

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029

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DEACON:

Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR:

Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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PARISH OFFICE:

9758 1029

Monday 9.45am -3.45pm
Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
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: No weekday Masses 29th,30th or 31st Dec
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: Saturdays at 5.15 pm

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.

CHURCH GROUPS:

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group will take a break during January 2021 and plan to resume their meeting on Tuesday, 2nd February 2021 at 10.15 am in the Parish Hall, Covid-19 restrictions permitting. To meet for praise and worship, inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are warmly welcome. Enquiries: Judy 9752 2986.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING will take a break over the Christmas Season. We hope that the New Year will see us able to meet once more, Covid-19 restrictions permitting. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Sundays 27th December, 2020 – 31st January, 2021
(inclusive)

PRAYING FOR...

All those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES: Mon 27 Dec to Sun 3 Jan 2021

Roger Berriman, Flora De Cristo, Hans Hauer, Donald Fraser, Maria Fredriks, Brian Maguire, Catherine Theobald, and Alain Sirmel-Newton.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mon 4 Jan to Sun 10 Jan 2021

Francis Breen, Carmel Dow, Margaret James, Andrea Samtoye, Anne Van Prooyen, Linda Hughes, Frances Fenton, Peter Blackham, Rosita Stavropoulos, Pauline Witt, John Lourens, Enuice Bermingham

ANNIVERSARIES: Mon 11 Jan to Sun 17 Jan 2021

Jon Abraham, Gary Bailey, Vito Teofilo, Moya McDonald, Geraldine Fitzpatrick, Elaine Brain, Riccardo Garbuio, Tom McCristal, Maureen Meyer, Therese Mueller, Canion Daraio, Carlo Vitale.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mon 18 Jan to Sun 24 Jan 2021

Irene Barron, Margherita Crivellaro, Margherita Lizza, Anthony Gannan, Elizabeth McNeil, Chris Quinn, Giovanni Di Donato

ANNIVERSARIES: Mon 25 Jan to Sun 31 Jan 2021

Jadwiga Godsmark, Giovanni (John) Cecchin, Mary Williams, Teresa Abraham, Giuseppe Pilotto

AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE 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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS / JANUARY HOLIDAYS

CLOSED FROM 3PM ON 24TH DECEMBER.

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, from Fr Thomas and all the Parish Staff.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP: will take a break in January 2021 and hope to resume their meeting on Tuesday, 2nd February, from 9 am to 10 am at the Parish Centre, Covid-19 restrictions permitting. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

THINKING OF A CAREER CHANGE IN THE NEW YEAR? POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE Details can be found on the Archdiocese of Melbourne website for various administrative and liturgical positions. Go to: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

LECTORS ROSTER 2021 will be drafted in January and will be made available in the Church Foyer.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 2021 Study Options Now Available! The Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity offers students an opportunity to explore a range of theological, philosophical and ministry-related studies. Students may explore new or develop existing knowledge and skills for vocational and professional purposes. The Undergraduate Certificate provides a pathway to further undergraduate studies in divinity-related areas and is a foundation for lifelong learning. Available fully online with limited options of units. Available face-to-face (COVID-19 restrictions permitting) otherwise in online and blended modes (not available to overseas students). New Award Only available in 2021 Cost: \$1,704 per 18 -point unit | FEE-Help available | Contact: Rosemary Canavan CTC: +61 3 9412 3333 | rosemary.canavan@ctc.edu.au | 278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne | ctc.edu.au Go to the website at <https://ctc.edu.au/> for more information, and a virtual tour.

YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION Are you called to study in 2021? Enrolments for 2021 are now open. Yarra Theological Union is an inclusive and welcoming community, Catholic by tradition and ecumenical in spirit. We are committed to being a community of scholarship, prayer and pastoral care. Located at 98 Albion Road, Box Hill, Vic. 3128. Contact: Janette Elliott Telephone: (03) 9890 377 or visit the website at <https://ytu.edu.au/courses/>

Bishop Peter Elliott has asked that I might share the following message with you:

I wish to thank the people and clergy of the Archdiocese for your prayers and expressions of support and concern during my recent health crisis. I have returned home and I am recuperating slowly after a month in St Vincent's Private Hospital, with excellent medical attention and compassionate nursing. At present, no visitors, please.

Above all, I thank God for his mercies, and our Blessed Mother and the saints for their protection.

May we all enjoy a holy and happy Christmas and a New Year of hope, after a sad year, unique in our lives.

In Dno. + Peter J Elliott

CATEGORY FIVE STORM CYCLONE YASA DEVASTATES FIJI. Caritas Australia's partners are on the ground responding to the immediate needs of thousands of people in Fiji in the aftermath of Cyclone Yasa, a Category Five storm which slammed into the low-lying Pacific island late 17 December. The storm hit Fiji with wind speeds of up to 240 kph and wind gusts of up to 345 kph, making it the most powerful storm to hit Fiji since Cyclone Winston in 2016. Cyclone Yasa is now heading towards Tonga. Over 23,000 Fijians have been evacuated to shelter from Cyclone Yasa, with one death reported outside of Labasa on Vanua Levu, according to the Fiji Broadcasting Corporation. Fiji has declared a State of Natural Disaster for the next 30 days as the country recovers and rebuilds. There are reports of extensive damage to homes, schools and infrastructure and concerns about the risk of further damage from flooding as river waters rise. Communities across the region are in urgent need of food, water, clothing, hygiene kits, sleeping kits and shelter repair materials.

Caritas Australia is supporting church and NGO partners on the ground with initial funds to support assessments and ensure that communities have shelter, food and clean water.

Caritas Australia is accepting donations through its Pacific Emergency Appeal to provide support for emergencies like Cyclone Yasa. Visit caritas.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to some of our closest neighbours.

