

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah
22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/...Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans
11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter,
the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
22nd /23rd August, 2020

*God of wisdom,
You have built your Church
on a firm foundation.
May we become living stones,
giving witness to Your Son
Jesus Christ,
We ask this, through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

In this week's gospel Jesus asks the disciples who people say he is. They report that people associate Jesus with one of the great prophets of Jewish tradition. By people identifying Jesus with other great prophets they were projecting Jesus into the same mould as that prophet. What they were saying was that Jesus will be a great leader in the style of John the Baptist, or Elijah or even Jeremiah. The expectation of a messiah was running very high at the time of Jesus and everyone had their own idea about what that messiah would be like – usually aligned with some previous leader. They didn't seem to understand that Jesus was breaking the mould and was not going to fit in with any of those expectations. To see him as one of the great prophets come again is always going to be an inadequate understanding of Jesus as messiah.

When Jesus pushes the disciples for their own ideas, it is Simon Peter who speaks up and identifies Jesus as being the Son of the living God. Making a play on Peter's name (in Greek, petros = Peter and petra = rock), Jesus states that hereafter, Simon Peter will be known as Peter and upon the rock of his profession of faith the church will be built.

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is. - © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 24th Aug: St Bartholomew
Thurs 27th Aug: St Monica

Tues 25th Aug: St Louis & St Joseph Calasanz
Fri 28th Aug: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 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.

**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
22nd / 23rd August, 2020**

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Henri Donker (in Holland) Brother of Mia Jansen.



Those who we remember at this time:

Rosemary Cameron, Yvonne Petrova, Jack Kolmus Graeme Milburn, Rachael Neale, Sebastiana Orlando, Pellegrina Rossi, Ludmila Jancar, Margarete Felicetti, Caterina Mazonne.

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!

YOU ARE DISPENSED FROM YOUR SUNDAY OBLIGATION AT THIS TIME. At present, live Mass is not available but -**TRY PARTICIPATING IN A MASS ONLINE:** <https://stsimonsparish.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!

ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY CATCHUP I would like to invite all parishioners to an informal group chat on ZOOM. You can do this on your phone, ipad, tablet or computer. This will be a great way to connect with others during this lockdown time. At this stage two times will be available: **8pm Tuesday evening, 25th August or 2pm Thursday afternoon, 27th August.** The session will go for about 20 minutes, and will continue fortnightly.

I would love for you to join us. ☺
If you are interested please email me on csombekkesjb@gmail.com and I will tell you how to get connected with us.
- Carolyn Sombekke
(Faith Development Coordinator)



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS, time out for a Suffering World. On the eve of Spring, **Monday 31st August, 2020** at 7pm. **an invitation from the churches of Victoria to be a light in the darkness.** As the last light of the last day of winter fades, stand in your front garden and spend some time in silence, perhaps light a candle to remember all those who have lost their lives to the Coronavirus or to violence. Then, as the first night of spring begins, look to the future with prayer and hope. Let us move from the cold and the dark into warmth and light together.



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR LEBANON in the aftermath of the recent catastrophic explosion in the port of Beirut. ACN has immediately sent \$410,000 AUD in emergency aid to starving Christian families, many of whom are facing real hunger. There is a great deal more still to be done. For example, the Christian quarter of Beirut has been extensively damaged. Tobias Lehner has spoken to Regina Lynch, the Director of Projects for ACN International,  about the situation in Beirut and what further aid the charity is planning. **What news do you hear from the project partners in Beirut?** What is the situation in the city? Beirut is in a state of crisis. **There is hardly any electricity and in some places no means of communication (telephone, Internet etc.). Some 90,000 homes and houses have been destroyed or damaged.** The international aid of AUD \$488 million promised on Sunday falls far short of what is needed to rebuild the district affected by the explosion. The Australian office of the international Catholic Charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*, continues with the emergency appeal to raise funds to support the people of Lebanon. To read more about the appeal, and to make a donation, please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon or call 1800 101 201 during business hours: 8am-5pm, AEST.

IDEAS FOR ISOLATION Keep busy and maintain routine

Feelings of isolation can be exacerbated when we're bored. Because when we're bored, sitting alone and pondering the meaning of life, it is never more blatantly obvious that there is no one around us. Sing, dance, learn a new skill or just take more notice of the things around you. In the early stages of lockdown I formed a new friendship with "Garry" – our resident (harmless) house spider. While he was an unexpected visitor, and despite the initial urge to "get him out of the house NOW", we let him stay. And each day we would follow his adventures, playing 'Where's Wally' to spot his new location on the wall. Such a small and seemingly meaningless interaction resulted in appreciation and acceptance of something I may not have given much thought to otherwise. On a more sane note, maintaining a daily or weekly routine can help to create a sense of normality during such an abnormal time. Routine can also give us a sense of control in our lives, increasing feelings of calm and safety. Setting a regular wake up/sleep time is a good place to start!

