

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

45:1,4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I am you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ Give the Lord glory and honour.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians:

1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

The Gospel of the Lord



*Give back to Caesar what
belongs to Caesar –
and to God what
belongs to God.'*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

17th /18th October, 2020

Loving God,

Your ways are truth and life.

Hear our prayers and

help us to keep our hearts set on

Your kingdom that is to come.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE READINGS Religion and politics – always a volatile brew! Today's Gospel shows that this is not a modern dilemma, but one faced by Jesus and his first disciples. While we try to live out the values of God's kingdom, we are not divorced from the realities of this world, in fact it is this world that we are missioned to, and living in this world demands that we are political – that is, we are part of the society we live in. Vatican II expressed it like this, 'The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age ... are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.' Jesus had been preaching revolutionary values about the treatment of the poor and the outcasts. He reminded people of God's way of looking; he spoke of the Kingdom of God, which was a dangerous message when preaching in the Roman Empire, where Herod was considered the puppet King. Jesus' message and his growing popularity with the ordinary Jewish crowds had the possibility of turning society upside down and so some saw him as a social revolutionary. At that time some groups within Judaism were looking for ways to throw off Roman rule and return to having their own independent religious kingdom worshipping God alone – these were the Zealots. The Pharisees in the Gospel set a devious trap. If Jesus says 'No, don't pay the tax,' then he aligns himself with the anti-Roman ideals of the Zealots. If he says 'Yes, pay the tax,' then he sides with Rome's oppression of the people. Note that the people who ask the question represent both Herod, (the Herodians) and the religious leaders (the disciples of the Pharisees). Jesus turns the tables on his opponents with his response – 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.' Since the image and inscription are about Caesar then the coin belongs to Caesar. But then Jesus adds, 'and to God what belongs to God'. This challenges both the Herodians and the Pharisees to consider what belongs to God. There may even be a call to recognise that people are made 'in the image of God' and that all people therefore belong to God. Jesus' response to his questioners makes me wonder 'what belongs to God' in my life. Does God truly get what rightfully belongs to God, or just the leftovers in my busy schedule? If only giving God what belongs to God was as simple as paying taxes. My God asks more of me than that.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

St Paul of the Cross

Fri 23rd Oct St John of Capistrano

Mon 19th Oct Sts John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues &

Thurs 22nd Oct St John Paul II (Pope)

Sat 24th Oct St Anthony Claret

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.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
17th / 18th October, 2020
World Mission Sunday

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

time: Ted M. Judit, Kay Daraio, Vincenzo Catalano, Norma Platt, Renato Felicetti, Angelo Zarro, Federico Zarro, Silvia Zarro, Margherita Coviello, Tamamiano Coviello, Luogi Coviello, Jilda Coviello.

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!


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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Pack of 5 Christmas cards for \$4 are now available. Please contact Gordon 0412 225 355, Connie 0413 747 685 or Jenny 0400 210 727 if you are interested in buying some. **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.

ST JOHN'S PARISH ZOOM MASSES Fr Thomas is inviting us all to join him for a Zoom Mass **Wednesdays to Sundays** from our very own parish here at St John's in Ferntree Gully. This will take place **at 10am** join us from the comfort of your own home via Zoom. The link below is recurring so you can use it each time you want to join in. If you would like to be involved by reading (from home) or singing at the Sunday Mass (from your own home) then please contact Fr Thomas via email: thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au Looking forward to seeing you at our Zoom Mass, **Time: 10am This is a recurring event.**
<https://zoom.us/j/95544717317?pwd=RzZjNlVGdnZHVUhxZWZRT2E1qaHNOZz09>


Meeting ID: 955 4471 7317
Passcode: SJBMass

CONTINUING THIS WEEK IS THE WONDERFULL WORLD RETREAT! Join us via Zoom to explore the wonders of the world and the wonders of our hearts. 
TUESDAYS, 20th & 27th Oct at 2pm.

