email address. If you don't receive a confirmation email from trybooking, then please contact Chris on 0401 112 380 or whoever is on duty to confirm.

*Contact tracing details remains a requirement for the foreseeable future. Therefore, attending Mass is by registration only.*

If you are booked in and are then unable to attend Mass at your allocated time, please contact Fr. Alan on 0410894651 so that your place can be allocated to another parishioner. Please give as much notice as possible.

**Those attending Mass are required to be there 30 minutes before the commencement of each Mass. 10 minutes before the start of the Mass the doors of the Church will be closed and no further admittance will be allowed.**

Prior to entering the Church on the day of the Mass all those attending will be required to undergo a temperature check. Names will then be checked off on the list by the second volunteer upon entry into the Church. Please remember to wear your face mask. Attendees at Mass are required to use hand sanitizer twice: on entering the Church and before Communion. Hand sanitizer will also be available for when you leave the Church should you wish to use it. Communion will be given by the Celebrant only and can only be received on the hand at this time.

Also, volunteers will accompany you to your seats. Seating will be arranged in such a way to facilitate the flow of movement when entering and leaving the Church. Allowances will be made to for family groups or those living in the same household to sit together.

At the conclusion of Mass all those attending will be asked by the Celebrant to leave

immediately to allow the necessary cleaning of the Church to take place. To adhere to the rules of social distancing, directions of how to leave will be given at that time. Please follow all directions from either the Celebrant or the assigned parish volunteers for that day.

More volunteers will be needed over the next few weeks so please contact Fr Alan on either 9401 6391 or email [agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au](mailto:agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au) if you are able to help.

**Great to see increasing numbers of parishioners wanting to return to Church.**

## **WEEKDAY MASSES**

Weekday Masses will continue to be pre-recorded and uploaded to the Parish Website for the weeks leading up to Christmas.

## **PARISH OFFICE REOPENING**

As part of a plan to gradually return to work the Parish Office will be open for the next two Mondays (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December and Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December) from 9.00am-11.00am.

## **CHRISTMAS MASSES—APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

I had hoped to be in a position to advertise the times of our Christmas Masses for this weekend. However due to the current restrictions I have subsequently realised that there are some more logistics to be worked out before proceeding to do so. This will be an agenda item for the Parish Pastoral Council at our meeting this coming Tuesday night 8<sup>th</sup> December. What is definitely needed are more volunteers who are willing to come forward and assist at the Masses. Please telephone Fr. Alan on 94016391 or email him [agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au](mailto:agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au) should you be able to help.

## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS**

4 members of our Parish Pastoral Council conclude their two-year term at the end of this year. They are Rosie Coulthard, Lucia Mac, John Davies and Nick Loftus. I thank them very much for their generous service to the Parish. To keep the balance of representation on the Parish Pastoral Council we are looking for two men and two women to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council for the next two years.

As we are still unable to meet and carry out the discernment process employed over the past few years, nominations are called for either by emailing Fr Alan on [agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au](mailto:agibson@stjosephsmalvern.org.au) or phoning on 9401 6391 or 0410 984 651. It helps if you feel able to speak with the person you wish to nominate asking them if they will consider accepting. Nominations will close on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Those nominated will be written to advising them of their nomination and asking if they are willing to accept. Our Parish Pastoral Council meet for the last time this year on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.



# **St Joseph's Parish Malvern is a COVID-19—Safe Parish**

We have been working hard to providing the safest environment for all our parishioners, office staff and visitors.

## **DURING THIS PERIOD, WE ARE COMMITTED TO:**

- Regular cleaning of the Church is undertaken after all Masses
  - Pews
  - Door handles
  - Outside ramp rails
- Details of everyone who enters our premises for contact tracing purposes

## **IT IS ALSO A REQUIREMENT OF ALL WHO ATTEND ST JOSEPH'S:**

- Social distancing
- Wearing a mask
- Sanitising of hands upon entry, before communion and on exit
- Receiving of Communion on the hand only
- Please stay at home if you are feeling unwell

**Thank you for helping us to create a safe environment where  
all people feel comfortable.**

**We will advise you of any changes as they are made.**

# Safeguarding Matters



## SAFEGUARDING CODE OF CONDUCT AND VOLUNTEERS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

By now all parish volunteers have been written to asking them to sign the Code of Conduct and Volunteers Rights and Responsibilities Forms.

