

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘You object, “What the Lord does is unjust.” Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ Remember your mercies, O Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people’s interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a

slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, “My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not go,” but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, “Certainly, sir,” but did not go. Which of the two did the father’s will?’ ‘The first’ they said. Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.’

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

26th /27th September, 2020

*O God, keeper of the vineyard,
You have promised salvation
to those who turn back to you.
Hear our prayers
and help us to live not by our words
but by our deeds.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Today’s Gospel comes towards the end of Jesus’ ministry. He has just entered Jerusalem, been welcomed joyously by the Jewish crowds and driven out the traders in the Temple. (21:1-17) The chief priests and scribes challenge Jesus’ authority to act as in this way: ‘By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority?’ (21:23) Jesus turns their question back onto them when he asks them about John’s baptism. What was John’s authority? The chief priests avoid an answer by claiming ignorance and then Jesus tells them the parable we read today of the two sons. Jesus’ question to his opponents places the focus on how people act, on what they *do* and not on what they say. ‘Which of the two *did* the father’s will?’ Being a true religious person is a matter of what we do, and not what we say. Jesus criticised the religious leaders of his time for their behaviour. They did not undergo the repentance John called for, while the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Jesus reverses the standard for being a truly religious person. It is not a matter of status or position but deeds. As my former school motto states, ‘*Facta non verba* – Deeds not words’. According to Matthew’s view, the final judgment will not be asking about what we know, or the status we hold, but will raise the following questions: Did you visit the sick? Did you clothe the naked? Did you feed the hungry? Did you welcome the stranger? Our Christianity is judged on these very practical acts of concern for others. If our faith does not lead us to action then we find ourselves in the position of the second son, who sounds good but his words are hollow.

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FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 28th Sept: St Wenceslaus, St Lawrence Ruiz & Companions

Tues 29th Sept: Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael *Wed 30th Sept: St Jerome*

Thurs 1st Oct: St Therese of the Child Jesus *Fri 2nd Oct: The Holy Guardian Angels*

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.

**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
26th /27th September, 2020
NATIONAL DAY FOR MIGRANTS AND
REFUGEES OBSERVANCE**

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Leonilda Parrella, Concetta Rodolico, Raymond Marshall, James McDonald.

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://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.

REMEMBERING, WORKING AND PRAYING FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES On this 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we remember, pray for, and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many in 'our own backyard'. We acknowledge and give thanks for the many parish communities across the state, along with those working within our Catholic social services and other organisations and community groups, who are making considerable efforts to assist people seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas—many remain in harsh circumstances in detention centres, and the majority of the 115,000 living in the Australian community have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID-19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair. In his message for World Day for Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis tells us, "You have to know in order to understand" and "It is necessary to be close, in order to serve". Only when different elements of the community work together — individuals, parishes, schools, universities and organisations — can we effectively advocate for systemic change and provide for people's immediate necessities and other spiritual and social needs. We encourage you to read more [here](#).

LAST CHANCE TO JOIN OUR ONLINE RETREAT! During the month of October our Faith Development Coordinator, Carolyn will be running an online travel themed retreat. It will be a chance to travel the world from the comfort of your own home via Zoom. We will explore the wonders of the world and the wonders of our hearts. See the attached brochure for your personal invitation with more details or email Carolyn csombekke@gmail.com
Registrations close Tuesday 29th Sept.




DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 2020 in Victoria will begin at 2:00 am **next weekend, on Sunday 4th October.** Don't forget to change your clocks.



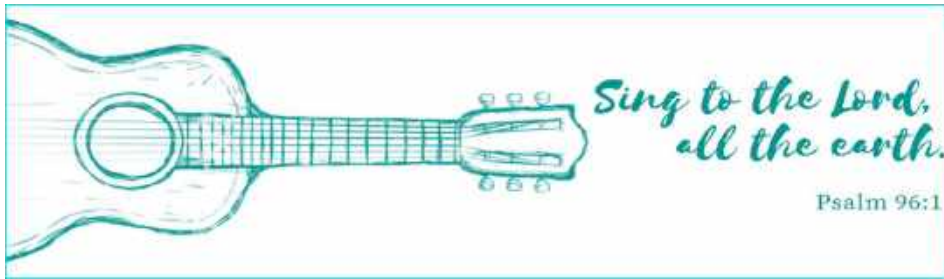
PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN OUR PARISH SURVEY Fr Thomas and our Parish Pastoral Group are busy planning exciting events for next year but we would love to have your ideas about what you would like to see in our parish. On Monday we will be emailing everyone on our parish database inviting you to participate in a short two question survey which you can answer online. Or you can click this link and it will take you to the survey for you to complete now. Please respond prior to 12th Oct. <https://us4.list-manage.com/survey?u=23a9b806586ccc13bdf472709&id=f69bc78708>
Thankyou for your support and interest in our parish.