Please remember to logon at 1.55pm, so that the meeting can begin on time. Please contact Carolyn to obtain a unique link.
csombekkesjb@gmail.com

THURSDAYS 15th & 22nd Oct at 8pm Please remember to logon at 7.55pm, so that the meeting can begin on time. Please email Carolyn to receive a unique link. csombekkesjb@gmail.com

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? We will be starting a small informal discussion group via ZOOM in November. If you are interested please email Carolyn... csombekkesjb@gmail.com

 **THE ROSARY FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER "TEN DAYS ROSARY"** Time: **7.00pm** from the **21st to 30th October 2020, each night.**

Topic: St John's Parish Ten Days Rosary This is a recurring meeting. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98360074118?pwd=eHZCb0VD eZLOFjYbUVSMXdmB3J2UT09>
Meeting ID: 983 6007 4118
Passcode: Rosary

SING-ALONG AGAIN! This Saturday Night' 17th October. From 6pm -7pm, please **join us**, so that we can once again make a joyful evening of Praise & Worship. Details, and the Zoom link are located in the box below on pg 3. If you are new to Zoom, and would like some help, please log on 10 minutes early, and we will be happy to offer some technical support.

PARISH SURVEY Thank you to everyone who participated in our parish survey, we have collected 19 responses so far. Many of your ideas centered around maintaining and building on our sense of community and we certainly plan to follow up on that. If you didn't get a chance to respond then there is still time, and we really do want you to have your say. Please let us know, either by email, post, or by clicking the survey link. The two questions are:

What is it that you think we have done or are doing well as a parish?

What would you like to see in our parish in the future?

<https://us4.list-manage.com/survey?u=23a9b806586ccc13bdf472709&id=f69bc78708>

Cheers & Blessings, Carolyn

MONDAY MOVIE CLUB. Began slowly, but had a good start. Please consider being a part of this activity. The Movie will be on TV via SBS on demand. We will then discuss the movie via Zoom or messenger chat. The movie for this week is **"Burning"**. Choose to watch it in your own time this week; then, the discussion will be on Monday 19th October. If you are interested in joining this Monday evening parish activity, please give Trish a call on PH 0400 960 138.



CANCELLATION of 2020 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SENIORS' LUNCH Due to the current uncertainty caused by COVID-19, the Society of St Vincent de Paul and the Parish, regrettably have had to cancel our Annual Seniors' Christmas lunch scheduled for 5th December 2020. We thank all our volunteers who have been a great part of this community celebration. – SVDP

**SAINTS AMONG GOD'S SAINTS:
MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP
COMENSOLI Wednesday 14 October 2020**

In this latest message to the Melbourne Catholic community, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli offers some reflections on Pope Francis' prayer intention for the month of October (for women to have greater leadership roles within the Church); progress on the opening up of our churches during stage 3 of Victoria's COVID road map, and the gift of Australia's first saint—St Mary of the Cross MacKillop—whose ten-year anniversary of canonisation we celebrate this Saturday. See the video on Youtube on link:

<https://youtu.be/5Ft-SKZp77I>

**MEDITATION & MINDFULNESS -
REFLECTION EVENT VIA ZOOM'**

Saturday 7th Nov 2020, 10am-1pm. Facilitated by Carol Dyer (B.A. (Psych), Transpersonal & Experiential Psychotherapy Level 5 (Trainer), Cert. Spiritual Direction), this event provides the opportunity to broaden your ways of accessing your inner world and listening to what God is inviting you to at this time. There will be some input to enable participants to learn some theory of meditation and mindfulness practices as well as time away from the Zoom screen for meditation and mindfulness practise. Cost \$25. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/663916>

For more information, please contact holsc@bigpond.com.

Heart of Life Phone: 9890 1101.