It is a requirement that both these forms are signed and witnessed.

Both of these forms are to be returned in full to the Parish Office by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

I am grateful to all volunteers for all they do and acknowledge that there are volunteers in our parish community who have generously served our parish community for many years with great integrity.

The signing of these forms simply represents a commitment by our parish to effectively safeguard our children and young people.

# Climate Action Tips



Two more practical steps to consider this week for sustainability are as follows:

1. Install smart thermostats and timers on energy using devices throughout your home.
2. Conduct an energy audit throughout your home and correct deficiencies. Seal those window and door leaks.

## TREES THAT WAIT FOR BIRDS

Michael McGirr

*God of patience, we thank you for birds  
that sit quietly in branches  
And wonder what we humans are  
doing down below.*

*May they keep their business to  
themselves*

*May we learn their lesson of  
stillness.*

*Of oneness with trees and the earth.  
May we hold others as branches hold  
birds.*

*Just like the story of St Kevin and the  
blackbird.*

*May we reach out  
Until the people we hold are ready to  
fly off on their own*

*And leave us to wait for the next  
person you send.*

*Teach us how to love as your son  
taught us*

*From a tree.*

*Amen.*

## 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

## BAPTISM PREPARATION

The final baptismal preparation session for 2020 at St. Joseph's Parish Malvern will take place via Zoom on:

Date: **Wednesday 9th December**  
Time: 7.30pm

Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.



## Thank you



JoCare  
Caring for neighbours

On Friday last week we packed our final bags of groceries for the International Students we have been supporting during the last few months. Thirty bags of groceries were packed and \$2,500 in supermarket vouchers were distributed with the groceries. They were as always most grateful for the kindness given.

*Thank you very much. These groceries will be of great help to me.*

*You guys are very kind. Keep helping more people.*

*you guys are simply amazing. you help a lot of people survive. slowly everyone's recovering. you all are angels in disguise. Hopefully someday I'll be on your shoes as well giving back, coz I know how it feels to have nothing in your pocket, or food to eat. I'm blessed, God is with me always. sending you to check on us if were still ok. thank you.. 😊 and someday, I'll tell stories to my grandkids how I survive 2020..its because of you guys 😊 thank you. God bless and stay safe always!*

*You all are unbelievable! Can't thank you enough for all you have done. :)*

*Thank you very much! Super grateful for the help! :)*

Thank you for your generosity, the response to our pandemic project has been overwhelming. We are no longer able to accept donations.

With appreciation

Kerri Anne, JoCare Coordinator



# ***Fr Alan's Reflection***

## **CONVERSION**

As I mentioned last week I, along with some members of the Parish Community, have been undergoing training in how to facilitate sessions in the Alpha Programme. The sessions are of 75 minutes duration (via zoom). The sessions consist of an ice breaker, prayer, video and discussion. The videos tell stories of people who have experienced conversion in their lives.

This Sunday's Gospel is all about conversion. We are urged to prepare a way for the Lord and to make his paths straight. It is a call to follow Christ in a radical way in all circumstances. We are called to repent, to see our lives differently.

In the First Reading the prophet Isaiah speaks to his people at a time when their experience in exile resulting from the Babylonian captivity was about to end. At the beginning of Mark's Gospel this Sunday these words from Isaiah are taken but applied in a different context. In this case God will come to rescue them not from a physical exile but rather a spiritual one caused by sin.

When hearing the stories of other people's conversion experiences, it can be hard to relate to particularly if it is something, we have not experienced ourselves. Also, people can experience it differently. For some people it can happen by a single event. For other people the experience can be gradual. When I first read biographies about the life of St Vincent de Paul, I thought that his conversion experience was a once off encounter. However, after reading more recent biographies on his life I am now convinced that his conversion was gradual through encountering the poor people of his time.

