

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zechariah 9:9-10

The Lord says this:
'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. I will praise your name forever,
my king and my God.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:9, 11-13

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones
the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:25-30

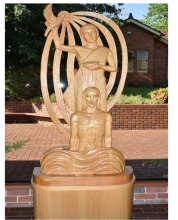
Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

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



14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

4th/ 5th July, 2020

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

*God of all creation,
as we journey together in this
Great Southern Land,
we pray for healing, forgiveness and unity.
Create a path of good will, with
justice and compassion.
Give us strength to walk
together as one.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

An old priest gave me a great piece of advice. 'Never underestimate the burdens people bring with them into the church. Often we have little idea of the difficulties and pain our parishioners will be carrying.' I have no idea what you have brought with you to Mass today. I can only imagine the anxiety and burden some of you are carrying. Whatever it is, Jesus invites you to let go of it, if only for a while, and be at peace. Now all this 'come and rest a while' talk can be very pious and not sound all that in touch with reality. Today's Gospel, however, it came from the community of the Apostle Matthew and was written in Jerusalem about 45 years after Jesus' death. We know that this community experienced intense suffering and heavy burdens. They had been expelled from the Synagogue and were being martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ. No wonder they held so strongly to the words, 'Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest.' And they found consolation in Jesus' example, 'take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart.' Since the first century, however, Christianity has been guilty of trying to spiritually wallpaper over some tough realities rather than preaching that God is our companion in facing up to whatever our reality is and dealing with it. Our faith is not about praying away our problems or fears and wishing it were otherwise. Our faith means we have experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ so that we never carry our burdens alone. God is our companion and guide and every Christian community, is called to be the sort of place where we carry each other's burdens and rest with each other awhile. I don't underestimate the burdens some of you have walked into this church with today. Whatever burden you may have brought with you, may you know a moment's rest, the companionship of fellow travellers and the gift of Christ's peace. © Richard Leonard SJ

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK Mon 6th July: St Maria Goretti Thurs 9th July: St Augustine Zhao Rong
Sat 11th July: St Benedict

*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.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
4th / 5th July 2020
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

**Those who we remember at this time:**

David Waters, Margaret Hudson, Caterina Fratino, Antonio Pallotta, Carmine Porcaro, Paul Nelson.

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://stsimonparish.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.

THANKSGIVING PAYMENTS ON-LINE: Can't make it to church because of the Covid 10 restrictions? The **CDFPAY FOR PARISHES** – ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL is 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!



BAPTISM – We offer our congratulations to **Tyson Bonica** son of Adrian & Vanessa, who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL WINTER APPEAL THANK YOU:

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Ferntree Gully Conference wishes to thank all parishioners for their tremendous support in assisting to provide for the disadvantaged in our area. The non-perishable items are distributed to very grateful families. Our Appeal continues to raise the awareness of our varied work and we, Fr Thomas and each one of you who supports our unique charity in so many ways. The amount contributed by the Winter Appeal was **\$684.14** and cash donations since Lockdown raised **\$3904.14**. The cash will be used to purchase bread, milk, margarine, biscuits and cheese. Please remember that a basket is always available at the doors of church for any ongoing non-perishable food donations. The piety store is available at weekend masses for all religious purchases. Monies from the sale of items at the piety store further supports the work of St Vincent De Paul. We are always delighted to welcome more volunteers to continue this vital work in supporting our neighbour.

Our **new Vinnies Op Shop** will be opening on 15th July and is located at Unit 7/ 1821 Ferntree Gully Road

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). 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 view and read more of the Premier's Statement, go to: <https://cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19/>

BE KIND TO YOUR MIND Tips to keep mentally healthy during COVID-19

1. PAUSE. Breathe. Reflect
2. KEEP to a healthy routine
3. CONNECT with others
4. BE KIND to yourself and others
5. REACH OUT for help if you need it

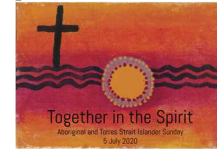


CONGRATULATIONS to MONSIGNOR GREG BENNET on being APPOINTED THE 10TH BISHOP OF SALE:



Pope Francis has appointed Monsignor Greg Bennet, a priest of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, as the next Bishop of Sale. Mons Bennet will oversee the Catholic diocese that stretches from Melbourne's outer eastern suburbs, through Gippsland and to the NSW border. The 57-year-old Bishop-elect, who served as Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Melbourne from 2012 to 2019, noted that many in Sale had suffered as a result of recent bushfires. "The diocese has responded with great care, compassion and charity to those who lived through such a traumatic experience and began to reorient their lives. These efforts have my full support," he said. In preparing to take on the new ministry Bishop-Elect Bennet said he promised to commit himself to Sale and to make his home amongst God's people. You can read more at: www.cdsale.org.au/news/diocese-of-sale-welcomes-the-appointment-of-bishop-elect-greg-bennet

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY 5th July. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced NATSICC to rethink the ways in



how they empower Catholics to celebrate this special day. This year, they have modified Sunday resources to work in a digital setting. There will be the first-ever live-streamed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday Mass from the St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Adelaide from 11.30am EST. The livestream will be available from the NATSICC homepage. Everyone around Australia - and the World are invited - to join us on 5 July 2020, as we come 'Together in the Spirit' to celebrate the gifts of spirituality and culture.

ROSTERS: Mon 6th July to Sun 12th July

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| Flowers | Sue N |
| Linen | Laurel S |
| Welcomers 6pm | Myra N & Lia U |
| 9am | Peter C, Neil & Lorraine |
| 11am | Help needed |
| Lectors 6pm: | Stephanie H |
| 9am: | Gordon V |
| 11am | Help needed |
| Counters | Help needed & Ruby S |
| Gardening | Carlos E |