



St Peter Julian Eymard
Catholic Church
Mooroolbark Parish
Including Kilsyth & Montrose



Number 46

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18th December, 2016

Parish Priest
Fr. Joseph Xin Lu

Parish Secretary
Mrs. Adriana De Leo

Parish Assistant
Mr. Brian Twining

Pastoral Associate
Michael Sellar

RCIA Coordinator
Michael Mc Lindon

Parish Office

234 Hull Road (PO Box 2)
Mooroolbark 3138
Telephone: 9723 4275 Fax: 9725 4377
<http://www.spje.org.au/>
Email: mooroolbark@cam.org.au

Parish Hall (Not available during 2016)
Mrs. Leveda Allison - Hall Manager Ph: 9739 6669

SPJE Parish School

Reay Road, Mooroolbark 3138
Telephone 9725 0595 Fax 9723 9255
School Principal – Mrs. Maria Bast
<http://www.spjemooroolbark.catholic.edu.au>

SPJE - Outside School Hours Care
Tel: 8215 9206

St. Richard's Parish School

672 Mt. Dandenong Rd.
Kilsyth, 3137
Telephone 9728 4378 Fax 9728 6272
School Principal - Mrs. Maureen Stella
<http://www.srkilsyth.catholic.edu.au>

Normal Mass Times at SPJE

Weekday Masses - Tuesday - Friday: 9.15 am

Rosary prayed on

Wednesday & Thursday after 9.15am Mass

Saturday: No morning Mass

Saturday: 6.00p.m. (vigil)

Sunday: 9.00a.m.

Sunday: 11.00a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.15 p.m.

or by arrangement with Priest.

Sacraments (Baptism, Weddings)

Ring Parish Office 9723 4275

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If assistance is required, please contact
1800 305 330, Mon – Fri 10 am -3 pm

JOSEPH'S DREAM Matthew 1.18-24

Your vision will only become clear when you look inside your heart....Who looks outside - dreams; who looks inside - awakes." Carl Jung

Usually our dreams are fleeting memories, in consciousness only seconds; there may be no recollection beyond knowing they happened. At serious stress times, we may not dream at all – or they may be wild & intrusive with daylight dealings quite out of focus; likewise, ongoing traumatic stress or engagement may lead to vivid 'demon dreams', as memory tries to make sense of the seemingly unreal.

But occasionally we can experience a dream that stands out as deep truth, wise guide, timely prompt to difficult or decisive action. Such is Joseph's Dream - "...the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream". Here is Joseph, a good & faithful Jew - a "just man", in deep quandary: a dilemma of faithfulness to Mary at an intensely personal level & of faithfulness to precious religious observance. Mary is mysteriously "with child": the Law decrees that he "dismiss her", leaving her accused of adultery & liable to death by stoning. But this is his Mary, his Beloved. He knows her, knows her heart, her faithfulness to the Law; her loving, her goodness, her integrity. Though beyond understanding, this man of compassion & daring will not allow harm or shame to his Betrothed; will ignore the Law's directive, will protect her safety & reputation. He then sleeps.

Deep within, Joseph senses a profound message of a Love that seems the very essence of life; the Word within Mary's womb touches his deepest self, for he is open in compassionate love, sensitive to a Truth beyond understanding that invites total self-gift. Here is life-changing revelation, startling realisation; "Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit". He experiences, embraces, an intuition or inspiration beyond rationality yet intimately linked to the roots of his faith; "The virgin will conceive & bear a son & they will call him 'Emmanuel' a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

So, Joseph, the "just man", "took his wife to his home": he turned from the path dictated by righteousness, embraced Mary wholeheartedly as wife & made this Child of Sacred Mystery his own: his Fidelity is to deeper Truth. According to tradition, Joseph did not live to know the child he was father to as an adult. Did not hear the One whom he taught not only trade but the Sacred Teachings of Israel. Nor take pride in or fear for his son the itinerant preacher, the Rabbi who was "sign of contradiction". This "Son of God, Son of Man" brought a Hope that Joseph helped unlock. He did not hear Jesus proclaim - as we do -, "I am the Way the Truth & the Life", nor his call, "Come follow me". Joseph's radical fidelity & courage invites us to daily daring & alertness to "the Word" within each of us, that we may bring Jesus, the Christ into our life, world & time.

