

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 27:30- 28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord

 ***FORGIVE 70 x 7***



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



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

12th /13th September, 2020

***God Most High,
You sent your son Jesus
to challenge our ways
and drive anger from our hearts.
Hear the prayers of Your people
and help us to forgive others
as You have forgiven us.
We ask through Christ our Lord, Amen.***



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Throughout the gospels, Peter is a fantastic example of the common person. He has insights of faith at times but usually messes it up with his next breath. His question in this week's gospel is one that any one of us might ask. I try to do what's right, but how long do I have to hang in there? There has to be a limit to patience with someone who keeps upsetting me, surely? Jesus shows us that if we operate from a motivation of compassion and a desire to constantly build relationships that are life-giving for both parties, then there is no end to the number of times that we try to re-build that relationship. Peter asks, 'How many times should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Peter probably thought that he was being pretty generous. The religious law of his time required people to forgive three times, so by suggesting seven times, Peter would have thought that he was really going the extra mile. To forgive someone seven times is a pretty big call. But the number seven has great significance in scripture; it is regarded as a number of perfection. Peter is suggesting that there is an ideal number of times that one should forgive. Jesus blows this out of the water by saying, take that perfect number of times and multiply it by seventy. There is no perfect number of times to forgive- © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 14th Sept: *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross* Tues 15th Sept: *Our Lady of Sorrows*
Wed 16th Sept: *Sts Cornelius and Cyprian* Thurs 17th Sept: *St Robert Bellarmine*
Sat 19th Sept: *St Januarius*

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

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Fr Thomas Kuruwila 9758 1029
Email: Thomas.Kuruwila@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.

**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
12th /13th September, 2020**

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Valentina Parente, Carmine Mazzone. Maureen Addicott, Rosa Lotrionte, Theresa Johnson, Peter Atkinson, Patricia Gallus, Alfea Cursaro, Francis Power.

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 being 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://melbourneatholic.org.au/Mass> or <https://hollyfamilydoveton.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.

THE PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION ANNUAL FATHERS DAY APPEAL THANK YOU. for all those who remembered our sick and retired priests. Your generosity is much appreciated. It's not too late, if you would still like to donate. Please contact PH 03 9926 2472 or PO Box 615, East Melbourne Victoria 8002 or go to <https://www.cam1.org.au/foundation/>



ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY CATCHUP Let's Zoom again



It has been wonderful to see some of our parishioner's smiling faces on Zoom over the past two weeks and hear your stories and jokes. If you missed out on joining us it is not too late and you are very welcome to Zoom with us again on Monday evening 14th September 8pm & Wednesday afternoon 16th Sept 2pm. I have changed the days to enable more people to join. 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. 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)

SVDP NEWS On behalf of St Vincent de Paul Conference we would like to thank two generous organisations in FTG who have brightened the day for a few people during these tough times.

1. Ray White Real Estate Ferntree Gully offered \$500 each to disadvantaged and needy people. We asked three families to fill in forms, two of which received \$500 each.
2. Foothills Community Care has a Fathers' Day Drive and we submitted names of 5 fathers who are struggling. Each man will receive an upscale packaged meal as well as a luxury pamper pack for men.
3. Thanks once again to you -- the parishioners - who have made donations to SVDP so support the disadvantaged in the Gully. Again, sincere thanks to these organisations for their thoughtfulness and kindness.

SVDP CONFERENCE – FTG

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? Carolyn is starting some informal information sessions in October. These will be a mixture of phone calls and Zoom chats until Covid restrictions are eased. If you are interested please let her know by email csombekkesjb@gmail.com



WONDER FULL WORLD Wishing you could get away from our Covid lockdown and go on a mini-vacation? We've got your ticket!



Wonder Full World is an unforgettable travel-themed retreat we are doing in our parish in October. Keep an eye out for more details coming soon, or Contact Carolyn on csombekkesjb@gmail.com

COLUMBAN CALENDARS Dear Parishioners the Piety store has stock of 2021 Columban Calendars for sale at **\$8.00 each**. If you require one kindly please call Connie on: 9753 5000. A copy can be organised to be sent out.

CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.

Find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday and www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Conscious that the life and death of each person is precious in the eyes of the Lord, let us place our prayers before God who is kind and merciful, and rich in compassion.

For those whose lives have been traumatised through abuse: that they may find the courage to share their story and to find lasting peace and healing. Lord hear us.

For children in our parishes: that we may all work collaboratively to ensure the happiness and confidence of every child, and foster an environment of safety and protection where children flourish. Lord hear us.

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!

COMBINED PARISH RAFFLE TICKETS

The revised Draw Date: 26 Sept 2020 at 7.15 pm
Publication of Winners Date: 30th Sept 2020.



Dear Friends

In Child Protection Week, our whole nation is invited to 'put children first'. In fact, that is the theme in 2020, which marks thirty years of Child Protection Week in Australia.

Although the Pandemic has changed the way we are all living and working, it doesn't change what is most important. For Christians, the Lord Jesus shows us that at all times, the most vulnerable among us are those requiring our greatest care. In particular, the safety and the protection of children is one of our most important priorities.

The Professional Standards Office of our Archdiocese along with our Mission Team have developed some resources to be of help for all in our communities. These are designed to support children and young people's right to be safe and feel safe.

My heart breaks for those who were not cared for and protected in the past. When a child is neglected or abused, the pain and suffering endures throughout their whole life. I am sad and angered that the Church has not always been a place that has put children first. We continue to address the horror of abuse, to walk with those in need, and to build a culture of safety and protection for our most vulnerable. Personally, I will continue to meet with survivors of abuse; listening to them, hearing them and trusting them, and helping our Church be continually converted.

Please pray with me that we would put children first always, and protect their safety.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne



View a message from the Archbishop by clicking on this link.

https://youtu.be/nbLd_-m4ORc



Thursday 10th Sept was **R U OK? Day**, and is a good reminder that every day is a day to start a conversation that could change a life. During this time we know it has been hard for our Parish and Parishioners, as we are doing many things differently, let's make time today to reach out to one another; get in touch and start a conversation. This year's theme for R U OK day is that there is more to say after R U OK? More information can be found at www.ruok.org.au

Join us for one of our *Virtual*
INFORMATION
SESSIONS

14 Sept & 5 Oct | 6pm, 7pm or 8pm
Limited places available for each session, so book now! www.emmaus.vic.edu.au

