

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will
take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord
who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ The Lord is near to all who call him.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul
to the Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Christ will be glorified in my body,
whether by my life or by my death. Life
to me, of course, is Christ, but then death
would bring me something more; but then
again, if living in this body means doing
work which is having good results – I do
not know what I should choose. I am
caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone
and be with Christ, which would be very
much the better, but for me to stay alive in
this body is a more urgent need for your
sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives
that would be unworthy of the gospel of
Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of
heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak
to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an
agreement with the workers for one denarius a
day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at
about the third hour he saw others standing idle
in the market place and said to them, ‘You go to
my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.’
So they went. At about the sixth hour and again
at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the
same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went
out and found more men standing round, and he
said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here
idle all day?’ ‘Because no one has hired us’ they
answered. He said to them, ‘You go into my
vineyard too.’ In the evening, the owner of the
vineyard said to his bailiff, ‘Call the workers and
pay them their wages, starting with the last
arrivals and ending with the first.’ So those who
were hired at about the eleventh hour came
forward and received one denarius each. When
the first came, they expected to get more, but
they too received one denarius each. They took
it, but grumbled at the landowner. ‘The men
who came last’ they said ‘have done only one
hour, and you have treated them the same as us,
though we have done a heavy day’s work in all
the heat.’ He answered one of them and said,
‘My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we
not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings
and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much
as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like
with my own? Why be envious because I am
generous?’ Thus the last will be first, and the
first, last.’

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
19th /20th September, 2020

Holy Father,
How generous is Your love for us.
Hear the prayer of Your people
and help us to work unceasingly
in the vineyard for the coming
of Your kingdom.
We make this prayer through
Christ our Lord. Amen



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The complaining workers in today’s Gospel assumed they were near the top of some unspoken hierarchy. They thought they deserved more than some of their co-workers. If we think of the earth as God’s great vineyard, we can see obvious parallels today. Nations can think they deserve more than their less developed neighbours; perhaps because their economies have been industrialised longer. People can assume they are right to own multiple properties while others remain homeless; perhaps because they inherited or worked hard for them. But we Christians are called to work in the vineyard for its good, and for the good of all, not merely ourselves. ‘The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and vice versa’, declared Pope Benedict XVI in the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, reminding us that justice for others and good stewardship of our world are intimately connected. During this Season of Creation, we might ask ourselves: How can we tend the vineyard into which God has sent us? Do we attend to the needs of our fellow workers, especially refugees and immigrants who have only recently arrived? © Nick Brodie

Nick Brodie is an Australian historian and writer. He is an alumnus of the Australian National University, Flinders University, and the University of Tasmania.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 21st Sept: St Matthew Wed 23rd Sept St Pius of Pietrelcina
Sat 26th Sept Sts Cosmas & Damian

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
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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.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
19th /20th September, 2020
SOCIAL SERVICES OBSERVANCE

PRAYING FOR...*All who have died recently:**Those who we remember at this time:*

Genowefa Haeyen, George Mah, Girolama Angelo Crivellaro, Pasquale Lotrionte, Maria Scardillo, Billy Kelly, James Foster.

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://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.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEBODY WHO DOESN'T RECEIVE THE CHURCH BULLETIN? or who cannot access it electronically? Please let us know by emailing or ringing the Parish Office.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN AN ON-LINE ROSARY? Please let us know in the Parish Office, if you would like to join others from the Parish in an On-line Rosary.

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY On 20th September 2020, we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 45 member organisations, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the 2020/21 **Social Justice Statement** brought out recently by the Australian Catholic bishops, To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today, **and so draw your attention to a recent event hosted by CSSV, Counselling and Therapeutic Support in a Time of COVID**, which provided an opportunity to become more familiar with mental health services, and how to practically reach out for or point to assistance. Parishioners will find the resources in this article helpful. GO TO <http://www.css.org.au/Article-View/Article/23691/Social-Services-Sunday-20th-September-a-time-to-reflect-and-give-thanks#.X2L9lvkza01>

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

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

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.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, SEPTEMBER 21st, 2020 Theme: Shaping Peace Together. Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21st September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. COVID-19 has thrown our world into turmoil and forcibly reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet can impact people everywhere. Celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic. Stand together with the UN against attempts to use the virus to promote discrimination or hatred. Join us so that we can shape peace together. For more information go to: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH THROUGH COVID A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support us via a regular donation. Your help is greatly appreciated. **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 include identifying information or your Stewardship number & please let us know if you would like to split the payment, ie: some to the church, some to the presbytery.

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





16 September 2020

To the People and Clergy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne

Dear friends in Christ, As we now welcome the beginnings of easing in COVID-19 Restrictions in Victoria, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you, the Clergy and people of our Archdiocese. It is great news that regional Victoria will, from tonight, move into the Third Step of the Roadmap to reopening, which includes our parishes located outside the metropolitan zone. However, we have a long way to go. The deprivation in sacramental life has been a profound loss for our people. As well as all the other sufferings of the Pandemic, the sense of estrangement from the Eucharist has been a particular struggle for Catholics. The Mass is our primary means of gathering together in faith; it is the source and summit of our Christian life, and its life-giving nourishment and healing is dearly missed. In the midst of this loss, I am grateful to our Priests and Deacons for continuing to serve the faithful, for sharing a sacramental ministry even under strict conditions, and for being alongside our people and their loved ones in times of death and grief. Thank you for your faithfulness. All of us are anxious to open church doors, but I want to emphasise our need to be creative in the ways we do so, especially with the thousands of children who have been waiting for Sacraments of Initiation. Countless Catholic families are awaiting Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation for their children. Adults, too, have longed to be received into the life of the Church. We shall be exploring possibilities such as outdoor liturgies in parish and school settings to facilitate these crucial events of grace and welcome. Throughout the pandemic, I have been advocating directly with the Government, reminding authorities continually of our respectful compliance with each stage of restrictions, and seeking a fair consideration in what is permitted. The Catholic community throughout the pandemic has been constructive and positive.

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We have, and continue to act in a mature way, caring for the safety and vulnerability of Victorians facing great risk. Thankfully the signs of driving down COVID numbers are looking good at this moment and Catholics join other people of faith in giving thanks for this outcome and working to ensure the steps ahead do not take us backward. Now, it is essential that the Government does not treat faith communities as an afterthought to the opening up of other sectors. Our churches are locations for communities of care and essential service, and must be treated fairly and reasonably. Practically speaking, I have been in discussion with the Premier to thank him for overturning the restriction on spiritual ministry to the sick and the dying, and have assured him that the Catholic Church is able to manage restrictions (including good hygiene, face coverings, social distancing and density requirements). If pubs and restaurants can open, then places of worship should be open under similar conditions and numbers. If case numbers track well, I expect we will see larger outdoor gatherings in regional Victoria become possible over the next few weeks, and proportionate opportunities for gathering in metropolitan Melbourne. I am hopeful that this may occur sometime in October, which would be a deeply welcomed improvement on the current Roadmap indications. If we can open our churches, even for outdoor gatherings, then we should open them. The Deputy Premier and the Multicultural Affairs Minister are conducting discussions this month through the Multifaith Leaders Forum. The Archdiocese will be contributing to these meetings. In addition I will continue to engage with the Premier and Ministers directly on the Church's need for opening doors, carefully and safely. Be assured of my ongoing closeness in prayer and concern. I have heard your cry, and I am working to bring your voice to the authorities. The Lord has promised he will be with us always; let us place our hope in Him.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne

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