

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

61:1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to
those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour
from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in
my God, for he has clothed me in the garments
of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of
integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his
wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to
the Thessalonians*

5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for
all things give thanks to God, because this is
what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.
Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift
of prophecy with contempt; think before you
do anything – hold on to what is good and
avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and
holy; and may you all be kept safe and
blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you
and he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News
to the poor.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
1:6-8, 19-28*

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He
came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him. He was
not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.
This is how John appeared as a witness. When the
Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask
him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he
declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well
then,’ they asked ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not’ he said.
‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they
said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an
answer to those who sent us. What have you to say
about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah
prophesied:

*‘...a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.’*

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and
they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you
baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah,
and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with
water; but there stands among you – unknown to you
– the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to
undo his sandal-strap.’
This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the
Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B

12th/13th December, 2020

*O God most high,
You send glad tidings to the lowly,
You hide not Your face from the poor;
those who dwell in darkness You call into the light.
We pray that, at the advent of Your Son,
we may recognise Him in our midst
and find joy in His saving presence.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally
known as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally
celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season
of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting.
When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday
was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the
vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19 MASS GUIDELINES

- Please arrive at Mass 15 minutes early to register, and find your seat.
- Please **sanitize your hands** on arrival, and move quickly away from the sign-in book.
- must carry a face covering when leaving home unless you have a lawful reason not to.
- When going to communion, **please maintain a 1.5mt gap in the line. Re-sanitize hands**
- Please allow **the right hand block of seats to go to communion first**, and peel off to the right
hand side back to your seat; then the left hand block of seats, and peel off to the left hand
side back to your seat.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE /DAY MASSES WILL BE A TICKETED EVENT.** Please **be sure to book your
place** on-line at: Eventbrite website <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-holy-mass-tickets-131465182901> Bookings open Sun 13th Dec from 12.30pm. We encourage all
parishioners to book early, as spaces will be limited due to the Covid-Safe restrictions, and
bookings close once the seat allocation is met. Please spread the word to your friends/relatives

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK Mon 14th Dec

St John of the Cross

*I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)*

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
Email: thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au
Thomas.Kuruvila@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.

3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B
12th / 13th December, 2020

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

Peter Windebank, Jacques Walter, Gary Bailey, Kevin Leddin, Max Cartledge, Alyda Donegan, Patrick O'Reilly, Wally Johnson, Maureen Hawkins, Giuseppe Rizio, Bob Baker & Margaret Bicker

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://hollyfamilydoveton.org.au/>

or 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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS/JANUARY HOLIDAY PERIOD
Closed 25th Dec 2020 to Fri 8th January, 2021.

Re-Opens Monday 11th January 2021 at 9.45am

Normal offices hours resume from Monday 11th January, 2021

Please note that as Tuesday 26th January is the Australia Day public holiday, the office will be closed.
Merry Christmas to all.

JESUS IS CHRISTMAS: CAROLS SPECIAL SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER, 7PM Broadcast on C31 (Channel 44 on digital TV) and www.youtube.com/archmelb Featuring Silvie Paladino & Gary Pinto.



CHANGES TO CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
There will be 3 Masses Christmas Eve, and 3 Masses on Christmas Day to try and accommodate for the reduction in attendees to each Mass due to Covid-19
PRE-REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

Thursday 24th December
5.00pm Family Mass
7.30pm Mass of Christmas Night
10.00pm Mass of Christmas Night

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day
7.30am Mass
9.30am Mass
11.30 am Mass

For a more extensive Mass timetable during December/January please take a flyer from the trolley or visit: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

THANK YOU on behalf of the WELCH FAMILY,
I would like to extend my appreciation to the community of St John the Baptist for their prayers during the recent illness of Damien Welch and their condolences at his passing. Your kindness is much appreciated. - Carol Welch & Family.



SVDP ANGEL TREE We invite you to contribute to our venture 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. **Or purchase a gift card.** 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**

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 and a breakdown of where your money is to go ie: Presbytery or Church to assist admin to allocate the payment correctly.

BAPTISMS We offer our congratulations to: **Lewis Lascaris, Liliana Palmisano and Jordan Gray** who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.



MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL will take place this weekend (12th / 13th December). Please 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.

MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM ALAN BAILEY re:50th Anniversary Mass.
Alan and Jean Bailey would like to sincerely thank all who attended the Mass for Alan's 50th Anniversary of membership at St Vincent de Paul. Your kind thoughts and wishes were much appreciated. Special thanks to Fr Thomas & Deacon Peter for their help and support.



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.

A REMINDER: all people in Victoria must carry a face covering when they leave home unless they have a lawful reason not to. Whilst it is not mandatory to wear a face covering indoors or outdoors (apart from large retail venues, busy walkways and public transport), it is strongly recommended that people wear a face covering if the 1.5m personal distancing cannot be maintained. Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting a COVID-19 test verification, including Clergy (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed.

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. Please request your free online ticket at Foothillscare.org.au if you would like to attend.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES. Positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>