

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ I love you, Lord, my strength.

SECOND READING

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

1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it:

other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029 Fax: 9758 9234

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

24th /25th October, 2020

*Loving Father,
Help us to have such an honest
love for You, that it also
overflows into our love for others.
May Your precious gift of holiness,
permeate our lives and enable us to love You
and others in a total way.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**Love God, Love
Neighbour**

FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 *mitzvot* governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions. Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time. © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wed 28th Oct Sts Simon & Jude

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.

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
24th / 25th October, 2020**

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this

time: Eileen Roberts, Danny Rossi, Teresa Starrs, Mary Kift, Maria D'Alessio, Arthur Corrin

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!

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

SING-ALONG AGAIN! Thanks once again to all who participated in and organised this wonderful event. It was lovely to see so many of our Parishioners and musicians on line.

ST JOHN'S PARISH ZOOM MASSES 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=RzZjNlVGdnZHVUhxZWR2TE1qaHNOZz09>



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, 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



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" 21st to 30th October 2020, Mon – Friday at 7.00pm, Please note the time change



on Saturday and Sunday to 5pm. to accommodate the Grand Final. Topic: St John's Parish Ten Days Rosary This is a recurring meeting. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98360074118?pwd=eHZCb0VDeEZLOFJYbUVSMXdmB3J2UT09>
Meeting ID: 983 6007 4118
Passcode: Rosary

IMPORTANT CHANGE TO SCHOOL GOVERNANCE in response to Royal Commission. Please read Fr Thomas' letter below for an important update.

TEACHER' APPRECIATION DAY

The last Friday in October is Teacher Appreciation Day in Australia. We thank our wonderful teachers for their awesome contribution this year. Please see the attached tribute & prayer.



ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS DAY. Sunday 1st November is the Solemnity of All Saints. **Mass will be held on Zoom at 10am. Monday 2nd November** is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) there will be an extra **Mass at 11am on Zoom.**



As we will not be present at Church to write on our Memorial Cross this year, you are invited to send an email to the Parish office, if you would like to offer the Mass for a deceased

family member. The Zoom link and password remain the same <https://zoom.us/j/95544717317?pwd=RzZjNlVGdnZHVUhxZWR2TE1qaHNOZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 4471 7317
Passcode: SJBMass

ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS for Deceased Past Pupils and Staff. A Prayer



Service will be held via ZOOM on Thursday 5 November at 7PM Join Zoom Meeting <https://stjosephs.zoom.us/j/99375729909?pwd=UR0YTFoOFZmRDEvOE1wTlZud2VOQT09>

Meeting ID: 993 7572 9909
Passcode: 457665

MONDAY MOVIE CLUB.

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 **"Sink or Swim"**. Choose to watch it in your own time this week; then, the discussion will be on Monday 26th October. If you are interested in joining this Monday evening parish activity, please give Trish a call on PH 0400 960 138.



Dear Parishioners,



I would like to inform you about the change in the Governance Model in all Catholic Schools in Victoria.

Governance Change

Archbishop Peter convened a meeting of clergy last October (2019) to discuss the transition of management and operations of all diocesan, parish and association of canonical administrator schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to a centralised management (incorporated). All entities and organisations in Victoria that deal with minors are to change to an incorporated model (which includes Catholic schools) as recommended by the Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse.

The clergy and principals have been engaged in a consultation phase regarding a new governance model for Catholic schools since 4 October 2019. A Steering Committee was appointed with accompanying expertise to work towards a model to support good governance in the service and mission of the Catholic Church in Victoria. Our parents and families of Catholic school students deserve the best and the safest learning environments we can offer for their children, and good governance. At present the parish priests or in some cases canonical administrators are the employers of staff in Catholic schools in Victoria. That would change under the new model. Priests who have a crucial role as spiritual and pastoral leaders in parish communities and will continue to offer that service in schools, even with a reformed governance model more suited to the new compliance and legal requirements in Victoria. Catholic schools share a significant vocation as part of their local parish, and the Archdiocese is committed to their wellbeing and flourishing as faith-filled communities. Under Victorian State Law, any new incorporated model must be in place by 1 January 2021. **(Excerpts taken from Archbishop Peter's MEDIA RELEASE Thursday 24 October 2019)**

