

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

40:1-5, 9-11

‘Console my people, console them ‘says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Lord, let us see Your kindness,
and grant us Your salvation.*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the second letter of St. Peter
3:8-14*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire

and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight His paths:*

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
1:1-8*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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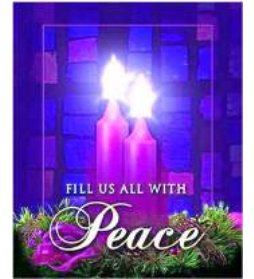
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



2nd Sunday of Advent - Year B

5th / 6th December, 2020

*Lord God,
in this Advent time,
we pray that our hearts
may be aligned with Your will
and Your peace will be realised in ourselves,
our community and our world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

This week’s gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to ‘do the groundwork’ preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus’ public ministry. John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well. © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 7th Dec St Ambrose Tues 8th Dec The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wed 9th Dec St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin Fri 11th Dec St Damasus I

Sat 12th Dec Our Lady of Guadalupe

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

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruwila 9758 1029
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DEACON:
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Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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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.

2nd Sunday of Advent - Year B
5th / 6th December, 2020

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

John Masterson, Pasquale Parente, John Dillon, Neil Brewster, Noel Ryan, Jilda, Margherita, Damiano, Luigi & Cosimo Coviello, Angelo Federico & Silvia Zarro.

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, join Trish for a discussion on



Monday 8th December, 7.30pm on ZOOM
Meeting ID **919 7425 5345** Passcode: **Movies.**
<https://zoom.us/j/91974255345?pwd=NDNOUU5KTjd6ZWZWC80Sjd4T25VZz09>

NOW FOR SALE IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Christmas Card Sale
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!

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**

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES A huge thank you to all who have collected their envelopes. If you have missed picking your set up 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.

BAPTISMS We offer our congratulations to:
Ryan Hammer, son of Matthew & Rebecca who is 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 and Deacon Peter 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.

FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CARE CHRISTMAS EVE LUNCH You are invited to a free lunch from on **Thursday 24th December.** Food, drinks, entertainment, presents from the Christmas Angel. To be held in our Parish Hall. This year there will be 2 sessions to allow for Covid-safe social isolation regulations: **Session 1 – 10.15am – 12.45pm** and **Session 2 – 1.30pm – 4pm** sharp. Please request your free online ticket at Foothillscare.org.au if you would like to attend.



IMPORTANT DATES December 2020
Tuesday 15th Grade 6 Graduation Mass 5pm.
Wednesday 16th Last day of School P-Yr5
Wednesday 16th December, 7.00pm Mass, **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual) following Mass.**

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL will take place next weekend (12th / 13th December). Please bring a little extra, to donate to this appeal. Be generous in your financial support and in your prayers so that communities in some of the world's most remote countries may receive the basics for human living. Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

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** **IMPORTANT:** Please always remember to include identifying information such as your name or your Stewardship (Envelope) number to assist admin to allocate the payment correctly.

