

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Jeremiah*  
**20:7-9**

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/...My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans*  
**12:1-2**

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*  
*May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

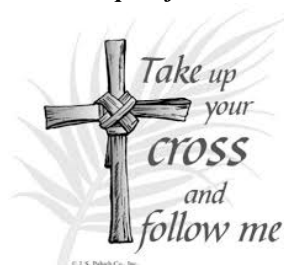
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*  
**16:21-27**

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**Knox Deanery**

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**Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au**



**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**29<sup>th</sup> /30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**

*Transforming God,  
your ways lie open to those  
who model themselves on Christ your Son.  
Hear these prayers and help us  
to follow the path of discipleship  
and self-sacrifice.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



## FOCUS ON THE READINGS

At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel – 'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.

### **Scriptural context. Not quite there...**

This passage immediately follows the passage of last week's gospel which featured Peter's confession of faith – his inspired revelation that 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.' The reader might think, 'Aha, the disciples have finally got it!' But in a very clever piece of writing, the author of Matthew's gospel follows this revelation of faith immediately with an example of the lack of clarity that the disciples, including Peter, still possess. This happens throughout the gospels. Whenever the disciples have a bit of an insight, they are almost immediately shown to only have a partial understanding of the truth. The full revelation of Jesus' mission and ministry is not easy to grasp and even the disciples were not quite there until they had seen the 'full story' played out before and within them.. - © Greg Sunter

## **FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK**

*Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept: St Gregory the Great*

*Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Sept: Spring Ember Day (special day of Prayer and Penance)*

***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.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*



*Those who we remember at this time:*

Robyn Elliott, Lucy Leatham, Chris Smolders, Luigia Colella, Lothar Tepass, Ken Collins, Sabina Parrella, Celeste Lizza; Brian Stackpole, Angelo Rech,

*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 THANK YOU** to all those parishioners who joined our Zoom chats over the past week. It was lovely to hear your stories, listen to a few jokes and be educated on how to cook sweet potato! ☺  
If you missed out on joining us **it is not too late and you are very welcome to Zoom with us again this week.**

You can do this on your mobile 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 this Tuesday evening, **1st september**; or 2pm Thursday afternoon, **3rd September**. The session will go for about 30-40 minutes, and will continue weekly. I would love for you to join us. If you are interested please email me on [csombekkesjb@gmail.com](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.



**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** Next Sunday, 30th AUGUST marks the Australian Catholic Bishops' social justice statement. The theme for 2020-21, **To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today**, Given the challenges our country and world are facing due to COVID-19, the issue of mental health is very much front and centre for many people. The Statement challenges everyone – individuals, schools, parishes, communities, policy-makers, governments – to take an interest in the issue of mental health. More information to follow next week.



**SHHH, CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET??? FATHERS DAY – 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020. Top Things to Do:**

Make your father, grandfather, uncle or important father, a card, a small gift, or bake some biscuits he would enjoy. Common gifts on Father's Day are usually ties, socks, mugs, hats and golfing items.



Try to learn the word for father in several other languages. In French the word is "père", in German "vater", in Spanish and Italian "padre" and in Russian "otets".

Spread awareness for the day by posting a picture of yourself with your father, husband, grandfather or important male in your life and use hashtags



such as #daddy, #papa, #fathersday and #thegreatestfather. Now is the time to get prepared...Have fun!

**SPORT NEWS .....**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BEN CAVARRA**, a former student of St John the Baptist and son to our wonderful Ange Cavarra and her husband Sam. Ben debuted for the Bulldogs earlier in the season. After his debut game the AFL was shut down due to our escalating numbers in Victoria of COVID-19. Ben then had an injury which further sidelined him once the season resumed. In true Ben style he put his head down, trained hard and showed incredible determination and self-belief that he would be selected to play. Ben has played the last two games for the Bulldogs. He has scored goals in every AFL game he has played, placed great forward pressure on the opposition and displayed great sportsmanship and teamwork. Ben is a great example to our community of what it really means to pursue your passion with persistence and grit and to continue to believe in yourself.



## 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!

## Make a tie for your Dad !

