

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 10:31-11:2

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

DO YOU HAVE A BIBLE? Last weekend was **Word of God Sunday**, and Fr Thomas asked us all if we had a bible? If you do not have a bible in your home, and you would like one, please, contact the Parish Office.



The Word of the Lord. GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

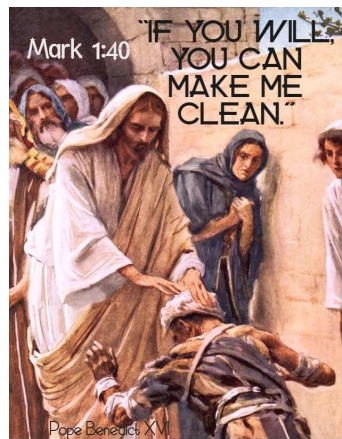
*Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1: 40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

13th / 14th February, 2021

*Heavenly Father,
We come before You,
confident in Christ's victory
over sickness and death.
Lead us to wholeness, through the
pardon You grant Your people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD

To be a leper in 1st Century Palestine was to be utterly rejected from society. They were not permitted to engage in religious practice as they were permanently regarded as being ritually unclean and, indeed, unable to become clean as long as their disease lasted. The book of Leviticus, quoted in today's first reading, contains two whole chapters of rules regarding lepers. Lepers were forced to live outside of any village for fear of contamination and even had to call out a warning of 'Unclean! Unclean!' if anyone came near them. They were forced to beg for food and money because no-one would hire them. They were literally on the very edge of society. Verse 41 of this week's reading begins, 'Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand.' This translation is from the Jerusalem Bible but if we were to consider other translations of the Bible we would find other phrases used such as: moved with pity; filled with pity; moved with compassion; filled with compassion; or even, filled with anger. By comparison, 'Feeling sorry for him' seems a weak translation. Jesus' reaction is a fully human one of indignation at what this man is forced to endure. It is a gut-wrenching response from the very core of Jesus' humanity.

. © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tues 16th Feb Shrove Tuesday

Wed 17th February Ash Wednesday + (Fast & abstinence) Lent begins...

*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.

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B13th /14th February, 2021**YEAR OF ST JOSEPH****PRAYING FOR...***All who have died recently**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*

Joseph Edmunds, Joyce Howell Aniceto C. Judit, Kathleen Joyce.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS The Stations of the Cross will be recited at 10.30am in the Church every Friday during Lent, commencing on 19th February. All welcome.

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. 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

CALLING PALMS AUSTRALIA VOLUNTEERS: The need is acute! Low-income communities want you to share your skills to help, develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their people and the capacity of their organisations. To properly prepare for a 2022 placement you do need to enquire now. There is an Information Meeting on **Saturday 20 February @ 10:00am** To find out more, please go to: <https://palms.org.au/assignments-abroad/>



LENT BEGINS ON 17th FEBRUARY WITH ASH WEDNESDAY Masses at 9.15am and 7pm Please be aware that 40 school children will be attending the 9.15am Mass, with the limitations on attendees due to Covid-19 restrictions capped at 110 people, we encourage any Parishioners who are able to attend the evening Mass, please do so. 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 in time of Pandemic: The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything. – From the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 12th January 2021. Robert Card. Sarah, Prefect

✠ Arthur Roche Archbishop Secretary

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. **So far this year, we have two people travelling the RCIA faith journey with us at this time. Their names are: KATHRYN CAMILLE AND MICHELLE SIDWELL.** It's not too late to join them on this journey. If you would like to find out more at a relaxed, informal meeting, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029. Please keep our candidates in your prayers.

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

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2021

This year, Covid-19 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 NOW. A Parent Information Evening for Reconciliation 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.** 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 6th May, 2021 focussing on preparation for First Eucharist,** and to outline important dates. Please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 promptly if you would like to register.

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

**ROSTERS: Mon 15th Feb to Sun 21st Feb 2021**

Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Laurel Stephens
Welcomers	6pm: Help Needed please 9am: Help Needed please 11am: Help Needed please
Lectors	6pm: Help Needed 9am: Gordon Veerasaawmy 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Steph H, Tony B, Connie B & Florence
Gardening	Barry Blake & Help Needed please