

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 22)

ANTIPHON: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

RESPONSE: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

LECTOR: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. **R.**

LECTOR: Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. **R.**

LECTOR: You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

LECTOR: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

TODAY'S READINGS Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46

NEXT WEEK (1st Sunday Advent, Year B) Is 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8; Ps 79; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37



26 November 2023 Christ the King Year A

and Jesus is there, waiting for us in the 'nobodies' and outcasts, and we can enter this kingdom whenever we find ourselves able to be with them. Then we may realise, 'there's no more them and us, just us.'

It's a kingdom characterised by mercy and justice and this king dispenses justice mercifully, as he will at the last judgement when we're all to be judged. We shouldn't worry unnecessarily about it, however awesome and decisive it might seem, because it will come, and our lives will speak for us: they will be the answer we give to Christ. This judgment isn't meant to fill us with fear, rather, it's a cause for hope when all will be revealed to us; and this future is to be lived now, because his judgement is a call to be present to the person before me, who is my future.

Take to heart then what Mother Teresa once said about the world's problems: 'We've forgotten that we belong to one another.'

Belonging to one another is the hope Christ offers us, as the second reading says, a life he wants to share with us all.

Who doesn't belong in our local churches and in our lives? Where is Jesus to be found? On our streets, in prisons, in boarding houses, wherever, still waiting to be seen, to be welcomed. Whenever this happens, God's kingdom is made real on earth, as in heaven.

Damian Coleridge
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We all belong to one another

What sort of king is revealed to us in today's readings? It seems he's not like other kings. In the first reading God is spoken of as 'a true shepherd', one who doesn't abandon his flock, but cares for them.

Kings, who had once been thought of as shepherds, had long abandoned their people. Consequently, the reading focuses on the ways of this 'true shepherd', this true king. In the gospel there is awe and majesty and judgement and, if we wonder where this king is to be found, we hear he's to be found among the 'nobodies' and outcasts.

To which we might say, come again? We're surprised by this, as are the righteous and unrighteous in the gospel, because it's not quite what we expected. Of course, we might contribute to a couple of charities, or volunteer with St Vinnies; we might even say hello to the person sitting outside Coles, though as for her being Jesus, or bumping into Jesus on a visit, that might seem a bit of a stretch.

Still, almost unawares, we may have begun to make room in our lives for others, and in doing so, at moments, begin to see this king and recognise the ways in which he doesn't seem to resemble the popular images of Christ the King. He's more like the well-known sculpture of the Homeless Jesus lying on a bench, his body covered over, with only his wounded feet showing.

What this image suggests is that his life and death have been all about God's kingdom

Christmas Cards

Beautifully designed cards depicting the true meaning of Christmas are available from Majellan Media. **Last orders Friday December 8.** The price per set is \$7.50 for up to 9 sets, including postage. The price for 10 to 20 sets is \$7.00 plus postage. To order go to: **majellan.media/product/christmas-cards-2023/**



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Majellan Christmas Cards

Memorare of St Joseph for protection from COVID Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MORE RAIN Heavenly Father, maker of all things and protector of your people, look upon us in your love and give us your help. Open the heavens for us and give us the rain we need. Teach us to live for you and to share your gifts with others. Father hear us in our need, for we come to you through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Special Collections 2023 November 1 – December 10 – St Vincent de Paul Christmas Giving Tree, December 10 – Melbourne Overseas Mission.

Saints and Masses this Week Tuesday 28 November – Ord time I wk34, Wednesday 29 November – Ord time I wk34, Thursday 30 November – St Andrew, Friday 1 December – Ord time I wk34, Saturday 2 December – Votive BVVM, Sunday 3 December – Advent wk1

Pious Goods Stall Lots of pious goods, Christmas cards, and instruments of devotion to help you or someone you love to grow in holiness.

St Vincent de Paul Giving Tree Parishioners are asked to take a card or two from the Giving Tree and buy the item listed for the hamper and bring it back to the tree. This year the focus is on Christmas fare, treats and that most of us take for granted: small tins of ham, chocolates, mince pies, puddings, shortbreads, Christmas cakes and lollies. The tree will remain in the church until the end of Mass, Sunday December 10.

Christmas and New Year Mass times In the foyer where you collect your bulletins are copies of this year's Christmas and New Year for Tallarook and Seymour timetable. Christmas is on Monday, so there will be a vigil mass on Sunday for Monday, but that will not be a Sunday evening mass so it will not fulfil your Sunday obligation as well as your Christmas mass.

Bingo Volunteers Needed The parish fund-raising efforts on Thursday nights need help with bingo callers. To be a caller, you need to be able to push a button and then let the machine post and call out the numbers. This task is not every week but at a frequency to which you agree. Please see Sue Anderson for more information and details or leave your contact details at the piety stall.

Advent And Christmas Meditation Booklet Only a few copies left. Ask father if he still has one for you.

CONCEPTION PARISH, SEYMOUR
ST JOSEPH'S, TALLAROOK

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Parish Priest: Rev Fr Eugene Ashkar

MASS TIMES		ROSTERS THIS WEEK	
TUES – SAT	9am at St Mary's	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	SUNDAY
SAT VIGIL	6pm at St Mary's	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SUNDAY	8:30am Tallarook	M. Winnell	M Flynn
	10am at St Mary's	COMMENTATORS/LECTORS	
MASS PREPARATION		SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	C Smith	O Hamilton
C Spykers	R Smart	S Hamilton	
COUNTERS		COLLECTION SUPERVISORS	
A & V Hall	M Muscovich	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		C. Spykers	J. McMahon
		W. Spykers	C. Spykers

Thanksgiving Env - \$565

RECENTLY DECEASED We pray for the repose of the souls of June Lewis, Lily Debono and all those who have died recently.

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH 26/11 – 2/12: Johanna McCormack, Ted Donohue, Dolf Spykers, Claire Tobin, Frank Tuohy, Vivienne Hulley, Robert King, Emma Bohlmann
ILLNESSES we pray for: Cath Evans, Lorna Slavin, Marcy Ah-Wang, Lesley Tebble, Wally Bohlmann, Tom DeSouza, Souraya Bacash, Pat Coffey, and all who are suffering from the Corona Virus and all those unwell at the present time, who receive support from our prayers.

2/3 December 2023

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS Sat: M. Winnell Sun: J Devanny

LECTORS SAT: C Spykers **SUN:** A Allison H Basco

MASS PREPARATION SAT: J Quinlan **SUN:** S Anderson

COUNTERS: C Smith S Doyle