

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

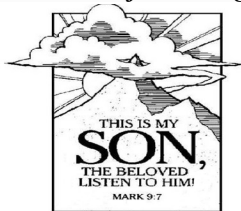
But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.



SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's
voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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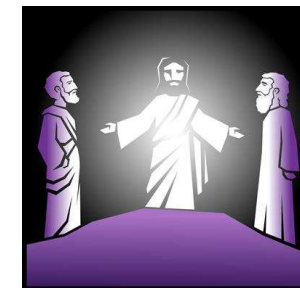
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



2nd Sunday of Lent – Year B

27th / 28th February, 2021

*God of the covenant,
Your presence fills us with awe,
Your Word gives us unshakeable hope.
Take us to Your mountain.
Transform all our acts,
our very being, into your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord Amen*



FOCUS ON THE WORD Like so many other important events in the Bible, the events of this week's gospel occur on a high mountaintop. Mountaintops were places of special and dramatic encounter with God and the disciples' experience of the transfiguration is clearly no exception! In this instance, the disciples suddenly see Jesus' power fully revealed but they fail to fully understand what is going on. One might think how much more obvious could God be about trying to reveal Jesus' identity to the disciples, but still they don't really catch on. Peter thinks he has caught on to the message. When the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside Jesus, Peter understands Jesus to be part of the line of prophets in the Hebrew tradition. He believes he has had a great insight and is so impressed that he wants to remain on the mountaintop – setting up tents in honour of Jesus, Elijah and Moses. In essence, Peter has still only partially understood who Jesus is. He thinks he is the Messiah, but a Messiah in the same mould as the prophets of old, a prophet of the old tradition. He has not understood that Jesus is breaking that mould and creating a new vision, a new tradition – one that is endorsed by the voice of God on the mountaintop. Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the 'high' of this experience, Jesus immediately leads the boys back down the mountain. This is perhaps the greatest message of this passage: that life is not lived on the mountaintop but back down in the valley. Although the mountaintop experience may have provided some new insight and new energy, it is back down in the valley that the world waits; that the real work needs to be done; that the sick and the poor are crying out for God's love and mercy. . © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Fri 5th March Autumn Ember Day 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.

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT – Year B

27th / 28th February, 2021

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently
Giuseppina Zarro; Valery Akhmedov (Russia)



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Daniel Cahill, Therese Edmunds, Tom Donegan, Ron Neville, Henry Wise, Maureen Darcy.

The sick., 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



FUNERAL MASS for the late **Giuseppina Zarro** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Wednesday 3rd March at 11am – Rosary will be recited prior to Mass at 10.30am**

THIS SATURDAY at 6pm Mass, Lachlan & Joshua Armstrong and Joseph Walsh will celebrate reception into the Catholic Church. Joining us in the recitation of the The Nicene Creed. Let's 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.

PROJECT COMPASSION Each year Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australians in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Caritas Australia's role is empowering our neighbours across the world to build a brighter future. If you would like to support Caritas, please collect a **project compassion box, available in the Church Foyer.**

VIRTUAL IMMERSIONS FOR PARISHES

This year, Caritas is offering an exciting new component to Project Compassion: the chance to interact online with our program staff, partners and beneficiaries! Virtual Immersions are Caritas-hosted Q&A sessions where schools and parishes can engage directly with Caritas Australia's program operatives in Australia and overseas. The sessions offer a unique opportunity for students and parish groups to connect with the people positively affected through Caritas-supported programs and to learn more about the impact of their generous donations. Join us via Zoom to learn about our overseas development work as featured in Project Compassion Each session will be 30 mins long.



Week 2 Margret's Story (Solomon Islands) Host animator is Bernard Holland. Contact Bernard at: bernard.holland@caritas.org.au. To pre-register for the event. **WHEN? 2nd Mar, 2021 07:30 PM** in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

BAPTISMS –We offer our congratulations to **Harlow McInnes & Lucas Jacob** who are baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy!



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

HAPPY RETIREMENT Carolyn Sombekke, will officially be retiring from her role of Faith Development Coordinator at the end of February. We wish to thank and acknowledge her 6 years of service to the community of St John the Baptist, the countless preparations of Baptism that she has diligently conducted, the Musical Productions that she has written and produced, not to mention the Reflection Days and articles for us to read. We are grateful for all you have done, and wish you every blessing as you enter a new phase of life.



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ISLAND SONG

SLAMS MUSICAL: 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.

Performance Dates: 12th – 20th March 2021 8pm-10.30pm
Venue Knox Community Arts Centre Bayswater VIC
To book tickets phone: 0412 605 182
Or see the website at: www.trybooking.com/BOTMF

Ticket Prices:
Adult – \$35.00
Concession – \$32.00
Group 10+ – \$30.00

ROSTERS: Mon 1st Mar to Sun 7th Mar 2021

Flowers	No Flowers in Lent
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm: Help Needed please 9am: Help Needed please 11am: Help Needed please
Lectors	6pm: Louise D 9am: Pamela E 11am: Peter J
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S & Guil W
Gardening	Barry Blake & Help Needed please