

FIRST READING

*A reading from the second book of Kings
4:8-11, 14-16*

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.' One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her? He asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband in old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Forever I will sing the goodness of the
Lord.*

SECOND READING

**A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the
Romans 6:3-4, 8-11**

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus..

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy people.
Praise God who called you out of darkness
and into his marvellous light.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 10:37-42**

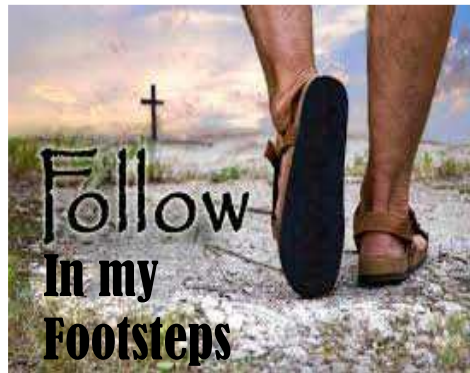
Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

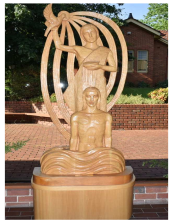
'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

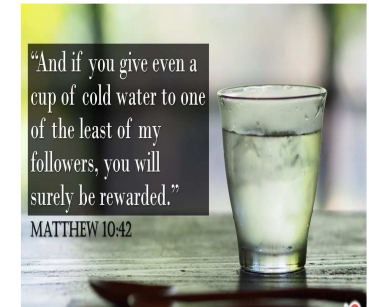


**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Knox Deanery
19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156
Phone: 9758 1029 Fax: 9758 9234
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au**



**13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
27th / 28th June, 2020**

*God our Father
Through your Son, Jesus,
You reached out to people in
every kind of need.
Use us in the same way,
So that by our words and actions,
Others may feel the
Power of your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Today we are faced with the cost of discipleship, but we are also comforted by the promise of the providence of God. Baptism is for us both death and life. Through it we enter into Christ's death and we die to lives of selfishness and sin. Through it we rise with Christ to a new life freed from everything that previously held us down. As glorious as this new life might be, it requires death to our old ways of living, and this is always difficult. The cost of discipleship cuts right to the core of our beings, it lays bare the very structures of kinship. Baptism recreates us as children of God; through it we are given a new life and born into a new family. The bonds of discipleship are now even stronger than the bonds of blood. Discipleship requires our very lives. As disciples we can no longer put ourselves first. We must be willing to spend ourselves and to be spent, to serve others in the day to day unfolding of life. We may find such commitment very demanding, but that is part of the cost of discipleship. God promises that if we lose our lives in this way, we will really gain them. If we are unselfish in the way we share ourselves with others, we will be enriched through our generosity. If we spend ourselves and are spent in our service of others we will be filled with blessings unimaginable. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Dianne Bergant CSA was a Professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

*Mon 29th June: Sts Peter & Paul
Sat 4th July: St Elizabeth of Portugal*

Fri 3rd July: St Thomas

***I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)***

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
 Email: Thomas.Kuruvila@cam.org.au
 thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

DEACON:

Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
 Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
 Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE:

9758 1029
 Monday 9.45am – 3.45pm
 Tuesday to Friday 9.00am -3.00pm
 Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne
 & Maree Wilson
 Accountant: Sara Luk
 Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

SCHOOLS:

St John the Baptist 9758 1013
 Principal: Catherine Mason

St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
 Principal: Catherine Livingston

Mater Christi College 9754 6611
 Principal: Mary Fitz-Gerald

MASS TIMES: LIMITED NUMBERS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
 Tuesday 7.00 pm
 Wednesday & Thursday 9.15 am
 Friday 11.00 am

RECONCILIATION: People who identify within themselves the need for Confession should contact Fr Thomas directly 9758 1029

BAPTISMS:

Baptisms are to be postponed unless there is an urgent and pastoral need. Contact the Parish Office on: 9758 1029 or via email at: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

WEDDINGS:

By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
27th / 28th June, 2020
Peters' Pence Special Collection

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Tom Clynes

Those who we remember at this time:

Innocenzo Abbatangelo; Anne Daelmans, John Greene; Peter Halliday; Mary Smith; David Waters; Margaret Irving; Lilian Wikkranatillake; Trevor Wishart

The sick: Wilma Neville, Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Barbara Kenny, Anne Jayawardena, Lea Hartley, Cosimo Petracca, Giuseppina Zarro, Catherine Turner, Patricia Quinn, David Merton, Michael Byrne, Mary Edmunds, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Allida Serafin, Clive Geach.