Michael McLindon, RCIA Coordinator.

PARISH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 17/18th **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
20th **No Morning Mass at 9.15am**
22nd 1st Anniversary Mass - Veronica
McLindon - 9.15am Mass
24/25th (Please see Christmas Timetable)



Christian Meditation Meetings

The Christian meditation prayer group is now in recess until January 30th, 2017. Wishing you peace and joy this Christmas, kind regards Trish Martin.

Weekday Mass Times

Mass times as normal at 9.15 am
Tue, Wed, Fri
(NO 9.15am Mass on Tues.20th Dec)

Readings for Next Week - 24/25th Dec
Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Prayers For The Sick

We pray for parishioners and friends who are ill, especially:

John Turner, John Hogan, Frank Westaway, Ron Irwin, Flora Cristafaro, Ian Blencowe, Jan Watson, Bernadette Vear, Linda Young, Louis Donker,

Remembrance Diary

We remember those who have died and all those whose anniversary occurs about this time:

Christopher Dennany, Paul Windsor, Patrick Walsh, James Malone, Jim Johnston, George Stanley, Alice Robe, Chris Slennett, Fay Dwyer, Lorraine Cameron, Elvia Caraffi, Fr Tom Lennon, Alfred Ayres, Jean O'Connell, Christine Jorgensen RSC, Sylvia McVeigh, Carla Van Gorp, Mary Ives, John Kierce, Finn Jensen, Veronica McLindon & Lawrence Stats.



ROSTERS

Counters

19th Dec Des Delahunt, Pam Dryden & Christine Sellar
28th Dec Leo Allison & Julia Zammit

Flowers

ADVENT (No Flowers Required)
Patricia Harman (**Christmas**)

24th Dec

Cleaners

19th Dec Wojtek Nowicki
26th Dec Graeme Vear & Gerard Wright

*(Please collect church key from parish office
Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm)*

Ministers of Eucharist Coordinators for December

6.00 pm Michael Sellar
9.00 am **Volunteer Required**
11.00am Mike McCann

Readers & Commentators - 24/25th December

6.00 pm Special Roster
9.00 am Special Roster
11.00 am Special Roster

FR JOSEPH IS TURNING 50.

We invite parishioners to come and celebrate this special birthday of **Fr Joseph on Sunday 22nd January 2017**.

A BBQ lunch will be held in St Richard's School Hall commencing at 12.30pm.

Anyone wishing to help with setting up or supplying a salad or sweet, please contact Bernadette Brown on 0447 743 138, Margaret Vallence or Adriana De Leo at the parish office on 9723 4275.

A collection box will be available in the foyer for those who wish to contribute towards a gift for Fr Joseph over the next few weekends.

*Happy
50th
Birthday*

**MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION
SPECIAL COLLECTION last weekend.**

Thank you to all who supported this collection.
Amount raised. \$531.95

Christmas Helpers Needed!

Do you want to play a more active role in our
Christmas Liturgies this year?

Please check out the notice in the Church
foyer for opportunities to be involved either as
readers, commentators, Eucharistic
Ministers, taking up the Offertory etc. It is an
opportunity to be more fully involved in this
joyous celebration.

If you are planning to come to the Mass on the
Oval on Christmas Eve and have children or
grandchildren, please encourage them to come
dressed up as Wise Men, Angels, Shepherds or
Sheep.



Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath was introduced in the nineteenth century by a Lutheran Pastor (following an ancient German custom) and has been adopted widely by Christians. Here are some thoughts on the symbolism of the wreath.

