

INSPIRED BY ST. JOSEPH, WE PRAY FOR PEACE BETWEEN UKRAINE & RUSSIA

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT – 20 MARCH 2022



NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend we will focus on

the Consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we celebrate one of our two parish patronal feasts – St Joseph.

Yesterday was the *Feast of St Joseph.*

This weekend at all Masses, we also hear from our Parish Pastoral Council about the possibility of a new start for offering hospitality.

SCHOOL MASS FOR ST. JOSEPH'S DAY

Our parish primary school community of St. Joseph's shares insights with us.

They celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph on Friday.

A full school Mass in the Fr Bernie Centre was accompanied by the school choir.

After the Acknowledgement of Country, special symbols celebrating St Joseph were presented.

Let us listen to their words.

- *"Here at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Saint Joseph house is the colour yellow, today we light our Saint Joseph House candle and place our yellow silk symbolising the house of Saint Joseph.*
- *We place a loaf of bread on our Sacred space, Saint Joseph was a provider for his family, he trusted in God's plan.*
- *We place a hammer, Joseph was a carpenter by trade... he also built a life of service, loyalty, wisdom and guidance.*
- *We also place the St Joseph's candle, a gift from Catholic Missions, celebrating the year of St Joseph last year."*

Then everyone, students, staff and parents stood to sing the School song '*Jesus in each other*'.
During the Word of God:

- Year 6 Music/Cultural Captains proclaimed the First Reading.
- A representative from each of the Year Four Classes processed the Gospel.
- As I proclaimed the Good Samaritan Passage from Luke's Gospel,

Year 6 Marian, MacKillop House Captains and Cultural Captains enacted the parable.

After the homily, these prayers were prayed by the school family.

- *"God calls us children of God and loves and blesses us always.
We are confident that God will always be with us.*
- *God of compassion, we pray for those around us experiencing hardship,
we ask that you give them strength to find hope.*
- *God of wisdom, we pray for our leaders,
that they follow your example when faced with making decisions.*
- *God of care, we ask that you give strength to those
in our local and global community who are not as fortunate as us.
At this time, we think about flood victims and the people in Ukraine
who are facing unimaginable pain and displacement.*
- *God of learning, we thank you for the time we spend at St Joseph's School.
We are thankful for the courage you have given us to be people of service in your image.*
- *Lord, we ask that we embody the St Joseph's Way and that we continue
to come together in unity and faith, seeking reconciliation in our relationships.
Light the way to love so that we may live together in peace and harmony.*
- *Loving God hear our prayers so that we may live your word in all we say and do."*

Thank you to Years Six, Five, Four, Three, Two, One and Prep Year.

LUKE 13:1-9

The Gospel of Luke tells us

- of the Galileans killed by Pilate,
- and the 18 people killed when the tower of Siloam collapsed upon them.

The murder of Galileans by Pilate reminds us of the murder of the people of Ukraine today.

The World Health Organization some days ago had verified 43 attacks on hospitals and health facilities in Ukraine.

The tower of Siloam was in the city of Jerusalem, the centre of their faith.

We are not told the cause of the collapse, but innocent people died.

PARABLE OF MERCY AND HOPE

The parable of the fig-tree is a parable of mercy, giving one more year, one more opportunity to turn around this wastage of the soil.

The parable comes after the wastage of people's lives in conflict (Galilean lives) and everyday life (collapse of the tower of Siloam).

When tragedies happen to some, they happen to all of us.

In both cases, all are called to repent, to reform.

The question in the parable of the fig tree,

'Why should it even use up the soil?'

is literally translated as *'Why should it waste even the earth?'*

We must not waste our Christian calling. God has a purpose for each of us.

Let us pause and reflect on our purpose in life.

[pause]

POPE FRANCIS CALLS US TO A SPECIAL PRAYER THIS WEEK

We remember that 2017, on the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's appearance at Fatima, Pope Francis blessed and sent out six statues of Our Lady of Fatima to the six regions of the world.

On the 7th September 2017, St Joseph's Church, Bracken Ridge welcomed one of the statues, and our parish was consecrated to Mary under the title of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Some will remember having photos of the occasion.

[Prayer blog for Our Parish Year of Prayer 2017 - a link is included [here](#)]

The next day the journey of the statue continued to another parish.

Recently **Pope Francis**, with support of the Catholic Bishops of Russia and Ukraine, announced that on the Feast of the Annunciation (Friday March 25th 2022) at 5pm (Rome time), at St Peter's Basilica, he will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

One of the Cardinals will lead the same service in Fatima at that time.

As this will be in the early hours Saturday morning Brisbane time, we will dedicate our **6pm Saturday evening Mass on March 26th to peace for Russia and Ukraine, preceded at 5.30pm on Saturday by praying the five decades of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.**

All are invited to this sacred time.

Inspired by the care of Saint Joseph for Jesus and Mary, we pray today for our parish community, and the call to care for each other and for our world.

We journey together as disciples of Jesus.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032022.cfm>



Our Lady of Fatima at our church in 2017