

PARISH OF ST ANNE, ST BEDE & ST JOACHIM
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A, 3RD MAY 2020

Parish Office: 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

Phone: 9401 6355 Outside office hours,
for emergencies only, ring 9401 6368.

E-mail: balwynnorthkeweast@cam.org.au

Website: parishofstanneandstbede.org.au

St Joachim

St Joachim's is the smallest church in the parish, but one with an important place in the history of the parish. St Joachim's was opened on 10 May 1953, making it the oldest of our current church buildings still being used as such. In the early days it operated as a kindergarten during the week and a church on weekends.

In 1980, the church was heated and carpeted, and the Stations of the Cross from the St Anthony's Children's Home in Kew were offered to St Joachim's, and gratefully accepted.



The statue of St Joachim on the wall of the nave is a traditional depiction of the saint: dressed in green - the colour of hope, and with a basket of doves to symbolise peace.

The community of St Joachim's may be small, but it is noteworthy for its strong bonds of care and fellowship, and support of the wider parish community.

Please click on the link below after 5pm on Saturday, 2nd May, to watch the 4th Sunday of Easter Online Mass, celebrated by our priests. <https://youtu.be/2FN18tua2E>

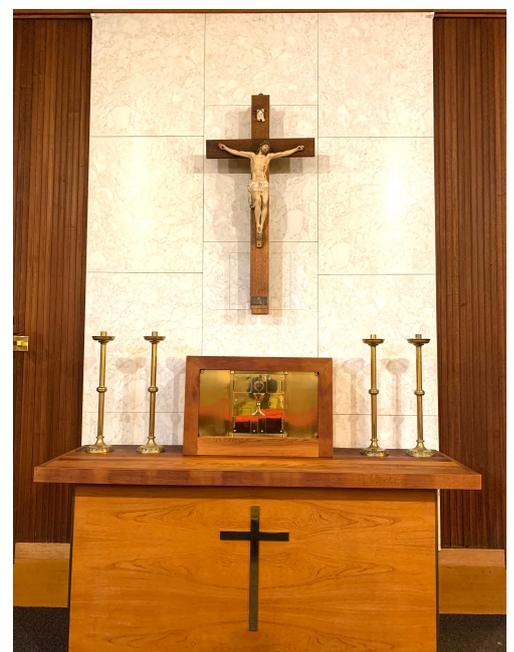
For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.

1st Collection

Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account
Presbytery Account BSB: 083 347
Account no. 666017079

2nd Collection

Account name: St Bede's Church Account
Church Account BSB: 083 347
Account no. 458706734



Mass Setting: Mass of Creation

Entrance hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King – GA 395

Responsorial Psalm: Shepherd me, O God – GA 24

Communion hymn: The Lord is My Shepherd – GA 506

Recessional hymn: The voice of God— GA 476



Barnard Grove, Kew North

1st Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:14,36-41)

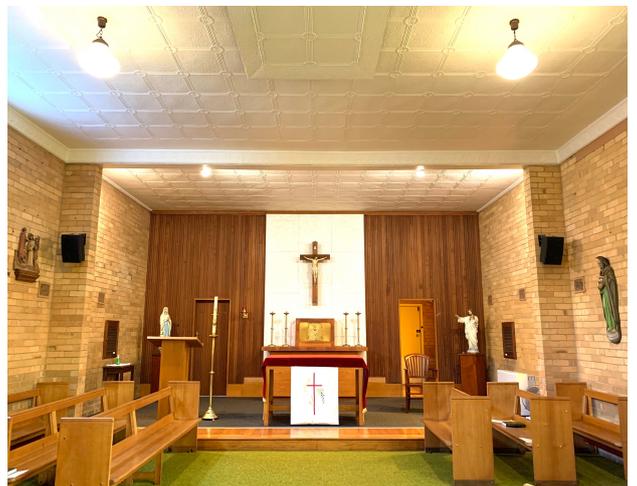
On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: ‘The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.’ Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, ‘What must we do, brothers?’ ‘You must repent,’ Peter answered ‘and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.’ He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, ‘Save yourselves from this perverse generation.’ They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (GA 24)

R. *Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.*

- 1/ God is my shepherd; so nothing I shall want.
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. **R.**
- 2/ Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
My spirit shall sing the music of your name. **R.**
- 3/ You have set me a banquet of love, in the face of hatred,
Crowing me with love beyond my power to hold. **R.**
- 4/ Surely your kindness and mercy will follow me,
All the days of my life.
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. **R.**



2nd Reading

A Reading from the 1st letter of St Peter (2:20-25)

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord



GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (10:1-10)