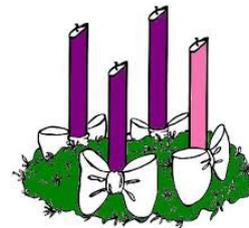
The four candles represent the 4,000 years (the Biblical equivalent of all the time before Christ) prior to Christ's coming and, of course, the four weeks of Advent.

The unlighted candles represent the dark ages before Christ's coming.

The lighted candles represent Christ, the Light of the World. Each week we light one more candle and that represents the idea that the coming of Christ is closer. The circular form of the wreath symbolises that God has no beginning or end.

The green of the boughs indicates hope -- just as the green of spring indicates new life.

The word Advent means the coming or promise.



Michael Sellar - Pastoral Associate.

**Seasons Blessings to all parishioners
from the Social Justice Action Group.**

**A thought for us all----- 'When I was
born I was Black---etc**

When I was born I was Black,
When I was sad I was black,
When I was hot I was black,
When I was sick I was black,
When I was scared I was black.

When you was born you was pink,
When you was sad you was blue,
When you was hot you was red,
when you was sick you was green,
When you was scared you was yellow.

AND, you call me coloured.

Agra Gra.

**MELBOURNE
CATHOLIC
is here ..**

Available in Melbourne
parishes now.
melbournecatholic.org.au

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC
MAGAZINE**

December 2016 Edition of Melbourne
Catholic is now available.

Interesting reading on:-

- Voices from the universal Church.
- Beatitudes for modern Christians
 - Talking it up
- A magical night in Melbourne

Copies available in the church foyer.

**Fr Joseph has reduced the cost to
\$2 per copy.**

ANNIVERSARY MASS - Veronica McLindon
 A Mass for Veronica will be held next Thursday 22nd December as we remember our beloved pastoral worker Veronica McLindon who's first anniversary occurs at this time.
 The 9.15am Mass will be offered for Veronica as we remember how much she valued and gave to our community. You are all warmly welcome to attend.



CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE
 We wish to thank Catholic Church Insurance for their donation of the Christmas hamper.
 The hamper is valued at: \$150.
 Tickets available for purchase from the church foyer \$1 each



NEW ISSUE OF FRANKLY MAGAZINE
 \$4.00 copy.



TOPICS INCLUDE:

- The Joy of Love - Pope Talk
- Inspired Art- Street Art Feature
- Seeking Happiness - Parenting
- Beer Wine & Spirits - Catholic Culture
- The Happiest People I Know - Money
- Go'in Natural - Eco -Fertility
- Under the Spotlight - Celebrity
- Selfie Culture- Inspiration
- Our Many Marriages - Relationships
- Wedding Traditions - Photo Essay

The Parish ANNUAL ADVENT APPEAL 2016
Mercy Works Domestic Violence Project,
Papua New Guinea

Each year St Peter Julian Eymard Parish Social Justice Action Group launches its ANNUAL ADVENT APPEAL which provides us with continuing education in Catholic Social Teaching and is a means of practising compassionate justice in a special way as a Parish.

Advent appeal envelopes will be available from the basket at the door of the Church near the Newsletters and your contribution can be placed in the ordinary collection. This is the final weekend for this appeal.

Greeting and Welcome Group
 Did you know that we have an active Greeting and Welcome group dropping in on parishioners to simply say "Hello"? New members to the group this year report what a delight it is to visit parishioners to simply say 'Hello'. It is an opportunity to let people know they are not forgotten and to be a caring face of the parish. It also helps to update our database when we discover people have moved.
 During 2016 the group have visited 184 households. Over the 10 years we have been visiting parishioners over 1500 households have been visited. We are over halfway through visiting every person / family on our parish database!!
 If you would like to join our active and welcoming team please contact Jane on 9725 4194 or [0416 279 811](tel:0416279811).