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)

Last month (September 2020) Archbishop Peter was pleased to share the news that he accepted the recommendations of the School Governance Steering Committee, including creation of a new company, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). This will become more widely publicised soon. From 1 January 2021, MACS - Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd - is expected to take over the management and operation of all diocesan, parish and association of canonical administrator schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, assuming the responsibility and role previously held by either the parish priest or association of canonical administrators of the school.

The employees of the school will continue to report to the principal who will continue to be responsible for the leadership and management of the school. However, the line of reporting of the principal will change and the principal will be required to report to MACS and not to the parish priest. The role of the priest in relation with the schools in parishes will be spiritual, pastoral, consultative and in relevant matters his approval and consent will be sought.

Under the *Victorian Catholic Education Multi-Enterprise Agreement 2018 (VCEMEA)*, there is a requirement to engage with employees about the potential impact of the proposed transfer of employment from me (Parish Priest) as the employer to Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS). The inaugural Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) Board is currently being formed.

Continued.....

School Transition Agreement (STA) – As Received from the Governance Steering Committee

- 1. The *School Transition Agreement (STA)*** is a contract developed between each parish and **Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS)** regarding the transition of each school's assets (except land and buildings) and liabilities to the company. Examples of school assets include receivables, equipment, books, furniture and computers, while examples of liabilities include accounts payable, bank loans and employee liabilities. The ownership of land and buildings does not and must not change as a result of the governance reform, meaning that the parish must retain ownership of property purchased by the parish. In isolated cases, land or portable buildings may have been purchased using school funds and the regulator will require these assets to be transferred to MACS.
- 2. The *Right to Use Land and Buildings Agreement (RULBA)*** formalises your permission for MACS to continue operating the school on your land and understandably to continue using the school buildings on a long-term basis. Confirming the right of use is necessary to evidence to the government and government regulators that MACS can be registered as the school proprietor and that the school can be entitled to capital grants in the future to improve its facilities. Under this agreement, MACS will be a tenant but there are special provisions that result in MACS assuming all obligations and responsibilities relating to the land and buildings, including those that would normally remain with the landlord. This is important to us, as we want you to understand that you will be relieved from any responsibilities in relation to the school, and the land and the buildings it utilises,

notwithstanding the fact that you retain the ownership of the land and buildings in the stable patrimony of your parish.

The agreements in question are the *School Transition Agreement* and the *Right to Use Land and Buildings Agreement*. These agreements have been developed in partnership with the Archdiocese and have been subjected to an independent legal review to ensure that the interests of parishes and the Archdiocese have been considered appropriately.

In both the STA and RULBA, there are provisions that acknowledge the continued role and rights of the parish priest, or association of canonical administrators, in respect of the continued operation of the school and the use of the land and buildings. These provisions remain in place for so long as MACS uses the land and buildings to operate the school and provide Catholic education. This respects the canonical standing priests have in regard to the school as an apostolate in our parish, and also the land and buildings that are part of the stable patrimony of the parish. Particular attention has been given to ensuring the priests approval and consent be sought from the parish priest in relevant matters that arise in the operation of the school, and any proposed alterations to the land and buildings.

Cathy Mason, our school Principal and I are working together and we will continue to work together in the future.

With every blessing,
Fr. Thomas Kuruvila.

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.



**CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE**



Catholic Theological College

2020 Knox Public Lecture

Thursday 5th November at 7.00pm

Sheree Limbrick

**Safe Church: Commitment, awareness & action for
cultural change**

Bookings and Info: ctc.edu.au/knox-public-lecture

Enq: sarah.styring@ctc.edu.au or

Phone 9412 3333

Venue: online