

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God*

SECOND READING

*A reading from first letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians 1 Thess 4:13-18*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 25:1-13*

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord



*Keep
watch,
for you do
not know
the day,
nor the
hour*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

7th / 8th November, 2020

***Brighten Your Church, O God,
with the promise of Your kingdom
and waken our hearts to its light.
Let us hasten with faith undimmed
to greet the bridegroom's return
and to enter the wedding feast.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.***



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

As the end of the liturgical year draws to a close the Gospel message becomes one of urgency. Time is running out. Be alert. Stay awake. Are *you* ready for the arrival of God's reign? The parable draws on two familiar images for a first century audience. In the Old Testament, the reign of God is frequently likened to a wedding banquet with God as the bridegroom reaching out in love to Israel the bride. On the day of the wedding, all those invited would gather and then the bride would process from her father's house to the house of her fiancé. This would be an opportunity to display her beauty and the wealth of her dowry to the entire village. She would enter the house with her companions to await the arrival of the bridegroom after the festivities. The bridegroom would also arrive in a procession and then the wedding festivities began, this was usually late afternoon. The companion of the bride and groom would escort the groom into the bridal chamber. A last minute delay could occur if there was some disagreement over the marriage contract and bridal gifts. In the parable some of the bridesmaids have come prepared for a long wait, while others were not ready. After the Resurrection, there was at first an enthusiastic expectation that God's final reign was about to dawn. Some members of that first community no doubt expected to be alive for Jesus' final coming in glory. By the time of Matthew's Gospel fifty years have passed and still people are waiting this final coming. Some are prepared for this and they have made an effort to have the necessary resources, while others find the waiting too long and their resources dry up. The Gospel asks me to consider my own resources and what I am doing to ensure that these do not run out, as some of the companions ran out of oil. What resources my faith? Daily personal quiet time with God, joining with others for reflective reading and prayer, being part of a local worshipping community, reading spiritual books, taking time for a retreat day occasionally and setting aside days each year for a retreat, checking out what is being offered at the local Spirituality Centre or taking a short course on some aspect of faith, and most of all, having a close friend I can talk with, about where God is in my life. These are the ways I find that nourish my faith, that provide the 'oil for my lamp'. © Mary Coloe

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 9th Nov The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Tues 10th Nov St Leo the Great.

Wed 11th Nov St Martin of Tours

Thurs 12th Nov St Josaphat

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.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
7th / 8th November, 2020

PRAYING FOR...**All who have died recently:**

Fe Serrano Lachica, Noanee Bainbridge
 Damian Van Der Linden (Sept).

Those who we remember at this time:

Eufroonia Oracion, Margaret Cecchin, Patricia McCann, Patricia Danaher, Michael Palandri, Salvatore Teofilo, Camela Piro, Niall Hargreaves, Clorinda Peluso, Natala Franchi, Delia Scapin, Ivka Kruljac & Judy Sharp.

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.

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

**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=RzZjNlVGNdnZHVUhxZWR2TElqaHNOZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 4471 7317

Passcode: SJBMass

**FREE CATHOLIC CARE COUNSELLING**

We know that many families and individuals are experiencing challenging and stressful circumstances as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. So, CatholicCare is here to help. **During the COVID-19 crisis, all counselling sessions are free.** For more information **Ph: 03 8710 9600** or **Email: landenong@ccam.org.au**

CONFIRMATION 2020 Fr Thomas has received direction from the Bishop saying that Priests of each parish are to be responsible for Confirming the candidates from their own parish for this year 2020. In order for this to happen we

will need to hold a short but intensive preparation programme for the group of candidate children. The dates are **Saturday morning 14th & 21st of November** and will take place either face to face where they will mix with



other children and adults at St John's or via a Zoom link online from their own home depending on Covid Restriction guidelines. It is your choice whether to go ahead with confirmation by Fr Thomas at the end of November or wait till 2022 when the Bishop will come to our parish again to confirm candidates. Please be aware that the age of your child is not a concern if you decide to wait a bit longer. Please email Carolyn as soon as possible to indicate your interest: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR THOMAS

This week we have received official notification in the Parish Office from Archbishop Peter Comensoli, that Fr Thomas Kuruvila is appointed Parish Priest at St John the Baptist Parish Ferntree Gully for 6years, effective from the 11th November 2020. Please join with me in offering your heartfelt congratulations to Fr Thomas, on his appointment.

We pray that God will continue to bless, guide and direct your path. May you find joy amid your service to our community. Thank you for all the hours you dedicate to our Parish. Congratulations Fr Thomas!



FUNERAL MASS – The Funeral Mass for the late **Angela Simioni** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Tuesday, 10th November at 10.30am.** Owing to current Covid-19 regulations limited places are available, which will be allocated by the family.

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.

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.