

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

55:1-3

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;

listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting Covenant out of the favours promised to David.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/...The hand of the Lord feeds us:

He answers all our needs.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

8:35. 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes
from the mouth of God.*

Alleluia!

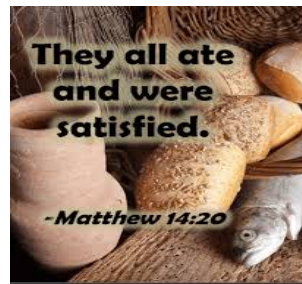
GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

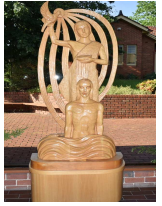
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18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

1st /2nd August, 2020

*Bountiful and compassionate Father,
You place in our hands the food of life.*

*Nourish us at Your holy table,
that we may re-present Christ to others*

and share with them

the gifts we have so richly received.

We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

I once heard a scholar, interviewed on a TV special about Jesus, refer to the feeding of the five thousand with the phrase "dinner and a show." His point was, I think, to characterize Jesus' ministry as "meeting folks where they are." And that is surely part of the meaning of this episode. Responding in heartfelt compassion to the people's needs, Jesus healed them and fed them. But there are other dimensions to the account as well. Characterizing the Galilean seaside as a "desert" place surely evokes the memory of Israel in the wilderness and Jesus as a new Moses mediating manna for the wanderers invited into a new Exodus. The similarity to the account in 2 Kings 4:24-44 about Elisha feeding one hundred with twenty loaves reminds us that a prophet greater than Elisha is here. And no one misses the parallel between Jesus' gestures here—taking, blessing, and breaking the loaves and giving them to his disciples—and his actions at the Last Supper. What catches my attention this time is the role of the disciples. Told to feed the people, they think only of their own meager resources.

When they heed Jesus' command, "Bring them to me," the people are abundantly fed. That reminds us disciples, ordained and non-ordained alike, that our part in the mission does not depend on our own poor resources but on bringing others to the feeder and healer himself, Jesus.

Dennis Hamm, SJ

Fr. Hamm is emeritus professor of the New Testament at Creighton University in Omaha.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK Mon 3rd Aug: St Dominic

Anniversary of the death of Cardinal Clancy 2014

Tues 4th Aug: St John Vianney

Wed 5th Aug: Dedication of Basilica of St Mary Major

Thurs 6th Aug: The Transfiguration of the Lord

Fri 7th Aug: St Sixtus, St Cajetan

Sat 8th Aug: St Mary (MacKillop) of the Cross- National Patronal Feast - 10th Anniversary of canonisation.

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

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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 POSTPONED 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.

**18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
1st / 2nd August, 2020**

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Fr Thomas Keegan, (Diocese Toowoomba)

Those who we remember at this time:

Johanna Roelofs, Maria Teofilo, Eleana Russo, Nora Ryan, Francis Cassar.

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.



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!



NEXT WEEKEND there will be a special collection for CatholicCare, Who, in these challenging times, have been offering **FREE COUNSELLING:** Whether you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed, anxious or sad, talking to a counsellor can help. For more information about the Services CatholicCare offer, contact: PH:9287 5555

You are dispensed from your Sunday obligation at this time. At present, Mass is not available but -

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 19 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** We thank all of you who have already used this wonderful tool, and hope many more will try it!

LAUGH FOR THE WEEK: If you are looking for a bit of humour, click on the Youtube link below and check out the [Dancing Priest Does Hamilton | CHURCH PARODY | "You'll Be Back"](#)

A MESSAGE FROM CAROLYN: It has been truly wonderful to see all the ways that our community has been looking out for each other. Thank-you to everyone for this. However there may be some people who are not being reached. If you know of anyone who is in need of a phone call from one of our parish team or even a meal or help in any way please let us know at the parish office and we will gladly be in touch with them. wishing you all good health, cheers & Blessings, Carolyn



SEEKING KNITTERS & CROCHETERS Yarn is now available at Parish Office to be made into scarves, knee rugs, wraps or beanies to be donated to those in need. Finished items are to be returned to the Parish Office for distribution. This work is often done at the Friendship Group meeting, but due to Covid-19, there cannot be a gathering at present, and with the current lockdown, perhaps some of you reading this may have some extra time available, and would like to knit? The idea is to pray over the item as you create it, so that the prayers are woven into the stitches. You may choose to craft your item using a pattern of your choice, or use the pattern available at the Parish office. Thanking you in anticipation of your generous help. The Friendship Gathering, St John the Baptist



COMBINED PARISH RAFFLE TICKETS all unreturned books sold/unsold must be returned to the parish by Friday 7th August please. The Raffle will be drawn on 26th September, at 7.15pm.

