

## GOSPEL

Jn 12: 20-30

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.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

17 MARCH 2024

## A MATTER OF TIME

In this fifth week of Lent, we approach the crux of our belief. We are drawing near to our journey through Passion Sunday and Holy Week. Jeremiah heralds: "See the days are coming" and Jesus in the Gospel of John proclaims, "Now the hour has come!" These times are both important in their own context yet also mark God's time.

Jeremiah's prophetic words announce God's new covenant with the House of Israel, a covenant which God writes on their hearts that "I will be your God and you will be my people" (Jer 31:33).

As John's passage opens, it is the time of the Passover and some Greeks want to see Jesus. Their seeking of Jesus affirms the words of the Pharisees earlier "the world has gone after him" (John 12:19). The Greeks approach Philip as he has a Greek name, and Philip goes with Andrew, to Jesus. With the Greeks seeking him, Jesus recognises that the gathering has begun, "the world has gone after him," so he announces, "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (John 12:23). An Amen saying follows: "Very truly (Amen, amen), I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). In this image of a grain of wheat is firstly the revelatory sense of Jesus' fate, destiny and mission. Secondly it is the way to see the disciples and our own lives and mission.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

## FIRST READING

Jer 31: 31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

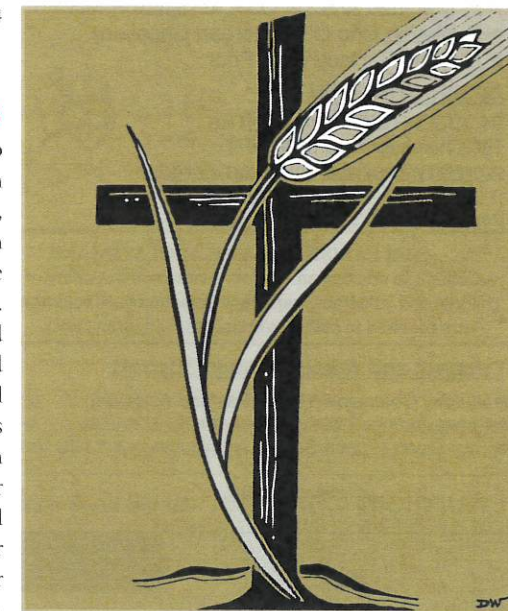
*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.*

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.

**RESPONSORIAL 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!



Est. 1887

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent (17<sup>th</sup> March 2024)**  
**St Joseph's Catholic Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street**  
**St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street**

**In the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS**

- ▶ Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest
- ▶ Fr Marydas Arackal OSA Assistant Priest
- ▶ Fr Matteo Cho OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- ▶ Fr Brian Buckley OSA Prior

**ADMINISTRATION**

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE  
 Tel: Church & Office 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



**OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS**

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and vulnerable persons is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

**Pastoral and Administrative Support**

- ▶ Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant)
- ▶ Juliet Oei (Business & Facilities Manager: Tues - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa & I-Lynn Lee
- ▶ Bernadette Dennis (St Joseph's Outreach Services)
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

**Liturgical Calendar** for the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>	<b>6.00pm Vigil Mass</b>	
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>10.30am Mass</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b>
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b> St Patrick		
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b> St Joseph	<b>10.00am Mass</b>	<b>12.45am Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Week in Lent	<b>10.00am Mass</b>	<b>12.45am Mass</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Week in Lent	<b>10.00am Mass</b>	<b>12.45am Mass</b>
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Week in Lent	<b>10.00am Mass</b> <b>Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>12.45am Mass</b>
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Week in Lent	<b>9.00am Mass</b> <b>6.00pm Mass</b>	

**HOLY WEEK 2024**



**Holy Thursday** - 7pm St Joseph's  
**Good Friday** - Stations of the Cross: St Thomas 10am  
 Liturgy of Passion: St Joseph's 3pm  
**Holy Saturday** - Easter Vigil: St Joseph's 7pm  
**Easter Sunday** - St Thomas 9am  
 St Joseph's 10.30am

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass  
 Fourth Sunday of the month  
 (except school holidays and long weekends)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.15pm – 5.45pm, by appointment or before/after Weekday Mass

**ANOIDING / HEALING MASS**

(Sacrament of the Sick) First Tuesday of the month 10am at St Joseph's Church

**HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME**

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to request a visit for communion at home.

**EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

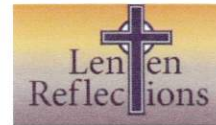
- ▶ Stations of the Cross: Fridays 10.30am
- ▶ RCIA Meeting Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 7pm.
- ▶ Lenten Reflections – Tues 19<sup>th</sup> March 7pm
- ▶ Parish AGM – Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday)

**AUGUSTINE 'JESUS' DEATH AND LIFE'**



"Walk, draw near, come to the full understanding that Christ shall both die and shall live for ever; that he shall shed his blood to redeem us, and ascend on high to carry his redeemed along with him. But you will remain in the dark if your belief in Christ's life is of such a kind as to deny the humiliation of his death." (*Tractate oh John 52*)

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** in St Joseph's church 10.30am on Fridays during Lent.



The last of our Lenten Reflections at 7pm Tues 19 March in the Parish Centre. The reflections will focus on the Lenten Sunday Gospel readings. All welcome.



Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available at the church doors, or donate by visiting Caritas Project Compassion or phone 1800 024 413

**PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Parish AGM is to be held next Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 11.45am at St Joseph's. All parishioners are invited. The Annual Report will be presented and nominations for Parish Pastoral Council membership confirmed.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:**

Margaret Wallin, Mark Ho, June Cochrane, Ronald Seaman, Mitos Gloudemans, Anne Rigg, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Inge Halim, Paul Chong, Larissa Popowski, Mary Ireland, Caroline O'Neil, Isabella Chong, Tony Duarte, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Stephen Soh, Anne Morton, Jeff & Yvonne Bolland.



**IN LOVING MEMORY**

**Recently Deceased**

**Anniversaries**

- ✦ Giuseppe Muratore
- ✦ Adam Graham
- ✦ Bridget & Thomas Sheil
- ✦ Ngarie Cannon
- ✦ Daniel Leow Chin Meng
- ✦ Loretta Pereira
- ✦ Marie Connell
- ✦ Giuseppe Crivera
- ✦ Elena Lucca



**FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH – MARCH 19**



We acknowledge the Feast of St Joseph our Patron with a morning tea following the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's on Palm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March.



**COFFEE AFTER ST THOMAS' 9.00AM MASS**

All welcome to join us of coffee from 10.15am this Sunday at Jardin Tan in the Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre Café, opposite the Shrine of Remembrance.

**VISIT OF BISHOP TONY IRELAND**

Tony Ireland Bishop of the Melbourne Southern Region will preside and preach at the Good Friday Ceremonies at St Joseph's 3pm on March 29<sup>th</sup>. We welcome him to our parish.



**CHILDREN'S FIRST RECONCILIATION**



Preparation classes for children making their First Reconciliation will begin in May. If you wish to enrol your child or know someone who might be interested, please contact Stephy at the parish office for more information.

**PARISH BAPTISMS**

We welcome the family and friends of Earl Falkingham who will be baptised this weekend.



**MASS COLLECTIONS 10/03/2024**

<b>Clergy (Augustinian Community)</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Collection, CDF & bank deposits.	\$ 533.20
<b>Church (Parish Ministries)</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection	\$ 290.50
Envelopes	\$ 150.00
Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards	\$ 1085.00
Tap Point Terminals	\$ 475.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	