

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1 Pet 3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism

which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!*

No one lives on bread alone,

*but on every word that comes from the mouth
of God.*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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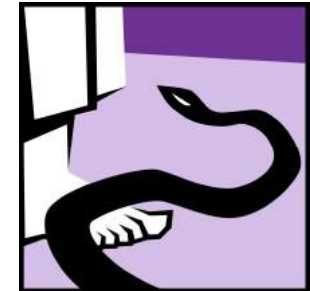
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



1st Sunday of Lent – Year B

20th / 21th February, 2021

*God of the covenant,
We beg you, throughout these forty days,
to unseal for us the wellspring
of your grace,
cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy,
and cause your gift of new life
to flourish once again.*



We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

FOCUS ON THE WORD

THE WILDERNESS In this weekend's gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that **the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe.** It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program! The Jordan Valley was a relatively fertile area. However, Jesus would not have had to travel too great a distance to find himself in very arid, desert-like wilderness. Crossing the River Jordan and climbing out of the Jordan Valley to the east, Jesus would have emerged onto the northern part of the TransJordan Plateau and the edge of the Syrian Desert. The area was not only geographically rough but it was also full of bandits and rebels. It was a dangerous place to be. However, the desert wilderness holds great significance in the Bible as a place of preparation for a new stage of life or a new relationship with God.

. © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 22nd Feb The Chair of St Peter

Lent+ (Fast & abstinence)



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

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.

1st SUNDAY OF LENT – Year B
20th/ 21st February, 2021
YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently
Raffaella Ozella



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Terence McCormack, Kathleen Joyce, Joesph Edmunds, Aniceto Judit, Frank Johnson, Eileen Johnson, Terry McCluskey, Stan Hilder, Palmerino Capozzi, Antonius Weerden, Eileen Haire, Judy Pek.

The sick: Giuseppina Zarro, Peter Thomas, Wilma Neville, Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Barbara Kenny, Anne Jayawardena, Lea Hartley, Cosimo Petracca, 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS The Stations of the Cross will be recited at 10.30am in the Church every Friday during Lent. All welcome.



WEEKDAY ROSARY is held on Wednesdays, Thursdays at 8.45am and Fridays during lent, prior to the Stations of the Cross at 10am in the church. 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 meet on Tuesday Mornings 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. Meets in the Parish Office Meeting Room on Tuesday morning at **9am**. If you would like to join us, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL OPEN DAY. will take place on Wednesday **10th March** from 9.00am-5.00pm. Please invite any friends, family or neighbours who have a child eligible to start school in 2022, Please make contact with the School office to complete an enrolment form as soon as possible, on PH: 9758 1013



LENT has begun Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year until the beginning of their 60th year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year. Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and of helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised. **If you would like to support Caritas, please collect a PROJECT COMPASSION BOX, available in the Church Foyer.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES owing to the cancellation of the Ash Wednesday Mass, due to the snap lockdown, Ashes will be made available at the Parish Office. If you would like to collect some, please bring an appropriate receptacle with you to carry the Ashes home.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is an opportunity to explore the Catholic faith in a non-confronting environment. RCIA is for those who may be searching for God, for those not baptised, for those baptised in another Christian tradition, for those baptised but who have not received other Sacraments of Initiation. **This year, we have two people travelling the RCIA faith journey. Their names are: KATHRYN CAMILLE AND MICHELLE SIDWELL.** Please keep our candidates in your prayers.

THIS SUNDAY at 11am Mass, RCIA candidate Michelle Sidwell will be formally enrolled as a candidate to receive Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. **NEXT Saturday 27th February,** Lachlan & Joshua Armstrong and Joseph Walsh will celebrate reception into the Catholic Church. Lets make them feel most welcome!



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
This year's World Day of Prayer Service has been prepared by the Christian women of the Republic of Vanuatu. The Prayer Service will be held on Friday 5th March, 2021, at St. Thomas Anglican Church, Mount View Road, Upper Fern Tree Gully and begins at 1.00 pm. All are welcome. Enquiries – Peggy Spencer – 0435574755.

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING: Reflection entitled "Lent – Reflect, Repent and Believe" by Carolyn is on the trollies for you to take home.

BAPTISMS –We offer our congratulations to **Anastasia Simmons, Sofia Halliday, & Bethany Pinto** who are baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy!

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2021
Last chance to register! A Parent Information Evening for Reconciliation/Eucharist preparation will be held on **Thursday 25th February at 7pm in St John the Baptist School Hall.** This meeting is for both parents and children in preparation for the Celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the fourth week of March. **For children who attend schools other than our Parish primary school, mandatory Catechetical classes** will be scheduled for **Wednesdays between 4pm-5pm, in the Parish Hall.**

SLAMS MUSICAL: After a trying year and not being able to produce a musical in 2020, SLAMS MTC are excited to be presenting our first musical of 2021, *Island Song*. Island Song follows the story of five New Yorker's caught in a twisted love affair with the city. This unique musical takes us through their poignant and hilarious journeys to seize their own potential and the possibilities the city dangles before them. Driven by its kinetic and eclectic score featuring 5 MAC nominated songs, 'Island Song' captures every urbanite's triumphs, disappointments, and ever-tested perspective.

ISLAND SONG

Performance Dates		Ticket Prices:
Friday 12th March 2021 - 8pm		Adult – \$35.00
Saturday 13th March 2021 - 8pm		Concession – \$32.00
Thursday 18th March 2021 - 8pm		Group 10+ – \$30.00
Friday 19th March 2021 - 8pm		
Saturday 20th March 2021 - 8pm		

Venue Knox Community Arts Centre Bayswater VIC
To book tickets go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BOTMF>

ROSTERS: Mon 22nd Feb to Sun 28th Feb 2021

Flowers	No Flowers in Lent
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm: Help Needed please 9am: Help Needed please 11am: Help Needed please
Lectors	6pm: Raul C 9am: Peter F 11am: Phuong B
Counters	Steph H, Tony B, Connie B & Florence
Gardening	Barry Blake & Help Needed please