Whether we have yet to experience conversion or can relate to it either as a once-off encounter or gradual experience, the Gospel calls us to be open to the possibility that it can occur in our lives. Recognizing that all things happen in God's time, I believe there are a few things we can do to help ourselves. Firstly, the Christmas Carol "Joy to the World" contains the following words, 'let every heart prepare him room.' Do we create a space for God in our lives? Do we spend time with God in prayer? Read scripture? Commit to attending Mass now it is possible again? Secondly, preparing the way for the Lord is not so much about what we are prepared to give up but rather what we are prepared to take on. Is there a commitment I can take on that would benefit someone or that would assist my community? Thirdly, right at the beginning this week's Gospel speaks about the Good News of Jesus Christ. Are we good news for other people? Do we live hope filled lives amidst daily struggles? Fourthly, St Paul

speaks about living lives without spot or stain whilst waiting for the second coming of Christ. One way of applying these words is spending a few moments in silence at the end of our day going back over the course of that day. Who did I encounter? Did I respond well to them or not? If I experienced a setback in my day, did I respond gracefully or not?

Alpha invites all who participate to experience the love that God has for them. 'A voice cries out in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, make his paths straight.' We are called to encounter the Lord in a realistic way. Conversion is about having hope that the Lord will change our lives for the better. Let every heart prepare him room.

### **Melbourne Overseas Missions Annual Appeal - 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Thank you for your support which has, over the years, made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has been provided in clean water, health, education and improved living standards to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year. This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating.

Please visit <https://mom.org.au> for more information or to donate

#### **BOARD/ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

A mature lady is seeking shared accommodation.

Please contact Fr Alan on 0410 894 651 for further details.



### **ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

#### **SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2020**

In the coming weeks, a number of seminarians and deacons will be ordained to the diaconate and priesthood.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

These include:

Rev. Simeon Anthony, Rev. James Baptist, Rev. Jude Ezeme and Rev. Jude Johnson, who will be ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli on Saturday 5 December at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Given COVID-restrictions, attendance at the Mass will be limited to family and friends of the candidates, but members of the wider community are invited to participate online via the [Archdiocesan YouTube Channel](#).

# Leading Strings of Love

*I led them with reins of kindness, with leading strings of love.* Hosea 11:4

We are delighted to let you know that we are beginning to offer online retreats.

The first of these is a 40-days retreat with the title, "Leading Strings of Love". During this retreat participants will be led through the three interconnecting 'movements' by which a soul is drawn into an ever-deepening relationship with Christ.

If you desire to:

- gently give yourself to being exposed to ever deepening depths of relationship with the person of Christ;
- know yourself in a new way, having come to see the necessity of stripping off the old and tattered clothes of ego domination;
- allow the spirit to breathe within and through yourself to others and
- "prefer nothing whatever to Christ." Rule of St Benedict (R.B. 72:11) then this retreat is for you!



The retreat has been prepared by Sr Antonia osb who has been involved in spiritual direction for over 30 years. She will be your guide throughout the 40 days.

**Retreat begins 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2021**  
and goes for 40-days.

For more information go to the following link on our website:  
[www.jamberooabbey.org.au](http://www.jamberooabbey.org.au) - click on **Retreats**

# **St Anthony's Parish**

## **28<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER**

**A takeaway meal will be available from**  
**Midday – 1.30pm on Christmas Day**  
**from St Anthony's Parish Hall**  
**164 Neerim Road Caulfield East**  
**(Meals can be delivered in the local area if necessary)**



**Who is it for?** → → Everyone is welcome – Jesus came for all

**How Can I Attend?** → Invitations (yellow) are available at St Anthony's Church, 172 Neerim Road and at the locations listed below

