

good life as from the beginning he has meant us to live it.

■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Jn 3: 16  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, / that all who believe in him might have eternal life. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL** Jn 3:14-21  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.  
*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:  
'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Reflections on the Gospel

## CONFRONTING SIN TO FIND LIFE

Jesus' mysterious statement at the beginning of today's Gospel that the Son of Man must be 'lifted up' alludes to an episode during the Exodus wandering of Israel (Num 21:4-9). Finding themselves in the wilderness without food or water, the Israelites grumble against the Lord and against Moses. As a result they are punished with a plague of poisonous snakes.

But God who sent the punishment has also provided a remedy: the erection of a bronze figure of the snake in question. Looking upon this figure acts for the Israelites as a life-giving antidote to the poison.

The Gospel finds here a pointer to the coming 'lifting up' of the Son of Man upon the cross. As the Israelites found salvation and life by directly confronting what was afflicting them, so those who 'look upon' the Crucified One with faith, seeing him as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (1:29), will find eternal life.

The following sentence (3:16) wonderfully discloses the extremity of God's love. While desirous that we appreciate the evil and destructiveness of sin by confronting it in the cross, God's whole intent in regard to the world is not to condemn but to save and communicate life.

Judgement, then, is not so much something to be executed in the future. Judgement is something that believers already undergo when they expose their lives to the searching but saving light that Christ, as 'true Light', brings into the world. It is to this kind of 'judgement' that Lent invites us each year.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT/B

11 MARCH 2018

**FIRST READING** 2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.  
*The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 136. R. v. 6

**R.** Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!



1. By the rivers of Babylon / there we sat and wept, / remembering Zion: / on the poplars that grew there / we hung our harps. **R.**
2. For it was there that they asked us, / our captors, for songs, / our oppressors, for joy. / 'Sing to us,' they said, / 'one of Zion's songs.' **R.**
3. O how could we sing / the song of the Lord / on alien soil? / If I forget you, Jerusalem, / let my right hand wither! **R.**
4. O let my tongue / cleave to my mouth / if I remember you not, / if I prize not Jerusalem / above all my joys! **R.**

**SECOND READING** Eph 2: 4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.*  
God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the





St Joseph's Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street  
 St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street  
 est. 1887

**Under the Pastoral Care of AUGUSTINIANS**

- ▶ Fr Michael Sullivan OSA: Parish Priest  
Mobile: 0434 674822
- ▶ Fr Abel van der Veer OSA  
Mobile: 0409 368449
- ▶ Fr Gerald Dullard OSA
- ▶ Fr Percival Severe OSA



**ADMINISTRATION**

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE  
 Tel: 9826 9677  
[secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au](mailto:secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au)  
[www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au](http://www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au)  
 Postal: Box 21 South Yarra 3141

**CHILDRENS' LITURGY**

St Joseph's • 10.30am Mass  
 First & third Sundays of the month  
 (except school holidays and long weekends)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

St Joseph's • Sat: 5.15pm – 5.45pm  
 (or by request)

**ANOINTING / HEALING MASS**

First Tuesday of the month 10am at  
 St Joseph's Church  
*(Senior parishioners, those with ongoing  
 sickness, those with mental illness, may all  
 receive the Sacrament of the Sick )*

**Pastoral Associates and Administrative Support**

- ▶ Toni Stuart (Secretary & Weddings: Tues/Thurs/Fri)
- ▶ Yvonne Bolland (Weddings: Tues 10am-12noon)
- ▶ Emilie Rousset (Business Manager: Tues/Wed/Thurs)
- ▶ Diane Brebner (Alfred Hospital Liaison)
- ▶ Richard Anderson (Accountant)

**Parish Mass Times** for the week commencing weekend 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	(Sat. Vigil 6.00pm) 10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> March		
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Communion Service
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am Mass 10.30am Stations of the Cross	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Communion Service
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am Mass 10.30am Meditation	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> March St Patrick	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass	

**FAITH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (RCIA) - JOURNEY TO EASTER**

Open to anyone wishing to learn more about what we Catholics believe and practice.  
 Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 5pm: Topic: The Mass as a Celebration of Community  
 For more information please contact Fr Abel 0409 368449

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March during the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's

**EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

- ▶ Christian Meditation: Fridays 10.30am
- ▶ RCIA: Sundays 5pm
- ▶ Children's Liturgy: Sun 18 March 10.30am Mass
- ▶ Stations of the Cross: Wed 10.30am during Lent



**PRAYER REFLECTION FROM ST AUGUSTINE**

"Those who love their neighbour,  
 who else do they love but God,  
 present in their neighbour?"