MARY MACKILLOP FEAST DAY. The 10 year anniversary of Mary's canonisation will be celebrated on **August 8th, 2020.** 'Mary MacKillop Today', supports thousands of people in Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and here in Australia, bringing hope to communities for generations to come. Please pray for 'Mary MacKillop Today', especially during the challenging times we all face so that we can continue to transform lives through vital works carrying on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop. If you would like to learn **more** about **Mary MacKillop Today**, contact us on **02 8912 2777** or visit **marymackilloptoday.org.au/donate**



TREASURING OUR LATER YEARS (via Zoom until face-to-face permitted) (Nicole Rotaru rsm - Sister of Mercy, Educator, Social Worker and Creative Arts Therapist with a deep interest in spirituality).

6 x Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm, 4 Aug - 8 Sept 2020.
Cost: \$115 for the Series, or \$20 per session
Our ageing offers us opportunities to be awake to the new possibilities offered daily. Because of the Coronavirus, we have all had to make many adjustments in our lives. Our experience of ageing may be presenting us with both challenges and opportunities we did not expect. Our time together will include reflections on the following themes, which take on particular relevance and meaning in our ageing years:
•Ageing! Decline and ascent; both loss and gain...
•Spirituality... deepest dimension of our life
•What is giving my life meaning?
•At its core, life is about relationships
•Gratitude... thanks for the past, thanks for the present
•My death... as an act of communion into the Mystery
There will be opportunities for conversation within the group and to share thoughts and experiences in chat-rooms. A handout of each theme will be emailed to you prior to the session as a guide. Upon registering for this event, we will send you some tips to help you to gain the most from your time with us on Zoom.
Bookings: For more information, email us at holsc@bigpond.com or call (03) 9890 1101.

30th July – INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FRIENDSHIP:

Grab your phone, jump on your bike, or fire up the Playstation for old time's sake, it's Friendship Day! The day of the year where friends from all over the world show appreciation for one another and remind you why they're your very best bud. Whether you want to send a card, shoot over a text message, create a photo collage on Facebook,, there is a way for everybody to celebrate Friendship Day.



Background:

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

The resolution places emphasis on involving young people, as future leaders, in community activities that include different cultures and promote international understanding and respect for diversity.

To mark the International Day of Friendship the UN encourages governments, international organizations and civil society groups to hold events, activities and initiatives that contribute to the efforts of the international community towards promoting a dialogue among civilizations, solidarity, mutual understanding and reconciliation.

The International Day of Friendship is an initiative that follows on the proposal made by UNESCO defining the Culture of Peace as a set of values, attitudes and behaviours that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by addressing their root causes with a view to solving problems. It was then adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1997.

If you would like to read more, go to:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/friendship-day>



International Friendship Day is a time to consider the importance of friends in our lives. Try these 'friendly' activities to understand and celebrate the positive effects of friendships.

1. Make something to share as a gift, like biscuits or chocolate, tied in bundles of cellophane with bright ribbon.
2. Make a friendship band.
3. Create a 'friendship book' for someone special filled with photos, a drawing, poems or a story about your friendship.
4. Read some stories about friends, like Winnie the Pooh!
5. Think about how to be a good friend. How can we make school/home a happier, friendlier place? How do you feel when someone is kind to you? How do you feel when you are kind to someone?
6. Maybe you could write a poem titled 'A friend like you', or write an acrostic poem using the word 'FRIENDS'.
7. Write about what a friend means to you. How do you help each other? What do you do? What makes a friendship special?
8. Read and discuss *You are special* by Max Lucardo.
<https://youtu.be/15QuHygLwFU>
9. .Design a 'Friendship' poster with words like fun, love, trust, honesty etc.
10. Have Fun!!!

Hoping that you all had a Happy International Friendship Day!!

