

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

Rev 7:2-4, 9-14

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.' One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

1 Jn 3:1-3

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children;

and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord



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



All Saints Solemnity - Year A

31st October/ 1st November, 2020

*God of loving-kindness,
listen favourably to our prayers:
strengthen our belief that your Son
has risen from the dead
and our hope that your departed servants
will also rise again.
We ask this through
Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

The feasts of All Saints (Nov 1) and All Souls (Nov 2) can be seen as something of a twin feast that celebrates all those who have died. With the feast of All Saints we celebrate all those who have died and have entered into direct and immediate communion with God in heaven. With the feast of All Souls we celebrate and pray for those who have died but have not yet entered into that direct communion with God. These two different states revolve around the Church teaching on purgatory – a state or process of purification before entering into heaven.

LIVING THE WORD – COMPASSION: Jesus' words call us to love our neighbour as ourselves. We are called to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. To be able to do this, we need to picture ourselves in their place – experiencing all that they are experiencing; not imposing our own values and circumstances. To see ourselves in the place of another is the key to responding with compassion. The origin of the word 'compassion' means experiencing with. If we are able to truly 'experience with' another person perhaps then we can genuinely recognise and respond to their needs.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tues 3rd Nov St Martin de Porres

1st Nov All Saints Day

Wed 4th Nov St Charles Borromeo

2nd Nov All Souls Day

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 Limited to 10 people bookings essential

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:

We are now able to have Baptisms again with limited numbers. 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.

All Saints Solemnity - Year A
31st October/ 1st November, 2020

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Mark Kirsch; Angela Simioni.



Those who we remember at this time:

Fr Bill Bainbridge, Daisy Sason-Lim, Angelo, Federico & Silvia Zarro, Margherita, Damiano, Luigi, Jilda, Cosimo & Clara Coviello, Francis Cassar, Alan Lawson., George Brown.

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://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.

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

ST JOHN'S PARISH MASSES

We are now able to have 10 people in the church at one time for Mass. If you would like to **book a place** please email or ring the parish office on **Wednesdays only**. If you do not get a place in the church you will still be able to watch at the same time that Mass takes place each day. That is **Saturday 6:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am; Tuesday 7.00 pm, Wednesday & Thursday 9.15 am, Friday 11.00 am**. To 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.

<https://zoom.us/j/95544717317?pwd=RzZjNlVGdnZHVUhxZWR2TE1qaHNOZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 4471 7317

Passcode: SJBMass



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

CHURCHES TO REOPEN AS MELBOURNE ENDS LOCKDOWN

Under the new restrictions, up to **10 people plus one faith leader** will be allowed to gather for indoor religious gatherings, and up to 20 people plus one faith leader allowed to gather outdoors. However, there remains a distinct lack of parity for faith communities. From 8 November, cafes and pubs can host up to 40 patrons inside while the limit for places of worship—which are often big enough to host double the capacity of a cafe—remains capped at 20. We invite you to contact your local MPs and speak out on this continued lack of parity.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST 2021 PREP INFORMATION

night will take place on **Wednesday 11th November at 7.00pm via Zoom**. We are welcoming 44 new Preps into our school community in 2021. Enquiries please ring 9758 1013



MONDAY MOVIE CLUB. evening parish activity, once a month. If you are interested in joining this fun event, please give Trish Magee a call on PH 0400 960 138.

BAPTISMS Covid 19 restrictions have been eased and we are now able to have Baptisms again with limited numbers. If you would like to have your child Baptised please download and fill in the Baptism application form on the parish website and email it to the parish office. To accommodate the number of families waiting, and maintain Covid safe guidelines, Fr Thomas will Baptise each week: Saturdays 11am, Sundays 12.30pm & 3.30pm. Our Faith Development Coordinator Carolyn will contact you after we receive your application form.

ALL SOULS DAY. Monday 2nd November



the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (**All Souls' Day**) there will be two **Masses one at 11am & one at 7pm 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 <https://zoom.us/j/95544717317?pwd=RzZjNlVGdnZHVUhxZWR2TE1qaHNOZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 4471 7317

Passcode: SJBMass

NOVEMBER—MONTH OF PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In November we pray for our faithfully departed. The Church dedicates the month of November to praying for our deceased loved ones. Both Scripture and Tradition remind us to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins and enter the joy of Heaven. Offering Masses therefore is the greatest gift we can give to them. Please collect an envelope for November Masses for the Holy Souls from the trolley. Envelopes can be put in the plate or handed to Fr Thomas



or brought to the Parish Office. As stipulated by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, each November Mass for the dead is \$20.00 per Mass.

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.