GOD DESIRES TO BUILD A HOUSE AMONG US

Sometimes, very little needs to be said in a homily. Just point out the obvious and allow the point to reverberate. Today is such a case. David – king of Israel, secure in his own power, comfortable in faith – says to God, let me build you a house. God says ‘no’. Mary – young woman of Israel, humble in her simplicity, trusting in faith – hears from God, let me build a house in you. Mary says ‘yes’. God does not need a house built for him by us. But God does desire to build a house among us. The Incarnation is where God said to his beloved creation, I want to make my home in you. And what is our response to be? To borrow the words of the Australian poet Kevin Hart: Go far into yourself, Let quietness gather there, then say the word. Humbly, simply, trustingly, let us not be afraid to say the word ‘yes’. - **By Archbishop Peter A Comensoli**

You can hear Archbishop Comensoli's Christmas message at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zveSsoAKgja>

Please note: there will be no weekday Masses at St. John's on Tuesday 29th, Wed 30th and Thursday 31st December, 2020.

CHRISTMAS MASS, televised and on-line:

Parishes across our Archdiocese are busily preparing to welcome people for Christmas Masses. What a blessing that we can gather for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! Not everyone will be able to be physically present though, and as such we are delighted to share that the Mass of the Nativity of the Lord at St Patrick's Cathedral will be televised on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and streamed live at 11am on our Archdiocesan YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/archmelb). We invite you to share this news with family and friends far and wide.

ROSTERS... This year, with all the Covid-19 changes, and some Parishioners still feeling wary about attending Mass, we have omitted the helpers' rosters from this Summer Bulletin. We are hoping to re-establish new rosters in the New Year. Please if you are attending Mass over the holiday period, and able to assist in any way, be sure to let us know prior to the Mass you are attending. A big thank you to all who assist in this vital ministry, your assistance is greatly appreciated. If you have not been on a roster before, or would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact the Parish Office to express our interest. A very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to all.

Feb 2021... can you help us & serve your community?	
Flowers	
Altar Servers	
Linen	
Welcomers	6pm: 9am: 11am:
Lectors	6pm: 9am: 11am:
Counters	
Gardening	

FEAST DAYS

Mon 28th Dec 2020 to Sun 3rd Jan 2021

Mon 28th The Holy Innocents
Fri 1st Jan Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Sat 2nd St Basil the Great, bishop, doctor
St Gregory Nazianzen, bishop, doctor

Mon 4th Jan to Sun 10th Jan 2021

Thurs 7th St Raymond of Penyafort, priest
Sun 10th The Baptism of the Lord

Mon 11th Jan to Sun 17th Jan 2021

Wed 13th St Hilary, bishop, doctor

Mon 18th Jan to Sun 24th Jan 2021

Wed 20th St Fabian, pope, martyr
St Sebastian, martyr
Thurs 21st St Agnes, virgin, martyr
Fri 22nd St Vincent, deacon, martyr

Mon 25th Jan to Sun 31st Jan 2021

Mon 25th The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle
Tues 26th Australia Day
Wed 27th St Angela Merici, virgin
Sts Timothy & Titus.
Thurs 28th St Thomas Aquinas, priest, doctor
Sun 31st 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

May we live 2021 with hope in the Lord:

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And lean not on your own understanding:
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And he will direct your paths”.**

- Proverbs 3:5-6

If you can't come to Mass, try participating in a mass online:

<https://stsimonsparish.com.au/mass-videos> or

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or

<https://holyfamlydoveton.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.



POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

26th / 27th December, 2020 – Feast of the Holy Family

God, our Father,
You care for us and look out for us
as a parent attends to their child's needs.
Teach us to be kind and patient, honest and gentle,
and, most of all,
at peace with those with whom we live.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

2nd / 3rd January, 2021 – The Epiphany of the Lord

Lord God,
you want the world to know
that you have sent Jesus your Son
to save us from our sins.
Give us a share of your power,
so that we will be like bright stars
leading others to discover him,
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

9th / 10th January, 2021 – The Baptism of the Lord

Lord Jesus,
In the waters of the Jordan
You were united forever with the human family.
As we were made one with you in our baptism,
never let us be separated from your love. Amen.

16th / 17th January, 2021 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Loving God,
You told the world about the coming of your Son,
Jesus, through John the Baptist.
Now it is our turn to pass on the Good News.
May we pardon those who hurt us just as
Jesus forgives them and now lives with you, forever
and ever. Amen.

23rd / 24th January, 2021 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord Jesus,
give us the courage
to answer your call without hesitation.
May we all in some way share in your mission,
so that your light may shine
in all the dark places of our world. Amen.

30th / 31st January, 2021 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord Jesus,
You came to teach with a new authority.
Teach us the wisdom of the gospel,
so that we may strive for holiness,
and be counted among those who seek first the
blessedness of Your Kingdom. Amen.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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Weekends Sundays 27th December, 2020 – 31st January, 2021 - inclusive.



Normal weekday Mass schedule resumes with 11.00 am Mass on Friday 1st January 2021

Readings for this liturgical year are from Year B

Should you wish to view the Scripture Readings for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) please visit:

<http://www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass.htm>

Navigate the texts of the week ahead via the right-hand column index.

26th / 27th December, 2020 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

Readings: - Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40

1st January, 2021 - Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (11 am Mass)

Readings - Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21.

2nd / 3rd January, 2021 – The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12.

9th / 10th January, 2021 – The Baptism of the Lord

Readings: Is 55:1-11 or Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mk 1:7-11

16th / 17th January, 2021 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Sam 3:3-10,19; 1 Cor 6:13-15,17-20; Jn 1:35-42

23rd / 24th January, 2021 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jonah 3:1-5,10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

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

(John 10:10)