**How Can I Help?** → If you would like to offer practical help, please complete a helpers' form (green)

**Most Importantly** → Please pray for the success of the Dinner and for all those involved

**How Can I Collect or Return my Form?**

- → By hand at Tony's Café at St Anthony's Hall, 164 Neerim Road Carnegie  
Tuesdays and Saturdays between 12.30pm and 1.30pm OR  
on Thursdays between 3.00pm and 5.30pm
- → By hand or by post to St Anthony's Parish House, 74 Grange Road, Glen Huntly
- → By email to [stanthony.christmasdinner@gmail.com](mailto:stanthony.christmasdinner@gmail.com)

For more information, please phone St Anthony's Parish House  
9401 6336  
dedicated mobile 0432 087 494  
or email [stanthony.christmasdinner@gmail.com](mailto:stanthony.christmasdinner@gmail.com)



17 November 2020

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Vinnies launches 2020 Christmas Appeal

Claire Victory, National President of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is asking people in a position to do so to dig a bit deeper this year as the Society launches its Christmas Appeal after a very tough year.

‘Job losses, business closures and reduced working hours have placed many communities under increased financial strain,’ Ms Victory said.

‘The Federal Government has reduced the Coronavirus supplement and it will drop again early next year, plunging many more people into poverty, and other supports such as the moratorium on evictions are also being lifted in some states.

‘Even without border closures and travel restrictions, many people in our community find Christmas to be a particularly lonely time of year due to social isolation.

‘Each year the Australian community provides generously to help Vinnies help people who have fallen on hard times to enjoy something of the Christmas season.

‘The pandemic has made it harder for Vinnies to meet the needs of the people we help due to social distancing restrictions and the need for the contactless delivery of food support.

‘Belts have tightened around the nation, and our committed volunteers have been prevented from helping because of COVID risks. During lockdown, many Vinnies shops across Australia had to close or reduce their operations, reducing our ability to generate funds to distribute to people in need.

‘This year’s campaign has been launched at the end of a year many would rather forget.

‘But with your help, we will be able to make this festive season that little bit brighter for people in our community who are doing it particularly tough,’ Ms Victory said.

You can donate to the 2020 Vinnies Christmas Appeal via [vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal](https://vinnies.org.au/christmasappeal) or by calling 13 18 12.

*The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 groups located in local communities across the country.*



# Make a straight path for the Lord

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B



The prophet Isaiah wrote:

"I am \_\_\_\_\_ my  
\_\_\_\_\_ ahead of you,  
who will \_\_\_\_\_ your way;  
the \_\_\_\_\_ of one \_\_\_\_\_ out  
in the \_\_\_\_\_:  
'Prepare the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_,  
make his paths \_\_\_\_\_'"

crying  
straight  
way  
voice  
sending  
prepare  
wilderness  
messenger  
Lord



What are three things you can do to be ready for Jesus during this second week of Advent?

