

CONNECTED IN SOLIDARITY  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 21 MARCH 2021



**HAPPY FEAST DAY**

Happy Feast Day to all members of the wider parish family as we celebrate one of our two patrons, St Joseph.

This is the closest weekend to Friday's feast, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Let us turn to each other and wish each other a happy Feast Day.

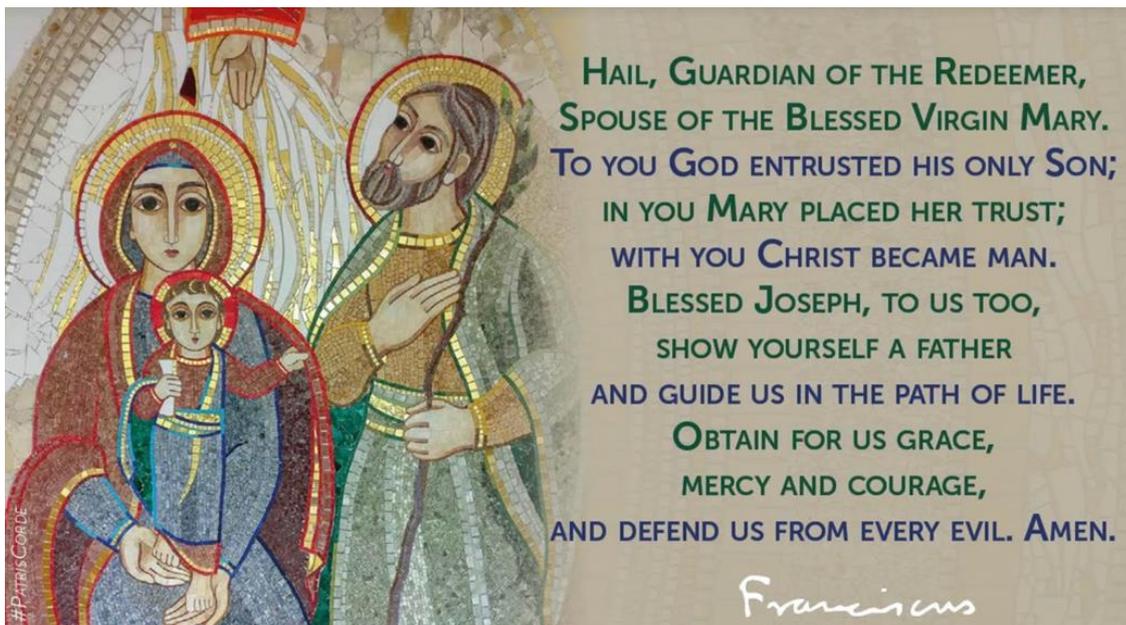
Congratulations to St Joseph's School.

What a wonderful day of celebration on Friday.

**YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH – DECEMBER 8, 2020 TO DECEMBER 8, 2021**

This year is also the *Year of St Joseph*.

The teaching of Pope Francis about this Year of St Joseph is called [With a Father's Heart](#)  
Australian Catholic Resources are available [here](#)



## SEEKING A CONNECTION IN SOLIDARITY

Earlier in John's Gospel Chapter 12, we hear that a crowd of people are still testifying that Jesus raised Lazarus from death.

Imagine the excitement. The telling and re-telling.

In John 12/17-18 the Gospel relates

*"So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him."*

*How do others get to meet Jesus, amid all the excitement?*

We note in today's passage that people from another culture want to meet Jesus.

They are Greeks.

They seek a connection and so come to Philip. Philip is a Greek name.

Philip consults Andrew. Andrew, a Jew, has a Greek name.

Together Andrew and Philip inform Jesus.

This Gospel passage portrays a cultural sensitivity and respect for people from other cultures.

Let us read the first part of the passage together.

## GOSPEL OF JOHN 12:20-33

*"Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.*

*Jesus answered them,*

***'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, 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. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.'***

A *single* grain can be translated literally as *"it remains alone"*.

We are not a grain remaining alone, but we are a community, a family of faith.

We have a mission to serve.

In past weeks we have heard daily

of the continuing shocking lack of respect for women in Australia,

and through the media, stories of women have been shared –

stories of anger, of harassment, of discrimination, of sexual abuse, of harassment and abuse.

And stories of solidarity, of determined efforts for justice.

We note that Greeks in today's Gospel sought to meet Jesus face to face. They sought to make a connection. They sought out Philip who would understand and would help. Philip sought Andrew's help as he would understand and help.