**Lent 2018**

**LENTEN HOME MASSES**

Please contact the parish office if you would like to attend mass in the home of Eileen Monagle on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7pm.

**Project Compassion** boxes and envelopes are available at the church doors.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Wednesdays during Lent in St. Joseph's Church after 10am Mass.

**FEAST OF ST JOSEPH**

Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's at 10am on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate the feast of St Joseph.

**PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Parish Annual General Meeting will be held in the parish centre next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March after the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's. The reports for the 2018 AGM are available this weekend at the church or you may read them on our parish Website before this year's AGM – [www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au](http://www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au)  
 We hope to welcome as many parishioners as possible to this meeting.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** June Cochrane, Des White, Beb Larsen, Elizabeth King, Chaiel Balcombe, Frank Balcerzak, John & Rose Ignace, Ronald Seaman, Aristotle Pamintuan, Jack Ryan, Therese Phillips, Mitos Gloudemans, Elsa Notarte, Meldred Liba Lagahit, Socorro Severe, Dolores Hogan, Frank Muratore, Maurice Wallin, Madeleine Anderson, Ron Blunt, Andrew Hamilton, Alex Wallisz, Margaret Greene, Elaine Dennis, Spiros Layia.

**IN LOVING MEMORY**



**Recently Deceased**

**Anniversaries**

- ✱ Margaret Frost
- ✱ Anne Cousins
- ✱ Maris Smith
- ✱ Beris Hedley
- ✱ Pat Potter
- ✱ Benedict Boudville
- ✱ Jack Hughes
- ✱ Karel & Elfrida Kral
- ✱ Desmond Marr
- ✱ Fr. Joachim O'Brien
- ✱ Carlos Salgado
- ✱ Greg O'Loughlin
- ✱ Peggy Featherstonhaugh
- ✱ Terry Overs
- ✱ Dr James O'Collins
- ✱ Fr Brendan Quirke OSA

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CEREMONIES TIMETABLE 2017**

**Palm Sunday:**  
 Sat 24 Mar. 6pm Mass St Joseph's;  
 Sun 25 Mar. 9am St Thomas Aquinas  
 Sun 25 Mar. 10.30am St Joseph's  
**Holy Thursday:** 29 Mar. - Mass of the Last Supper: 7pm St Joseph's.  
**Good Friday:** 30 Mar – Stations of the Cross: 10am St Thomas Aquinas.  
 Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 3pm St Joseph's.  
**Holy Saturday:** 31 Mar – The Easter Vigil: 7pm St Joseph's. (Supper to follow – please bring a plate)  
**Easter Sunday:** 1 April  
 9am Mass- St Thomas Aquinas;  
 10.30am Mass - St Joseph's

**CHOIR PRACTICE FOR EASTER LITURGIES**

If you would like to sing in the choir or play an instrument for the Easter ceremonies, please contact Di Brebner 0417554118 or the parish office. Rehearsal dates to be announced.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN TO BE BAPTISED IN OUR PARISH**

Baptism Preparation for parents of children to be baptised in South Yarra Parish is held on the second Sunday of each month in the Parish Centre. A Baptism Preparation Session will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00pm. Please contact the Parish Secretary, Toni, if you need further information – Tel 9826 9677 (Tues. Thurs. Fri. 9 am – 5 pm)

**PARISH BAPTISM**

We welcome the family and friends of Scout Anderson who is to be baptised and Arya De Niese who is to be presented to the community at St Thomas Aquinas this Sunday.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS 4/03/18**

Thanking you for your continuing support!  
 Please contact the parish office if you wish to contribute via Direct Debit or Credit Card

1 <sup>st</sup> Collection (Clergy/Priory a/c) .....	\$1425.05
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection (Church a/c) .....	\$ 597.00
Loose money .....	\$ 542.55