

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel

THE SEED THAT DIES TO GIVE LIFE

Today's Gospel features a momentary shrinking from death on the part of Jesus ('Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – "Father, save me from this hour?"' [v. 27]). This exclamation in the Fourth Gospel echoes the plea of Jesus to the Father during his agony in the garden of Gethsemane as described in the other three Gospels.

What triggers this reaction in Jesus is the arrival on the scene of 'some Greeks'. The reason that he reacts in this way to the arrival of these pilgrims from afar becomes clear at the end of the passage when he says, 'And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself'; and the Evangelist comments, 'He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die' (vv. 32-33). The 'Greeks' are the forerunners of all those people, principally from the non-Jewish or Gentile world whom the love of Jesus, demonstrated supremely upon the cross, will draw to the Father and so to the gift of eternal life.

Thus the arrival of these Greeks and their desire to 'see Jesus' indicates that the 'hour' of his death is at hand. Their presence shows that his dying, like a single grain falling upon the earth, will produce a 'rich harvest', the drawing of all to eternal life.

In this way the cross will overthrow the death-dealing grip of the 'prince of this world' (Satan) upon human beings, reclaiming them for a share in God's 'eternal life'.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

18 MARCH 2018

FIRST READING

Jer 31: 31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

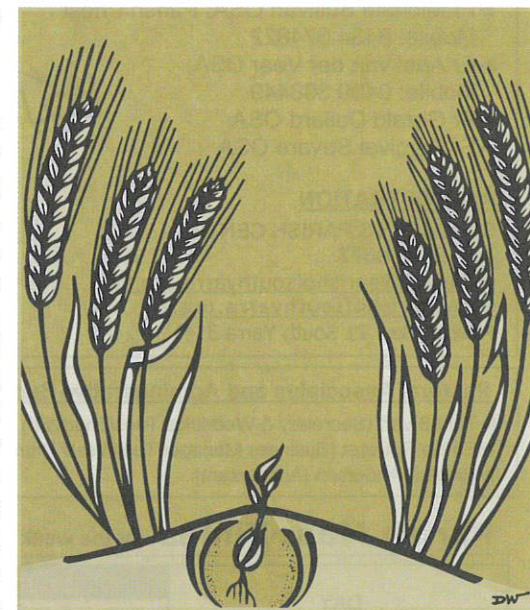
■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**
3. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me, / that I may teach transgressors your ways / and sinners may return to you. **R.**



SECOND READING

Heb 5: 7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 12: 26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; / and where I am, my servant will also be. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

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

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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)
- ▶ Emille Rousset (Business Manager: Tues/Wed/Thurs)
- ▶ Diane Brebner (Alfred Hospital Liaison)
- ▶ Richard Anderson (Accountant)

Parish Mass Times for the week commencing weekend 18th March 2018

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Sunday 18 th March 5 th Sunday of Lent	(Sat. Vigil 6.00pm) 10.30am Mass Children's Liturgy	9.00am Mass
Monday 19 th March St Joseph	10.00am Mass	
Tuesday 20 th March	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Communion Service
Wednesday 21 st March	10.00am Mass 10.30am Stations of the Cross	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 22 nd March	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Communion Service
Friday 23 rd March	10.00am Mass 10.30am Meditation	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 24 th March	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 18th March 5pm: Topic: The Triduum, celebrating: The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.
 For more information please contact Fr Abel 0409 368449

CHILDRENS' LITURGY: This Sunday 18th 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 of us who have begun the to follow Christ's way of life have to learn to place the common good before their own, not their own advantage before the common good."

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 23rd 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 this Monday 19th March to celebrate the feast of St Joseph.

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This Sunday, after the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's, the Parish Annual General Meeting will be held in the parish centre. A light lunch will be served. All parishioners are welcome to attend.
 Annual report documents 2017-2018 are available at the church entrance and may also be viewed on our parishwebsite:
www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: June Cochrane, Des White, Beb Larsen, Elizabeth King, Chalel Balcombe, Frank Balcerzak, John & Rose Ignace, Ronald Seaman, Aristotle Pamintuan, Therese Phillips, Mito 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 Layla.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Recently Deceased

✦ Jack Ryan

Anniversaries

- ✦ Benedict James Boudville
- ✦ Robert Kelly
- ✦ Beverley Brebner
- ✦ Robert Chong
- ✦ Antonio Polizzotto
- ✦ Mary Gardiner
- ✦ Joan McCarthy Figley
- ✦ Pat Potter
- ✦ B M Gunasekara
- ✦ Olive Watt
- ✦ Theresa Er Church Huay
- ✦ Mary Opray
- ✦ Thelma & Brendan Moran
- ✦ Cornelle Paul
- ✦ Geraldine Augustus
- ✦ Diana Goller
- ✦ Karel & Elfrida Kral

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 will be 7pm Monday 26th March.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Parishioners who contribute to the Planned Giving Program by way of weekly envelopes may collect your new envelope set from the church foyer. If you are not registered and would like to contribute please complete a Commitment Form and return to the parish office. Thank you.

PARISH BAPTISM

We welcome the family and friends of Masie Hutcheon who is to be presented to the community at St Joseph's and Harper Connell who is to be presented to the community at St Thomas Aquinas church this Sunday.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS 11/03/18

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

1 st Collection (Clergy/Priory a/c)	\$1057.10
2 nd Collection (Church a/c)	\$1012.00
Loose money	\$ 457.00