

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
18: 15-20

Moses said to the people: ‘Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. “Do not let me hear again” you said “the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die”; and the Lord said to me, “All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
1 Cor 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord’s affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world’s affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord’s affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world’s affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to

help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.*

Alleluia!

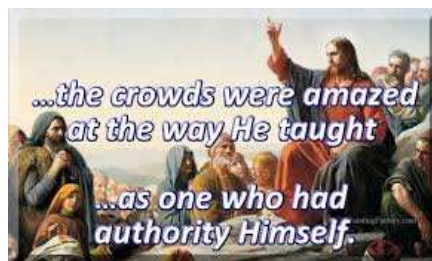
GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
1: 21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus said sharply, ‘Be quiet! Come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. ‘Here is a teaching that is new’ they said ‘and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.’ And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

30th /31st January, 2021

*Heavenly Father,
Through the healing presence of Jesus,
drive far from us all that is unholy,
so that by word and deed
we may proclaim Him Messiah and Lord
forever and ever.
Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD

Although this week’s gospel is a relatively short passage, there’s a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the ‘Holy One of God’. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to ‘Be quiet!’ Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret. Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus’ teaching. It is the message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions. © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tues 2nd Feb The Presentation of the Lord Wed 3rd Feb St Blaise & St Ansgar
Fri 5th Feb St Agatha Sat 6th Feb St Paul Miki and companions

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

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: Maria Haggett

MASS TIMES:
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 5.15 pm

BAPTISMS:
Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. 6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism on our Parish Website. 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.

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

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Ron Prince, Giovanni Cecchin, Mary Williams, Geoffrey Winters, Kenneth Lowden, Giuseppe Pilotto, & Jim Dale.

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.

SICK LIST – If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

WEEKDAY ROSARY is held on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the church. Rosary will be recited 25 minutes prior to the Weekday Mass. All are welcome to join in the recitation.



FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: is on Thursdays between 10am and 12.00pm in the Parish Hall. Ladies and Gentlemen welcome anytime to have a chat, play cards or knit. New members welcome.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will resume on **Tuesday 4th February at 10.15 am** in the Parish Hall. Join us for prayer, praise and worship. With the current Covid-safe directives, we cannot have a shared lunch at this time. All welcome.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS. will resume in the Parish Office Meeting Room on **Tuesday 4th February, 2021, at 9am.** Mothers Prayers was formed to help those mothers who wished to pray together for their children and grandchildren and to find the support they needed. During the meetings a mother may share her worries without the fear of anything being repeated outside of the meeting. The other mothers support her in her prayer and she will feel supported by thousands of mothers around the world who are also part of Mothers Prayers. If you would like to join us, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL NEWS
school resumed on Thursday 28th January, 2021. There will be a **Staff Commissioning Mass at 9.15am, on Thursday 4th February, 2021.** A **WARM WELCOME** to all the new families beginning 2021 with a child / children in Prep. We hope that you feel right at home. Welcome back to all our primary school teachers and students, may 2021 be a great year!

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 7 in 2021. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodSunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.

LENTEN PROGRAM 2021. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 17th February. We are looking for expressions of interest for anyone who might be interested in joining a Lenten Prayer Group. **Please register your name on the sign-up sheet** or phone the Parish Office so that we know how many booklets to order. Booklets cost vary depending on number purchased Qty 1-9 = \$9.00ea; 10-24 = \$8.00 ea, 25-49 = 7.00ea. The accompanying Triple CD is \$8.00ea or a download of same \$6.00ea. To see a sample of the booklet, see the Diocese of Wollongong website at: Lenten Program – Catholic Diocese of Wollongong (dow.org.au)



DON BOSCO RETREAT CENTRE LYSTERFIELD - Positions Vacant Three part-time casual positions available. Please check website for further details. www.donboscoretreats.org.au/careers

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED Single mature lady (Maggie) is seeking accommodation in local area. Shared house including bedroom, lounge and car parking required. If you think that you could help, please contact the Parish Office for contact details.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS will be celebrated on **Friday 5th Feb at 11am, with Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am**

CURRENT VACANT ROLES there are **8 positions currently** listed on the CAM website. Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people. All the details of the positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

CALLING ALL SINGERS/MUSICIANS if you like to sing, or if you are a talented pianist /organist, we really need your help, especially at the 9am Mass! Would you consider accompanying maybe once a or twice a month? All ages welcome. Contact Maree in the Parish Office on Ph 9758 1029.

THE OFFICIAL THEME SONG OF WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD) 2023, scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal, was released on Wednesday, exactly two years since the announcement of the city chosen by Pope Francis to host the next world meeting for young people. Titled “Há Pressa no Ar” (“There’s a rush in the air”), the song is inspired by the WYD 2023 theme: “Mary rose up and went with haste” (Lk 1:39). It recalls the “Yes” of Our Lady and her rush to meet her cousin Elizabeth, who was also with child. For more information, you can visit the official website of WYD 2023 at: <https://www.lisboa2023.org/pt/>

CAN YOU HELP? Compliance with the current Covid restrictions is a requirement we must continue to meet when we celebrate our Masses. We must sanitise the pews after every Mass. Sanitizer and gloves provided! Volunteers gratefully accepted!

| ROSTERS: Mon 1st Feb to Sun 7th Feb 2021 | |
|---|--|
| Flowers | Ann P & Connie Bala |
| Linen | Sue O'H |
| Welcomers | 6pm: Help Needed please 9am: Help Needed please 11am: Help Needed please |
| Lectors | 6pm: Jenny Keating 9am: Pamela Edmunds 11am: Peter Greening |
| Counters | Bryon, Ruby & Guil |
| Gardening | Barry Blake & Help Needed please |