In their encounter with Jesus, he shares deeply.

*“Now my soul is troubled.  
And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”?  
No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.”*

Jesus prays to his Father and hears back.

*“Father, glorify your name.”  
Then a voice came from heaven,  
‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’*

Jesus does not discriminate.

He faces the momentous and traumatic “hour”,  
out of love for people of all ages, gender, culture and race.  
May we face together, the deep troubles within Australia.  
We pause and pray for guidance.

[PAUSE]

#### CONSULTATION OF CATHOLIC WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA

This Saturday is an opportunity for Catholic Women in Australia to add their voice, their wisdom, their insights, their faith, their concerns, their frustrations.

At all Masses this weekend is a handout with details of the consultation.

Details of the consultation are:

**Date: Saturday 27 March**

**Time: 2pm-4pm AEDT Queensland Time: 1pm-3pm**

**Platform: Zoom**

Participants must register to attend. Please register by **4pm, Friday 26 March, (3pm Queensland time)** using the form which is found at: <https://nce.catholic.org.au/catholicwomen>

In the invitation to the online consultation, one of the organisers explains its purpose.

‘Clara Geoghegan, the executive secretary of the Bishops Commission and one of the organisers of the consultation, said women she had spoken with were supportive of the idea of a national conversation.

“Our Church has become increasingly comfortable with the notion of listening and dialogue, in part because of the Plenary Council’s invitation to engage in that way,” she said.

“Women are looking forward to the opportunity to speak with the two bishops and with one another and, as invited by the great document *Gaudium et Spes*, to share their joys and their hopes, their griefs and their anxieties, for the Church in Australia.”

From this consultation will come the agenda for a national Catholic Women’s event this year – **CATHOLIC WOMEN GATHER - 11 SEPTEMBER 2021**

The flyer tells us that”

*“The March consultation will inform the development and agenda of a national Catholic women’s event in September. Bishop Morrissey said the Catholic Women’s Gathering will follow a format that was developed for the inaugural Catholic Men’s Gathering held last year.*

*“Indeed, the idea for the Catholic Men’s Gathering came off the back of the successful Catholic Women’s Colloquium, which was established many years ago,” he said.*

*Moving from an in-person event to an online event creates opportunities for greater participation because the challenges of cost and travel were eliminated or reduced. The format of pre-recorded video presentations that are played at hubs across the country, supplemented with local prayer and reflection, will be used for the Women’s Gathering. Further information will be provided in coming months.”*

### THIS WEEK IN SOLIDARITY

This Tuesday morning at 9am, we celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing at Tuesday Mass. We pray for all who seek healing.

During this week will be the *Masses of Thanksgiving* for the lives of Brian and of Peter. *Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord. And may perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

This week includes the *Convocation of Clergy* in the Archdiocese. We pray for them.

During this week is the *Mass of the Oils* in Stephen’s Cathedral. We pray for all over the coming 12 months who will receive the sacred oils.

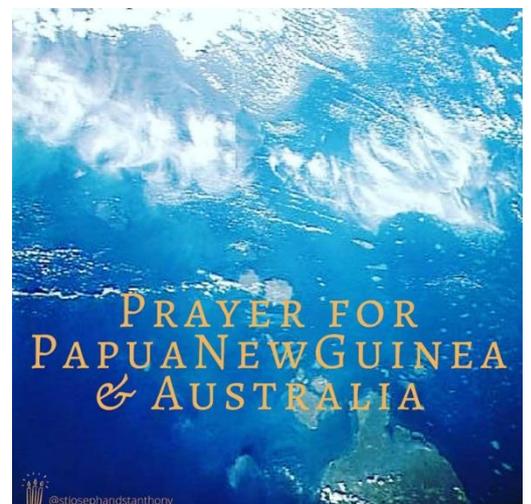
This week we are not alone as a single grain, but we grow as a family of faith. This week we are invited to work together in solidarity, seeking a common voice for justice and participation.

This coming Saturday will be the *Consultation of Catholic Women in Australia*. On *Palm Sunday* will be the march of solidarity for the plight of refugees in Australia.

During the prayers of the faithful today, we pray for our close neighbours in Papua New Guinea. They face daunting COVID-19 Pandemic challenges. The prayer is on our parish website [Prayer page](#) Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032121-YearB.cfm>



[click on image for printable version](#)

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