

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** cf. Lk 3:16

**Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

*When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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**BELOVED OF GOD**

Luke remembers the story of Jesus' baptism and shapes its theological power to speak to the Gospel's late first century Greco-Roman audience. They have been baptised in their induction into the life of their discipleship household. This story is a reminder that through their baptism they are intimately bonded to Jesus and, through him, to God.

There are three important features which Luke highlights. The first is about John the Baptist whose focus is on Jesus. He witnesses to the future coming of one "more powerful" than he. A second feature is the moment of Jesus' baptism. This occurs, unlike in the other Gospels, without the presence of John. (He is already in prison—a part of the story omitted from today's reading). In other words, Jesus' baptism is God's act. It occurs while Jesus prays. His prayer opens the sacred realm of God's abode, the heavens. The Spirit of God descends on him. Jesus continues throughout the rest of the Gospel to be God's Spirit-filled agent.

Third, as Jesus is anointed with the Spirit, we hear God's voice and declaration of Jesus: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you". Jesus is declared beloved of God, the one in whom God delights. Luke's theology of baptism is for the Gospel's audience, for us: We are baptised, God's Spirit acts within us, our prayer opens the Heavens for us; we are God's beloved daughters and sons in whom God eternally delights. This Sunday becomes a moment to celebrate the gift of our baptism and God's high estimation of us.

**Fr Michael Trainor**

**FIRST READING**

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESP PSALM** Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R. v. 1

**R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

1. Lord God, how great you are, / clothed in majesty and glory, / wrapped in light as in a robe! / You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **R.**



2. Above the rains you build your dwelling, / You make the clouds your chariot, / you walk on the wings of the wind, / you make the winds your messengers / and flashing fire your servants. **R.**

3. How many are your works, O Lord! / In wisdom you have made them all. / The earth is full of your riches. / There is the sea, vast and wide, / with its moving swarms past counting, / living things great and small. **R.**

4. All of these look to you / to give them their food in due season. / You give it, they gather it up: / you open your hand, they have their fill. **R.**

5. You take back your spirit, they die, / returning to the dust from which they came. / You send forth your spirit, they are created; / and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.**

*He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.



Est. 1887

**Baptism of the Lord (12 Jan 2025)**  
**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: Wed - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ▶ Joss Honour (St Joseph's Outreach Services)
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

**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, or by appointment.

**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**

- ▶ Parish Office has reopened -Tues-Fri 9am to 5pm
- ▶ RCIA sessions recommence Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb.

**AUGUSTINE ON BAPTISM OF THE LORD**



"You have been buried with Christ by baptism into death in order that, as Christ has risen from the dead, you also may walk in newness of life. You are walking now by

faith, still on pilgrimage in a mortal body away from the Lord; but he to whom your steps are directed is himself the sure and certain way for you: Jesus Christ, who for our sake became man. For all who fear him he has stored up abundant happiness, which he will reveal to those who hope in him, bringing it to completion when we have attained the reality which even now we possess in hope." (Sermon 8 for Easter)

**'LUCE' – 2025 JUBILEE MASCOT**



faith on their journey through life.

The official mascot of the 2025 Holy Year has the name Luce ('light') and depicts a pilgrim dressed in papal colours of yellow and white with a staff, cross and boots soiled from the journey. Luce is designed to reach out to younger people and those using social media and whose mission is to guide young pilgrims toward hope and

**SJOS ST JOSEPHS OUTREACH SERVICES**



A sincere thanks to all our volunteers through the past year. Please know that your time and dedication are appreciated. We welcome any new enquiries about assisting with our food store, bread bank or transitional housing programs. Contact Joss Honour (0456222978), the parish office, or go to our website at <https://sjos.org.au/>

**MASS COLLECTIONS 5/01/2025**

**Clergy (Augustinian Community)**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Collection, CDF & bank deposits. \$ 587.70  
**Church (Parish Ministries)**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection ..... \$ 396.25  
 Envelopes..... \$ 90.00  
 Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards \$ .....  
 Tap Point Terminals..... \$ 555.00  
*Thank you for your generosity*



**IN LOVING MEMORY**

**Recently Deceased**

\* Justin Dullard (nephew of Fr Gerry)

**Anniversaries**

- \* Marie Walsh
- \* Joan Walsh
- \* Christie R. Daniels
- \* Gavan Grimes
- \* Cheryl Kousal
- \* Joe Di Rita
- \* Conrad Pereira
- \* Gladys Grant
- \* Brian Sheehan

**VOLUNTEER WITH OUR QR CODE**

Scan this QR code for a direct link to our parish website to access bulletins, the latest news and information on how to get involved in your parish.



**MAKING A BEQUEST TO THE PARISH OR TO THE AUGUSTINIANS**

By leaving a bequest to the Parish of South Yarra or the Augustinians you are helping to ensure that our community outreach and pastoral work can continue. If you would like further information about making a bequest or if you have made a bequest already and would like to let us know, please contact the parish office.



**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:**

Ellen Allery, Robert Huggins, Gaston Gori, Margaret Wallin, Mark Ho, June Cochrane, Ronald Seaman, Mitos Gloudemans, Anne Rigg, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Stephen Soh, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Christine Rodrigues, Janine Forster.

**Liturgical Calendar** for the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January Baptism of the Lord	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January St Hilary		
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January Deceased Relatives of OSA	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January St Anthony	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	

**JUBILEE 2025 'Pilgrims of Hope'**

The 2025 Holy Year has officially begun at Christmas. For information about the Jubilee Year take the printed leaflet at the church door or go to the Vatican website. <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va>

