

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the second book of Samuel*

**7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16**

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*  
**16:25-27**

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them

to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the servant of the Lord:  
may His will for me be done.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke*

**1: 26 - 38**

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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*4th Sunday of Advent - Year B*

*19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020*

*Father,*

*May we welcome Jesus, Your Son,*

*the promised Emmanuel,*

*and proclaim the good news of his birth to all the*

*earth. That every age will see Your saving grace*

*and follow in Your way of love.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE READINGS** We have reached the final Sunday in the season of Advent – a time of preparing ourselves to recognise and celebrate Christ's presence in the world, both historically and in an ongoing, timeless way. This week's gospel account of the Annunciation is an ideal culmination to this season as we recall Mary's emphatic 'Yes' to all that was being asked of her. At the end of the Advent season of reflection and preparation to recognise Christ's presence in the world and in our lives, what better response could there be than to simply say, 'Yes'? In a world that is driven by selfishness and the drive to push one's self ahead of others, Mary's selfless act stands as a challenge to our modern society. © Greg Sunter

## **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 now open. 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

• *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.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Year B**  
**19<sup>th</sup>/ 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

Judith Cherry

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Maria Daraio, Terence McDermott, Maria Saracino, Ryan Castricum, Filomena Barbatiello, Josie Jordan, George Kuhlmann, Margaret King.

*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 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 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 to**

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.**

**Re-Opens Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 9.45am**

**Normal offices hours resume from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**

**Please note that as Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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  
**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**5.00pm Family Mass (fully booked)**

**7.30pm Mass (fully booked)**

**10.00pm Mass (fully booked)**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

**7.30am Mass (Places limited)**

**9.30am Mass (Places limited)**

**11.30 am Mass (Places limited)**

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



**60<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

We offer our. Congratulations to **Adrian & Margaret Doyle**, on the occasion of their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. May you be blessed with many more happy years together.

**SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL - FERNTREE GULLY CONFERENCE- THANK YOU**



Our Christmas Appeal continued to raise the awareness of SVDP works for the those who are experiencing hardship. We are pleased to inform you that all non-perishable food and cash that was donated has been used directly to support the needy this Christmas. Thanks to Fr Thomas and everyone who supported our unique charity in so many ways. Special thanks to our parish community who made generous donations of food and gift cards to add to our food hampers. We also thank our school families who generously donated gift cards. The total donations received: **St. John's Primary School and Parish Appeal \$3,800.00**, and **Knox City Council** for their generous donation of **\$4,000.00**. Our Conference has packed and donated 65 family hampers, each valued at approximately **\$200**. Each Christmas hamper contained: Christmas food; non-perishable food; Woolworths card grocery card valued **\$100.00** and a gift card for each child in the family. The total cost for the hampers is approximately **\$12,000.00**. Thank you for your generous donations.

God bless you all this holy season of Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year filled with good health and happiness. Have a safe holiday.

**- SVDP-Conference of Ferntree Gully**

**BAPTISMS** We offer our congratulations to: **Chelsea Hillier, Stephanie Tan & Mackenzie Jordan** who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.



**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

**WILL BE OFFERED** here at St John's on

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Dec at 5.15pm,**

**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> December – after 7pm Mass**

**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> December – after 9.15am Mass**

**MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL**

Thank you to all those who donated to the Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal last Sunday. **\$339.05** was raised. If you couldn't attend Mass and would still like to make a contribution, it's not too late. Please go to <https://mom.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=622447>  
Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

**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.

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

**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.



*...from all the Parish Staff*