Jesus said:

'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come

are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

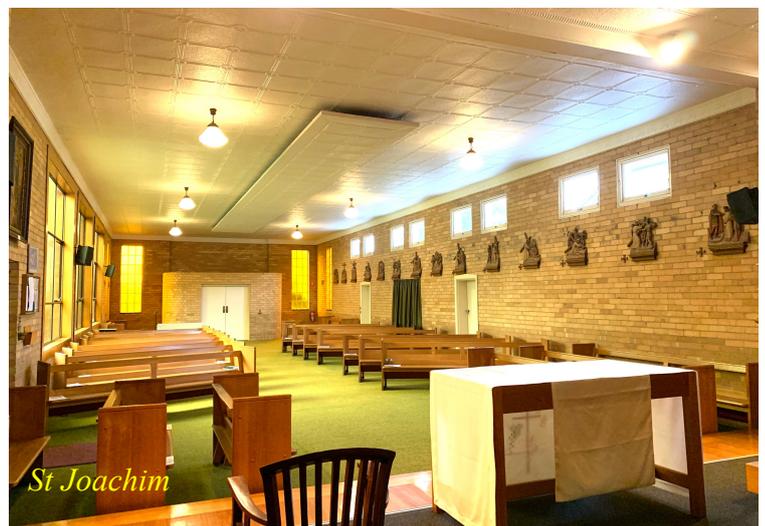
The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

The Gospel of the Lord



GOSPEL REFLECTION

The first part of today's Gospel ranges over quite a few characters: the shepherd, the gatekeeper, thieves and brigands, sheep, strangers. Then there is the gate of the sheepfold. We tend to focus on the shepherd, perhaps influenced by the Responsorial Psalm, but John's Gospel is more complex.

The experience of the early church, amongst whom this Gospel was written, was that it was not as easy as thinking that all shepherds were good, or all gatekeepers were reliable. They had already experienced false prophets, betrayal and persecution – including from people they had trusted. Jesus in the first part of today's Gospel implies he is the good shepherd, and the true gatekeeper, but in the second part of the Gospel says that he is the gate. And he seems to praise the sheep for their wisdom in knowing the true voices, all of which seems to turn upside down some of our preconceived ideas. We tend to think of the sheep as stupid.

We use the image of the shepherd for our leaders in faith, and the Gospel underscores how important it is that the people of God can trust their shepherds. We know that there are religious leaders who are true shepherds of their flock, and we also know there are those who have led their people astray, who have used the goodwill and good faith of their people to personal glory, or to unworthy ends.



But in the realm of the Church, the human shepherds of the flock are not the gatekeepers or the gate. There are those leaders who think they are the gatekeepers of religion - who think they hold the keys to the mystery of God, and our communication with him. That is clericalism. It is Jesus who is the gate and the gatekeeper, the shepherds are there to lead and serve the flock to find the true gate and be recognised by the gatekeeper.

The Gospel today is a poetic and imaginative reflection on the sense of faith, the Christian sense, that is lived out in the lives the faithful. I have spoken in the past about the "*Catholic and*" which one of professors in Ottawa often used to describe our Catholic intuition and balance in living the Christian faith; and we speak of a "*Catholic sense*", a "*Catholic culture*". I think that is what John's Gospel is speaking of: a way of living and a sense of faith that we are not necessarily always conscious of, but which so infuses our being that it makes us who we are, and what we are.

May Christ, the Good Shepherd, the Gate to the Sheepfold, the Way, the Truth and the Life, so permeate our lives that we reflect him in all we are and all we do.



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray to God our Father with trust and confidence and offer him the deep concern and needs of the church and the world.

For the Shepherds of our Church: our Holy Father Pope Francis, our Bishops and pastors. May they reflect a Father's love and care for all whom they serve.

Let us pray to the Lord

For our world at this time: that Christ the Good Shepherd may bring hope, strength and healing to all who suffer.

Let us pray to the Lord

For our Church: that the Good Shepherd may heal those in pain, and strengthen those in service.

Let us pray to the Lord

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. May the youth of our parish community hear the voice of the Good Shepherd calling them to serve God's family in a special way.

Let us pray to the Lord

For our seminarians and all those in formation to priesthood and consecrated life: that our prayers may support them in their vocations.

Let us pray to the Lord

For the sick of our parish. May the healing tenderness of the Good Shepherd be present in the loving care they receive from family and friends.

Let us pray to the Lord

For the dead: especially for our deceased family and friends and for those priests who have served our parish and Diocese, and those whose anniversary occur about this time, especially Maria Swieboda and Judy Cosgrave. May they enjoy the reward of their labours.