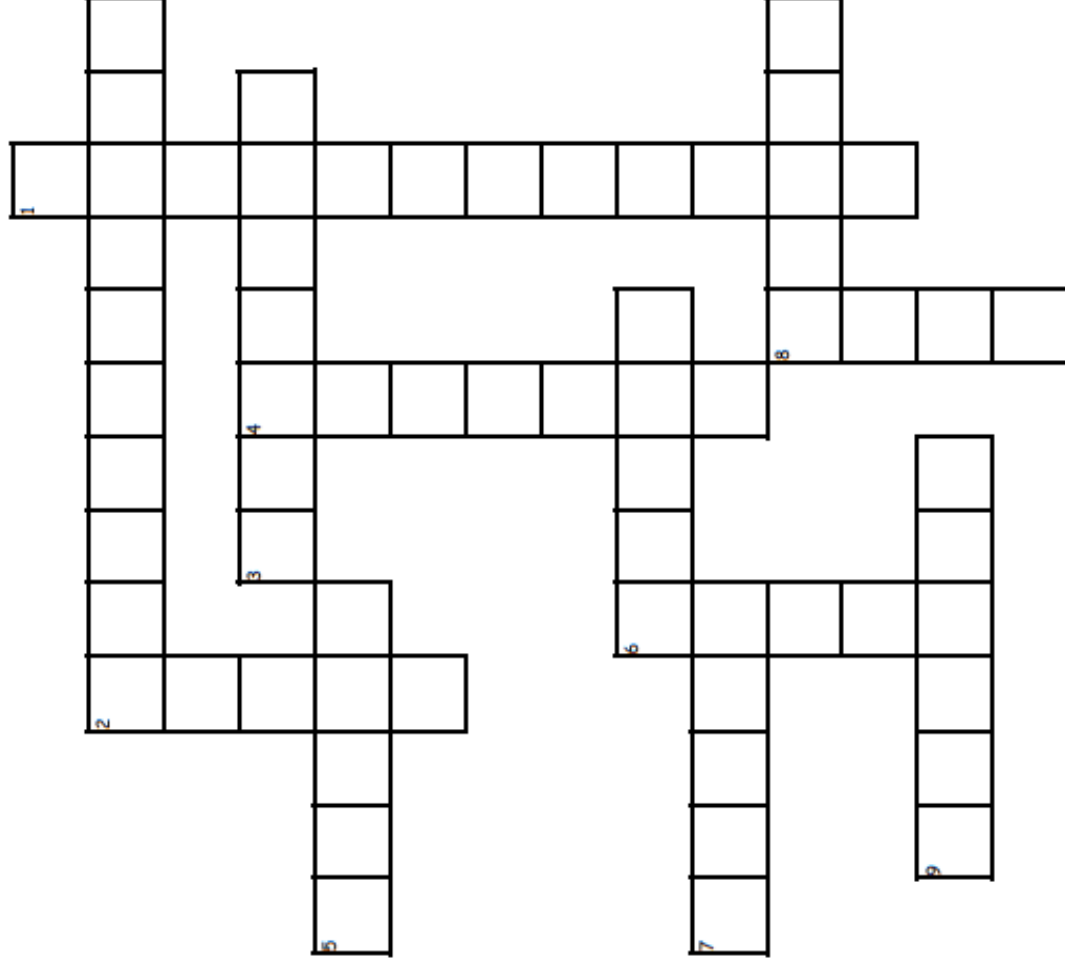

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by telling people to turn back to God and baptising them. He wore clothes made from camel's hair and wore a leather strap around his waist. For food he ate grasshoppers and wild honey. Draw a picture of John baptising someone in the Jordan River.



# CROSSWORD

## Make a straight path for the Lord

Mk 1:1-8



### Across

- 2: John told the people God would baptise them with the H\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_ (two words)
- 3: John the \_\_\_\_\_ baptised people in the Jordan River
- 5: people came from this place to see John
- 6: John's clothes were made of hair of this animal
- 7: what John used to baptise people
- 8: what we say when we apologise
- 9: John the Baptist baptised people in this river

### Down

- 1: John ate these insects
- 2: food made by bees
- 4: a person who speaks on behalf of God
- 6: a large group of people
- 8: bad deeds

## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH—Mass Times



### Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil—6.00pm (St Joseph's)

Sunday—10.00am (St Joseph's)

### Weekday Masses

Monday—NO MASS

Tuesday—MASS ONLINE

Wednesday—NO MASS

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.

## CHURCH OPEN

The Church is NOW OPEN for weekend Masses at 6.00pm Saturday and 10.00am Sunday.

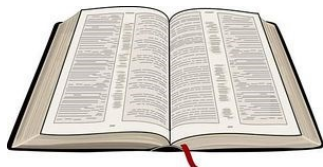
Unfortunately, personal visits to the Church are still not permitted until further notice.

## 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8



### Next Sunday's Readings

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8.19-28



## PLEASE PRAY FOR:



### BAPTISM:

THE SICK: Fiona Egan, Frances Cushing

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Fortunato Bufalo

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 5 December Fortunato Bufalo (an)

Sunday 6 December People of the Parish

Tuesday 8 December

Wednesday 9 December NO MASS

Thursday 10 December Maureen O'Bree (Int)

Friday 11 December

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.