

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are Our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name.

Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any God but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are Our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

***R./ Lord, make us turn to You,
let us see Your face
and we shall be saved.***



SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians **1:3-9**

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ.

I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

***Lord, show us Your mercy and love,
and grant us Your salvation.***

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark **13:33-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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1st Sunday of Advent - Year B

28th / 29th November, 2020

***Lord God, in this Advent time,
help us to see Your Son, Jesus Christ,
in those around us, and in all experiencing
difficulty.
May we be filled with hope in His promises,
and accept the challenge to spread that hope
to the world,
through the proclamation of Your Good News.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.***



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world. Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God. The role of the doorkeeper, is to maintain a watching brief – to be alert to dangers or distractions and to ensure that everyone who is important to the process is invited to participate. Today's gospel reminds us that as believers we are to be the doorkeepers, or gatekeepers, of the Kingdom, watching for dangers and welcoming in all those who wish to enter. © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 30th Nov St Andrew

Thurs 3rd Dec St Francis Xavier

Fri 4th Dec St John Damascene

Advent - Week 1

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruwila 9758 1029
Email: thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au
Thomas.Kuruwila@cam.org.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 110 people at each Mass.
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. 6 weeks notice required 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.

1st Sunday of Advent - Year B
28th / 29th November, 2020

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Damien Welch

Those who we remember at this time:

Marco Porco, Laura Fabrizio, Giuseppina Di Donato, Noreen Hilet, Kathleen Sage, Francesco Caligiuri, Lionel Roberts.

The sick: Peter Thomas, 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, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Allida Serafin, Clive Geach.

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.

MONDAY MOVIE CLUB. . once a month.

The suggested movie for this month is: **"A matter of Life & Death"**, which is **currently screening on "SBS on demand"** Please watch the movie, and there will be a discussion on Monday 8th December. If you are interested in joining this fun event, please give Trish Magee a call on PH 0400 960 138

NOW FOR SALE IN THE CHURCH FOYER
CHRISTMAS CARDS Pack of 5 Christmas cards for \$4 are now available, and **COLUMBAN CALENDARS** for 2021 Only \$8 each. Please show your support by **collecting your copy** near the Piety store. These make great Christmas Gifts!



ST JOHN'S PARISH MASSES The latest Guidelines offer some significant and very welcome changes following Sunday's announcement. **Indoors:** Allowed for up to a cap of 150 people plus one faith leader with a density quotient of **1 per 4sq.m.** - **In our church – the density quotient has been carefully measured, and allow us 110 attendees.** Bookings are no longer necessary, but please arrive 10-15 minutes prior to Mass, to sign in and sanitise. Masks must be worn in the church for everyone over 12yrs of age, unless there is a medical exemption. Once we reach our allocated number, the doors will be locked. Please note that at the sign of peace, no hand shaking is permitted, please acknowledge your neighbour with a smile and a bow. At communion, please leave a social distance whilst approaching the altar, sanitize your hands prior to receiving the communion, briefly remove mask to receive and consume the communion, replace mask and re-sanitize. With the increased numbers, the **Zoom Masses will cease**, as will the online reflections. We look forward to gathering as a community once more. A warm welcome back!

CONFIRMATION CONGRATULATIONS

Please continue to pray for our St Johns children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 26th /27th November. May they be truly empowered to be open to receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

SVDP ANGEL TREE Each year we provide the families we have visited throughout the year with a Christmas food hamper and gift cards for each of their children. We invite you to contribute to either of these. Under **THE ANGEL TREE** we will provide basket/ bags for your **Christmas food items** or those who might like to donate a complete hamper. Please feel free to supply your own bags if you wish. **The gift cards** will allow the parents to buy a suitable gift according to the age and needs of their child/children. You may like to take an "Angel" off the tree and purchase a gift card to the value of: \$10, \$20, or \$30. Please place your donation in the box near the tree. The gift cards can be purchased from: Kmart, Target, Coles, Myer or any other store of your choice. On behalf of our SVDP conference, we thank you sincerely for your ongoing generosity in supporting our work with the disadvantaged. We also thank Fr Thomas for his encouragement on behalf of our parish. - **SVDP- Ferntree Gully Conference**

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Emily Thomas** daughter of Adrian & Dianne ,and **Jayden Tellis**, son of Nolan & Viola who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy!

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 to maintain Covid-safe guidelines, Fr Thomas will Baptise each week: Saturdays 11am, Sundays 12.30pm & 3.30pm, places fill fast. Our Faith Development Coordinator Carolyn will contact you after we receive your application form.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALAN BAILEY on his 50th year as a member of St Vincent de Paul.



You are invited to join Alan and conference members in celebration of the Holy Mass on Tues 8th December, 2020, here at St John the Baptist Church at 7pm. Due to covid restrictions, there will be no gathering after mass. Informal gathering at: Ferntree Gully Hotel. (The Middle)

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES New sets of envelopes for envelope contributors are now available for collection from the Church foyer. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange collection if you are not able to attend a Mass due to Covid restrictions. A huge thankyou to everyone for your generous support.

2020 SVDP VOLUNTEERS "THANK YOU" DINNER 4TH DECEMBER 6:30PM



The Society would like to thank Father Thomas and all parishioners for your continued support to the works of the society. 2020 has been for many a challenging year many functions being forced to cancel. It is a good time to come together to share a meal and catch up with friends, we sincerely hope you will be able to join us.

Date: 4th December 2020 Time: 6:30 pm

Venue: The Royal Hotel.

Please RSVP: by 28th November, 2020 to Connie PH 9753 5000 / Mob: 0413 747 685.