COMBINED PARISH RAFFLE 2020 WILL BE DRAWN THIS SATURDAY, 26th September 2020 at 7.15 pm and results will be published in the Herald Sun and Geelong Advertiser on Wednesday, 30 September 2020. winners will be notified by telephone. All participating parishes will be notified of winners by email. Results will also be on the internet at www.stsimonsparish.com.au and www.geelongdeanary.cam.org.au.

PARISH ZOOM CHAT Tuesday 8pm this week. Would you like to join our casual  parish Zoom chat this week on **Tuesday 29th September at 8pm?** Your chance to catch up with others in the parish from the comfort of your own home via Zoom. email Carolyn csombekkesjb@gmail.com and she will send you a unique link for this parish catchup.

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 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.



Dear St John's Parishioners,

Missing Mass? Looking forward to Eucharist and singing those wonderful songs again?

Now's our chance, we can at least SING! **This Saturday night!**

The St John's Saturday night choir would like to invite you to a warm night of song, music and spirit.

Praise the Lord's name in a special one off night, singalong and share in the great songs we all love, and look ahead to when we can gather again for Eucharist and Community !

Songs to be led by the St John's Saturday night choir including Johanna, Kevin and Damian.

Just hit the link below to join a ZOOM meeting. Details below!

St. John's Choir Sing-Along

This Saturday Night!

26th September

Online : 6-7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95029872914?pwd=T0VYSjl5WkRBSTNKWVFGRjF3TC9Tdz09>

Meeting ID: 950 2987 2914

Passcode: Music



FEAST OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL - 27TH SEPT. "A Feast Day in the Catholic Church is primarily celebrated on the anniversary of a saint's death which, for St Vincent, was the 27th September 1660. This is an important annual celebration in the liturgical year and a chance for all our volunteers and employees to reflect on how his legacy lives on today through our good works." We thank all those in our Parish involved in the St Vincent de Paul Society, who work together to help others, and to make our world a better place.

Dear Lord, Let us go in simplicity where merciful Providence leads us, content to see the stone on which we should step without wanting to discover all at once and completely the winding road. We pray through Christ Jesus. Amen

PRAYER FOR HOMELESS PERSONS

We pray that we will see you, our all-loving God in each homeless person we encounter and in our service for those in need. May we do all in our power to support each person reach their potential, so they experience the fullness of life. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ Our Lord Amen

HELP FOR MARRIAGES UNDER STRESS We know that the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown has caused stress to many marriages. The Parish Marriage Resource Centre exists to support your parish in ministering to the married (and engaged) couples in your community. Help for marriages under stress: The BreakThrough Online Course created by SmartLoving will enable you to identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Restore hope for your relationship's future. Visit: www.smartloving.org/breakthrough
Mary Undoer of Knots Discount - 50% | until September 30, 2020.

WHAT KINDS OF PEOPLE become priests, sisters or brothers? Are they uncommonly holy, unusually saint-like? No. They are people who make mistakes, people who aren't afraid to be human while in God's service. Are they people who can't face the competition and cruelty of the 'real' world? No. They are people who believe that through ministry they can immerse themselves in the world and make positive changes. Are they people who don't relate well with other people? No. They are people who love others – people who find real satisfaction chatting with a 93-year-old parishioner, holding the hand of a cancer patient, listening to the troubles of a street-wise teen. They are people with the courage to touch lives, hearts and souls in a high-tech, unchurched world. Are you that kind of person? Contact: **Catholic Vocations** Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002
Phone (03) 9926 5733 or Email: cam.org.au/vocations
LET US PRAY:
For the graces of clarity and active response in the discernment of God's will for all those considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN), arranges Mass stipends to be sent to poor priest overseas. In many regions, the Christian faithful are so poor they cannot support their priests and so Mass stipends are often a priests only means of material support. Have a Mass offered for your family today and the money from your offering will be sent to a poor priest overseas who will offer up the Mass for your intentions. To arrange Mass offerings please visit: www.aidtochurch.org/mass-offerings-for-poor-priests or call **1800 101 201** during business hours: 8am-5pm, AEST