SICK LIST GUIDELINES – names will remain on the sick list for 6 weeks, then removed, unless notification to continue is received. If you are aware that any names on the sick list that need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

KEEP IN TOUCH: We love to be able to keep in contact with you, especially during these unprecedented times of isolation. Please let us know your current email address or/ and phone number. We are happy to email the bulletin to you! Or check it on our new website!

You are dispensed from your Sunday obligation at this time. At present, Mass is available but in limited places

Try participating in a Mass online:

<https://stsimonsparrish.com.au/mass-videos> or
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or
<https://holyfamilydoveton.org.au/>

or **if you don't have a computer:** Mass can also be heard on **The Light FM radio station (89.9 FM) at 7am** each Sunday morning. Or **MASS ON T.V. C31 / 44 shows the 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral** and will continue to be televised free to air. Or Mass for You at Home on Ch10 Sunday at 6am.

CDFPAY FOR PARISHES – ONLINE PAYMENT

CDF PORTAL AVAILABLE NOW: This site enables you to make quick and easy online thanksgiving The Ferntree Gully Parish site is now live and can be found via this link

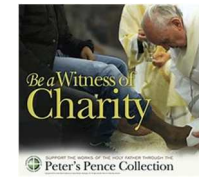
[CDFpay for St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully](https://www.cdfpay.com.au/)
 We thank all of you who have already used this wonderful tool, and hope many more will try it!

LATEST COVID 19 UPDATE With a sudden rise in COVID cases throughout Victoria the Premier has announced changes to the proposed easing of restrictions that we had been expecting. Now, as of 11:59pm Sunday 21st June 2020, numbers in places of worship **will remain at 20 until 12 July 2020** (dependant on trending health concerns and advice). There are further limits to be put in place for gathering in homes and other spaces. We realise this has been a deep disappointment to our community, friends and families, as planning to open our places of worship to higher levels had been welcomed with great joy.

May we keep each other and all those who are meeting first-hand, covered in a prayer of protection, and pray that we may soon be able to gather as a full community once more. To see the Premier's Statement, <https://cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19/>

1000 WAYS TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has encouraged us to get creative with the ways that we reach out to others in our community. At this time of uncertainty and possible social isolation, the people of God in Melbourne and beyond are invited to lead the way in loving and caring for each other and for those vulnerable people in our communities (while social distancing). It's a time when each of the baptised should intentionally commit to this affirmative action during the coronavirus pandemic. Some are calling this the 'Me & You + 2' response. This simply means: take care of yourself and your loved ones, and one other potentially vulnerable person. Everyone--young, old and in-between has this calling and capacity. Fortunately, our digital age provides a raft of ways to reach out and love our neighbour during the threat of Coronavirus. Here are some suggestions: **Make a call; Send a letter; Do the shopping** - Get in touch with elderly or vulnerable people in your community and offer help with their shopping. Ensuring they have adequate provisions in this time is one of the most valuable acts of service you can offer. **Join or set up a volunteer help group; Shop local** - Local business owners are our neighbours too! **Fight the hoarding impulse** - Over-stockpiling leads to a shortage of essential provisions for more vulnerable communities that don't have the means or opportunity. Buy in moderation, so others are also able to meet their needs. These suggestions are aimed at inspiring action. Feel free to expand or adapt it. If you have any more ideas about how to help your local community, please let us know by contacting communications@cam.org.au

**A SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER** will be held this weekend. If you are unable to attend Mass, you can still make an offering via our Parish Website – Should you use the online method, please be sure to include reference to the Holy Father Collection, so that your donation will be allocated correctly. Thank you for your generosity.

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CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE is currently offering a range of fully online units of study in theology, scripture, liturgy and sacraments, history, pastoral and spiritual studies. To view a Virtual Open Tour of Catholic Theological College, located in East Melbourne. Go to our website, Facebook page (@catholictheologicalcollege) and YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q2ituS1rtg>.

This video will introduce you to many features of the College's life and study. Those who are not ready to undertake assessed study can participate as audit students. For more information call (03) 9412 3366.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL WINTER APPEAL, THANKYOU. Many thanks to everyone for your kind donations to our SVDP winter appeal. We are most grateful for your support. You can still be a part of this wonderful work by dropping off food bags or your donation to the Parish Office. You can also donate via the website. Please go to: VINNIES.ORG.AU or PH: 131812

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FOR PEACE OF SOUL Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing: God alone is changeless. Patience gains all things, Who has God wants nothing. God alone suffices. —St Teresa of Ávila**ROSTERS: Mon 29th June to Sun 5th July**

Flowers	Carole D & Lia U
Linen	Carole D
Welcomers 6pm	Sue N & Anna M
9am	Rosa L, Terry & Laurel
11am	Gina M & Pat O'B
Lectors 6pm:	Rosina L
9am:	Ria P
11am	Help Needed please
Counters	Bryon M & Ruby S
Gardening	Carlos E