**CASEY YOUNG VINNIES CHRISTMAS
RAFFLE BONANZA**

Casey young Vinnies are a local charity group within the City of Casey made up of dedicated community leaders and change-makers. This year, we are looking to make Christmas extra special for those disadvantaged in our local community. Our vision is to spread as much Christmas joy as we can through personalised hand-wrapped gifts, hampers filled with essential items to give to the families and children we serve in our youth programs and on our Soup Vans in Berwick and Dandenong. To find out more about the raffle, purchase tickets or simply make a donation, please visit:

<https://my.fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/cyv-christmas-raffle-bonanza>



To celebrate the **10th Anniversary** of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop We invite you to order your free copy of Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often.

These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2777



Dear St. John's Parishioners,

We had a great response to our last Singalong, thank you :) It was so great to see many familiar faces and so many smiles!

So let's do it again! **This Saturday night! 17th October.**

St. John's talented musicians would like to invite you to a Warm night of song, music and spirit.

Give thanks and Praise in a special night, share in special songs, see familiar faces 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 again and now including Maree Wilson and Bonnie and Lyle Hoefer!

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

This Saturday Night!

17th October

Online : 6-7pm

Join using this Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95029872914?pwd=T0VYSjl5WkR BSTNKWVFGRjF3TC9Td09>

Meeting ID: 950 2987 2914 Passcode: Music

PETITION FOR FAIR TREATMENT OF PEOPLE OF FAITH REACHES 10,000 Our petition has been sent to Premier Andrews as of Tuesday, 13th October 2020. You can view the petition to open churches at : <https://www.equalityforfaith.com.au/>

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. A huge thank-you, for your generosity and support.



Madonna magazine – a gift of spiritual sustenance that lasts a whole year. Published by Jesuit Communications, it has accompanied Australians in their daily prayer and spiritual growth for more than 120 years. With daily prayers, deep reflections, faith-focused articles, and more recently online retreats – it is an ideal spiritual companion, particularly now when we may not be able to freely gather in person with our faith and spirituality communities. If you are not a subscriber – we invite you to subscribe or consider taking out a gift subscription for a loved one. **An annual subscription** is just **\$53** and offers prayer and spirituality resources for the whole year. If you are a subscriber, we invite you to help keep Madonna alive by:

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C. donating one to someone on the margins

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Some Zoom hints and tips:

Attendee controls in a meeting

When you join a Zoom meeting hosted by another user, you are considered an attendee. The user who scheduled the meeting or was selected to be the alternative host (if the host is unable to join) will have [host controls](#).



Click on the Mute Button to stop your sound transmitting

Click to show participants

Click on the chat button to see text messages

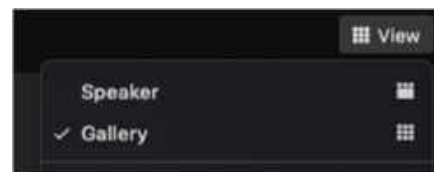
Click on the Leave button to Leave the meeting.

Tips for Meeting Attendees

- [Mute your microphone](#)
To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- Be mindful of background noise
When your microphone is not muted, avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, tapping pens, pets barking, ticking clock etc.,.
- Position your camera properly
If you choose to use a web camera, be sure it is in a stable position and focused at eye level, if possible. Doing so helps create a more direct sense of engagement with other
- Limit distractions
You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and muting your smartphone.
- Avoid multi-tasking
You'll retain the discussion better if you refrain from replying to emails or text messages during the meeting and wait to work on that PowerPoint presentation until after the meeting ends.
- Prepare materials in advance
If you will be sharing content during the meeting, make sure you have the files and/or links ready to go before the meeting begins.

Zoom offers different ways to view the meeting on your computer or smart phone. Look for the View Icon.

1. Sign into the Zoom client.
2. Start or join a meeting.
3. Click **View** in the top-right corner, and then select **Speaker** or **Gallery**



Speaker view highlights the person speaking

Select Gallery view to the participants. If you are using your smart phone, swipe with your finger to see more.

While in a meeting, you can customize the order of Gallery View or switch between Active Speaker View and Gallery View.

For more information, or to watch an on-line tutorial, go to: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>