REPENT WHILE THERE IS TIME

On his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus speaks as a prophet, summoning people to conversion. He does this, in today's Gospel, by interpreting two well-known incidents and then telling a parable.

The first incident is an atrocity brought about by human cruelty. Orders from Pilate have brought about the massacre of a number of Galileans who were sacrificing in the Temple.

The second, again involving large-scale loss of life, is due to natural causes: the fall of a tower in Siloam, leading to the death of eighteen persons.

Concerning both incidents, Jesus warns off a false conclusion that religious people are all too prone to draw: namely that the victims of such calamities were receiving divine punishment for a sinfulness from which others were free.

He then tells the parable about the fig tree to make the further point that, far from attempting to judge the sinfulness of others, everyone should interpret such events as a warning to take stock of their own lives lest far greater disaster—eternal ruin—befall them. Without speculating in any way about punishment, he simply points out that instances of sudden, unforeseen death should serve as a warning to all that the time, the space left for conversion, may be short.

As always, the urgency— the prophetic passion— of Jesus stems from his intense sense of what God wants to do for people; God wants to set us free for life and for love. There is time for that now. But the opportunity will not be there indefinitely.

FIRST READING

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?'' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am.' This he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

RESP PSALM

Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11, R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. R.

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. R.

3. The Lord does deeds of justice, / gives judgement for all who are oppressed, / He made known his ways to Moses / and his deeds to Israel's sons. R.

4. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. R.

SECOND READING

1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.
3rd SUNDAY OF LENT (24th Mar 2019)
St Joseph's Catholic Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street
St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street

Under the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS
► Fr Brian Buckley OSA: Parish Priest
► Fr Luca Park OSA
► Fr Gerald Dullard OSA
► Fr John Barry OSA

ADMINISTRATION
ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE
Tel: 9826 9677
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www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au
Postal: Box 21 South Yarra 3141

Our parish and the Augustinians endeavour to create an environment where the safety of children and vulnerable persons is paramount.

Parish Mass Timings
for the week commencing Sunday 24th March 2019

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<th>DAY</th>
<th>St Joseph's Time</th>
<th>St Thomas Aquinas Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 24th March</td>
<td>10.30am Mass</td>
<td>9.00am Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 3rd Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>10.30am Vigil 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25th March</td>
<td>10.00am Mass</td>
<td>12.45pm Communion Service</td>
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<td>Tuesday 26th March</td>
<td>10.00am Mass</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27th March</td>
<td>10.00am Mass</td>
<td>12.45pm Communion Service</td>
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<td>Thursday 28th March</td>
<td>10.00am Mass</td>
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<td>Friday 29th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 30th March</td>
<td>9.00am Mass</td>
<td>8.00pm Mass</td>
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BAPTISM PREPARATION There will be a meeting for parents of children to be baptised in our parish this Sunday 24th March at 3pm in St Joseph’s church.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: Fr Brian Buckley will be conducting a session on the ‘The Spiritual Dimension of being a Liturgical Minister’ this Sunday 24th March at St Joseph’s church 11.30-12.30. Though particularly for prospective Liturgical Ministers, current Liturgical Ministers and all parishioners are invited too.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS
► Christian Meditation: Fridays 10.30am St Joseph’s
► RCIA: Tuesdays 7.15pm Library
► Prayer & Praise: Sun 7 April 6.30pm St Joseph’s

SAINT AUGUSTINE WRITES
“Christians must always live this way, without any wish to come down from their Cross—otherwise they will sink beneath the weight of the world. But if we have to do all so all our lives, we must make even a greater effort during the days of Lent. It is not a simple matter of living through forty days. Lent is the epitome of our whole life.”
—St. Augustine, Sermon 205.

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Parish Annual General Meeting will be held in the parish centre next Sunday 31st March after the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph’s.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS
Forms to nominate new members to the Parish Council are available at the church door. Nominations close this Sunday 24th March. This is still time to recommend someone to represent you and your fellow parishioners.

THE FIRST PARISH GENERAL MEETING OF 1970
The first general meeting of the parishioners of South Yarra was held on 11th October 1970 probably one of the first of such in the Archdiocese.

Prayer
THE PARISH MAGAZINE
You can order this year's Parish Magazine through your local Parish office or visit our website for more information.

POSITION VACANT
Parish Business Manager (Part Time Permanent 28 hours per week)
Applications are sought from suitably qualified and experienced persons for this part-time (28 hours per week) permanent position. Please contact the Parish Secretary Toni Stuart on (03) 9826 9677 email: secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au for a full position description.

SJOS & COMBINED PARISHES Raffle
Tickets on sale now. 3 Cars to be won! Plus Myer gift cards – 14 prizes in total. Tickets: $2 each. Some of the proceeds from ticket sales will go towards supporting St Joseph’s Outreach Services.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: June Cochran, Des White, Bob Larsen, Chael Balcombe, John & Rose Ignacio, Ronald Seaman, Armita Pamintuan, Therese Phillips, Mitos Gloudemans, Dolores Hogan, Frank Muratore, Maurice Wallin, Alex Walker, Margaret Greene, Spirou Lavi, Emma Kirk, Jean de Campo, Socrates Baroutas, Anne Rigg, Tony McNamara, Sergio Fassio, Anthony Alfred, Brendan Taylor, Mary Gaynor, Madeleine Anderson, Ronald Blunt, John Cedric, Irene Rigo, Julie Mahoney, Maurice Knight, Rene Antonio, Lindsay Flint, Geoff Pirt, Inge Halm, Paul Chong, Antony Strantzas, Patricia Gallway, Adrienne Kerr, Justin Dullard, Fernando Perez, Margaret Shepherd, Monica Beckett, Antonio Ferrante Gollada, Fernando Perez, Brian Young, Laura Hickey, Ron Griner, Nihal Elawala.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS 17/3/19
Thanking you for your continuing support! Please contact the parish office if you wish to contribute via Direct Debit or Credit Card.

1st Collection (Clergy/Paroch. Acc) $1477.25
2nd Collection (Church ac/c) $657.00
Loose money $529.55