Let us pray to the Lord

***Loving Father,
Your Son came to lead us to you.
Hear the prayers we make in his name,
confident of your care for us at all times, but especially now.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.***



A PRAYER AND BLESSING FOR MOTHERS

Loving Father, we thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb.

You have given to woman the capacity of participating with You in the creation of new life. Grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing.



Watch over every mother who is with child, strengthen her faith in Your fatherly care and love for her and for her unborn baby. Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble. Grant her joy in the birth of her child.

To mothers You have given the great privilege and responsibility of being a child's first teacher and spiritual guide. Grant that all mothers may worthily foster the faith of their children. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them.

Assist all "spiritual mothers", those who, though they may have no children of their own, nevertheless selflessly care for the children of others -- of every age and state in life. Grant that they may know the joy of fulfilling this motherly calling of women, whether in teaching, nursing, religious life, or in other work which recognizes and fosters the true dignity of every human being created in Your image and likeness.

Send Your Holy Spirit upon all mothers who grieve for children that have died, are ill or estranged from their families, or who are in trouble or danger of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on Your tender mercy and fatherly love for all your children.

We ask your blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted motherhood. May Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them. May they follow the example of Mary, mother of Jesus, and imitate her fidelity, her humility, and her self-giving love. May all mothers receive Your Grace abundantly in this earthly life, and may they look forward to eternal joy in Your presence in the life to come. And we ask you to bless our mothers who have died, grant them fullness of life in your love.

And may almighty God bless you, the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Amen.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL MOTHERS

From Fr John Salvano & Fr Toan Nguyen





Today is the World Day of Vocations. Pope Francis tells us:

“Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives.” (Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2020)

Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers and presence reflect the gaze of love from the Lord to help them discover their vocation.

“Take heart, do not be afraid! Jesus is at our side, and if we acknowledge him as the one Lord of our lives, he will stretch out his hand, take hold of us, and save us.”

“The Lord knows that a fundamental life choice - like marriage or special consecration to his service - calls for courage. He knows the questions, doubts and difficulties that toss the boat of our heart, and so he reassures us: “Take heart, it is I; have no fear.”

“Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocation.”

What can I do?

Each one of us can do something for the future of the Church in our nation. We all want and need more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. What can I do? The most important and essential thing that each of us can do is to pray. Intentionally, regularly, insistently. Make a decision today to include a prayer for vocations in your daily prayers.

On Line ideas

At this time when we are communicating with people on line much of the time, it is an opportunity to enter into the world of young people, and engage with them in a new way. The Masses that are being streamed may be one of the few times that they may engage with the Church; the posts on social media; the new and innovative ways of pastoral ministry – these are all opportunities to spread the message of vocation in a new way.

There are also a good number of resources that you may like to look at: <https://www.worlddayofprayerforvocations.com>

During this time of heightened engagement via social media, it may be a time to connect with some of the young people in our community and gently suggest the idea of a vocation or send them some links or resources to look at.

Seminarians for the Archdiocese of Melbourne

										
Nicolas Calandra	Tobias Dinh	Dominic Lawes	Jamie Castillo	Rhys Lowther	Tuong Nguyen	Joseph Schaefer	Ian Vergel	John Vespa	Ezekiel Hangan	Tue Pham
1 st YEAR	1 st YEAR	1 st YEAR	2 nd YEAR	2 nd YEAR	2 nd YEAR	2 nd YEAR	2 nd YEAR	2 nd YEAR	3 rd YEAR	3 rd YEAR
										
Allan Aclan	Jean-Sebastian Gery	An Hoang Le	Peter Nguyen	Tien Tran	Vinh Do	Huy Nguyen	Joseph Aung	Thomas Christie	Hoang Dinh	Toan Ho
4 th YEAR	5 th YEAR	5 th YEAR	6 th YEAR	6 th YEAR	6 th YEAR	6 th YEAR				
										
Jaycee Napoles	Joseph Nguyen	Samuel Pearson	Rev. Simeon Anthony	Rev. James Baptist	Rev. Jude Ezeme	Rev. Jude Johnson	Alexander Chow	Andrew Kwiatkowski	Ignatius Tan	
6 th YEAR	6 th YEAR	6 th YEAR	7 th YEAR	7 th YEAR	7 th YEAR	7 th YEAR	STUDYING OVERSEAS	STUDYING OVERSEAS	STUDYING OVERSEAS	

P R A Y F O R Y O U R F U T U R E P R I E S T S



“My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me.” (Jn 10:27)

--- Continued ---