Remember that no matter how lonely or isolated you feel, help is always available. Speaking to a counsellor can, in itself, reduce feelings of isolation and increase connectedness. But counsellors can provide coping strategies and other support too. [Learn more about our counselling here.](#)

Beyond Blue have some great resources for coping with isolation too – check them out [here.](#)

From our CatholicCare family to yours, we hope that you are all keeping safe and well during these challenging times.

Liz Gellel | Communications Coordinator

Sources:

- [Research shows that hugs increase happiness, reduce stress levels, increase immunity, and improve mental wellbeing.](#)
- [Keeping loneliness at bay while staying at home.](#)

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You Sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



EMMAUS COLLEGE
Ward 7-12: 503 Springvale Road, Vermont South
Y9&E: 285 Warrigal Road, Burwood
Telephone: 9845 3211

Join us for one of our Virtual
INFORMATION SESSIONS
Monday, 24 August | 6pm, 7pm or 8pm
Limited places available for each session, so book now!
www.emmaus.vic.edu.au

PRAYER of the FAITHFUL

Reader: We pray that this community will build up the Church by its words and deeds.

.In faith we pray:

Reader: We pray that we may be fully aware of the gift of God's Creation and take care of our common home for all people and for future generations

.In faith we pray:

Reader: We pray for Fr Thomas, and all our Parish community, that we will remain thoughtful of one another during this pandemic, and that we will soon be able to reconnect in our church.

Lord, hear our prayer.

ARE YOU A SPIRITUAL LEADER? – The Spiritual Leaders Program is a one-year, part-time program held on Friday mornings (and some Friday afternoons). It is suitable for people in outreach ministries, spiritual formation, and various positions of leadership such as priests and ministers, lay ecclesial ministers, community and spiritual leaders, chaplains, pastoral carers, and those in health and education. The program, which commences in Feb 2021, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Previous participants have commented that this Program has been transformational in terms of their personal spirituality and their leadership skills. Fee-Help may be available. Apply to Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Brochure and application form at www.heartoflife.melbourne or Ph: 9890 1101.




296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, Victoria 3144, Australia
Tel 03 9890 1101 Email info@heartoflifemelbourne
Web www.heartoflife.melbourne

Heart of Life is sponsored by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart



Wealth can force us to build walls. Jesus, instead, invites His disciples to transform goods and riches into relationships, because people are worth more than things, they are more valuable than any riches we possess Pope Francis (@Pontifex)



Trusting God helps us stand strong.

~Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.~
(Isaiah 26:4)



An Information Resource Centre for the Community

COVID 19 RESPONSE

For Knox residents and those that are homeless who are struggling in these challenging times:

We can offer the following Free Services based on assessment:

- Food parcels
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable parcels
- Frozen meat trays
- Snack Packs
- Bread
- Toiletries
- Re-usable Masks
- Information, Referral & Advocacy service**
- Information & referral to Household Relief Loans for Rent & Utilities**
- Telstra Assist & Phone Cards**
- Energy Mentors
- Homeless Tailored Packages
- Shower Program
- Chemist Vouchers
- MYKI Cards**
- Home Delivery Service for those in isolation, with serious health conditions, those outside the 5 km radius of our office and other extenuating circumstances**
- And More.....

Simply give us a call on :
9761 1325

Hours of Service: Monday – Thursday
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Email: info@knoxinf@link.org.au

Location: 136 Boronia Road
Boronia 3155

next to Boronia Progress Hall
easily accessible by public transport

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH THROUGH COVID The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously affected our parish finances. We understand some parishioners are suffering financially too. But many have asked how they can give, now that there is no possibility of using the envelope system or making a contribution to the component of the collection which pays for our priest, Fr Thomas and sick and retired priests. **You can go online and make a donation to the collection** through your own bank account. Or you can make a payment via your **credit/debit card**, using our **CDFPAY** or on our **Donations page** attached to the Parish Website. **Please make sure you include your envelope number & surname in the transaction reference field when contributing to collection.** Please let us know if you would like to split the payment, ie: some to the church, some to the presbytery.

To make a payment for the church, or to the presbytery as a direct debit, pay to:

Account Name:

St John the Baptist Church Account
BSB 083 347 ACCT NO. 67384 1066

(Please contact the Parish office if you don't know your envelope no.) If you are not part of the Stewardship program you can still make a payment as a donation or email the office and join the program. We would love to have you on board!