

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Job 7:1-4, 6-7*

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'

Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Praise the Lord who heals the broken hearted.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
He bore our sickness,  
and endured our suffering.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1: 29-39*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**  
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**Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au**



**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**  
**6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2021**

*Heavenly Father,  
Out of your power and compassion,  
You sent Your Son into our world  
to proclaim the day of salvation.  
Bring us health of body and spirit  
and raise us to new life in Your service.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*



## FOCUS ON THE WORD

This week's gospel follows directly on from last week's reading and, as is typical with Mark's gospel, the events occur on the very same day. The urgency of the gospel is obvious in this week's reading; Jesus had a very busy 24 hours! Jesus appears to have made Capernaum his base after leaving Nazareth. He may, in fact, have based himself at Simon Peter's house. There are many references in the gospels to Jesus' actions in Capernaum. Archaeologists have identified the house in Capernaum that they believe to be Simon Peter's house – less than 100 metres from the Capernaum synagogue. Evidence reveals carved inscriptions and symbols that identify both Jesus and Peter. The house appears to have been used as a 'house-church' until a church was built on the site in the 5th Century. Excavations of the site can be seen today.

In this week's reading, it is Simon's mother-in-law who is healed. This obviously means that Simon is married. However, there is no mention whatsoever about his wife. Is she alive or dead? Do they have children? We have no indication. It is not until the writings of Paul (1 Cor 9:5) that we learn Simon Peter was indeed married and that his wife accompanied him on his travels. Perhaps this visit to his family home was to announce to his wife and family that he had decided to follow Jesus and give up fishing.

. © Greg Sunter

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Feb St Jerome Emiliani & St Josephine Bakhita

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Feb St Scholastica

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Feb Our Lady of Lourdes

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**

6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2021  
**YEAR OF ST JOSEPH**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*  
Bishop Luc Matthys; Nathalie McDermott; and Robert Meade.



*Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*

John Dunlop; Benito Discenza; Penrin & Kane Halliday, Guy & Olga Walter; Jack McCann; Keith Scutt; Jennifer Trevena; Pelligrino Migliore; Maureen Hawley; Michael Hanrahan, Joan Rashleigh.

*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** 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.** Has resumed for 2021 in the Parish Office Meeting Room. We meet on Tuesday morning 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. If you would like to join us, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029

**WORD OF GOD SUNDAY** This weekend, the Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God. 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](http://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.

**REVISED REGULATIONS:** As you are probably aware, from Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 there have been changes to the COVID state-wide restrictions due to a single positive case visiting multiple areas. The following key items are now in effect from 11:59pm, 3 February 2021.

- **Fitted face coverings will be mandatory in public indoor spaces.** If you are visiting a private home, it is strongly recommended that fitted face coverings are worn during the visit.
- Please be sure to wear your mask in the Church unless you have a lawful exemption or are a child under 12 years of age.**

**LENTEN PROGRAM 2021 – COMFORT**



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 17<sup>th</sup> February. This will be the **last chance** to sign up, so that the Booklets can be ordered in time. Cost: \$8.00 ea, 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](http://dow.org.au))

Dear Parishioners,  
It is with mixed feelings that I write to tell you that I will be retiring at the end of February from my position as Faith Development Coordinator in our parish. Family commitments and a desire to travel more around Australia with my husband has influenced my decision.  
I have loved working in the parish for the last 5 years and will continue to be an active member of St John's as this has been my home parish for over 50 years and will continue to be for a long time yet.  
Cheers & Blessings  
Carolyn

**BAPTISMS** –We offer our congratulations to **Makenzie Turnell daughter of Gregory & Victoria** who is baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

**PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2021**



This year, Covid regulations permitting, we are offering preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist for any baptised children in Years 3 and above, who reside within the boundaries of our Parish.

**INTERESTED FAMILIES WILL NEED TO REGISTER. A Parent Information Evening for Reconciliation**

will be held on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 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**. The families who already contacted the office to register their child's/children's name(s), will receive an email outlining these details. For the children attending St John's School, preparation will be coordinated by their teachers. All parents are required to present a copy of their child's/children's Baptismal certificate(s) at the Information Evening. First Eucharist Masses are scheduled to be celebrated mid-year, and there will be an additional Parent Information Evening on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 focussing on preparation for First Eucharist**, and to outline important dates. Please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 if you would like to register, or if you require any further information. PH: 9758 1029

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Feb to Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Marg H & Ange C
<b>Linen</b>	Carole D
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm: Help Needed please 9am: Help Needed please 11am: Help Needed please
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm: Rosina L 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Carolyn S
<b>Counters</b>	Bindu M, Tony B, Peter F & Connie B
<b>Gardening</b>	Barry Blake & Help Needed please