

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the second book of  
Chronicles* **2Chr36:14-16,19-23**

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I  
forget you!*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Ephesians* **2:4-10**

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been

saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
God loved the world so much,  
he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him  
might have eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John* **3:14-21**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**Knox Deanery**

**19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156**

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**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Year B**

**13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2021**

*Heavenly Father,  
in Your Son Jesus,  
we see the Light which guides our way.  
Where there is apprehension and confusion  
caused by the pandemic,  
may Jesus show us true wisdom,  
deep compassion, and total trust in you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** The gospel passage tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, 'so that through him the world might be saved'. It also tells us that whoever refuses to believe 'is already condemned'. God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. We only have to open our eyes to see the alternative! Today's Gospel reading speaks about people and actions that are 'of the darkness' and 'of the light'. Q. What are some actions in our world today that are 'of the darkness' and 'of the light'? Q What are some actions 'of the light' that we can take on that would make a difference in other people's lives? © Greg Sunter

**PROJECT COMPASSION PRAYER:** We pray for the inspiration and courage to shine a light on global injustices, such as the lack of basic sanitation for so many in our world. May we let our own light shine unto others, so that we may be agents of change who bring about the kingdom of God on earth through our support of Project Compassion.



Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March

St Patrick, bishop (solemnity).

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> March

St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (solemnity)



***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**  
Mary Makarucha 9758 1029  
Email: [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**WEDDINGS:**  
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT – Year B

13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2021  
**YEAR OF ST JOSEPH**

### PRAYING FOR...

*All who have died recently*

Lorraine Moore, Raymond Studach,  
Silvana Parolin & Mary Brimelow.

### Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Ayden Tellis, Audrey Homan, Basil Lorimer, Peter Kelly, Ellen Wallace, Patricia Alexander.

**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.

### GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

Date: *first Saturday each month; 10.30a.m.*  
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.  
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

**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

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** Across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith. Could you help stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters and help ease their heavy burdens? Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/refugees](http://www.aidtochurch.org/refugees)



**VICTORIA STATE AWARD** Congratulations to Lia Unmack for being the recipient of the Victoria State Award for her work with SVDP. The 2020 award was presented to Lia by Hon Nick Wakeling MP Ferntree Gully this week.

**FUNERAL PRAYERS** for Lorraine Moore will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am**

**FUNERAL MASS** for the late Raymond Studach will be celebrated at St John's Church on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 11am**

**FUNERAL MASS** for Mary Brimelow will be celebrated at St John's on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, at 11.00am**

**FUNERAL MASS** for Silvana Parolin will be celebrated at St John's on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am** preceded by Rosary at 10.30am

**THE 2021 COMBINED CATHOLIC CHURCHES PARISH RAFFLE IS BACK!!** Tickets will go on sale this weekend. This year all proceeds from the sale of these tickets will be split between the Social Justice Group and the SVDP Group. We thank all parishioners for your support. Volunteers are needed to help cover the sale of tickets at different masses. If you are able to help at any of the masses, kindly please email Connie Bala on [c.silva2@bigpond.com](mailto:c.silva2@bigpond.com) your date/s and mass time that you are able to help so that a roster can be drawn up. Your help can be just one weekend, or more!



**PROJECT COMPASSION** Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet at home and was often sick due to the practice of open defecation. Through Caritas



Australia's support, Arsad and his community improved hygiene and sanitation, and funded their own toilets.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting the website at: [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413. VIRTUAL IMMERSIONS are a new offering this year. Join us via Zoom to learn about our overseas development work as featured in Project Compassion Each session will be 30 mins long. <https://lent.caritas.org.au/virtualimmersions>

**BAPTISMS** – We offer our congratulations to Jacob Psalia, Leon Cichocki, Gordy Wise, Darcy Taylor and Ivy Wheeler who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



**WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME** to Ms Mary Makarucha who, this week joins the Parish Staff in the pastoral role of Faith Development Co-Ordinator. Mary brings to the role her theological studies and her experience working in parish administration. Her role will involve supporting parishioners in their on-going faith formation and adult education. We thank her for her willingness to take up this role, and warmly welcome her to the Parish of St Johns.

**CALLING ALL SINGERS/MUSCIANS** you are invited to join in the **singing or accompanying** at Mass on either organ or piano. as we prepare for the up-coming Holy Week / Easter Services. All ages welcome. Contact Maree on Ph 9758 1029.



**2021 PATRICK ORATION.** On the feast day of St Patrick (**17<sup>th</sup> March**), Archbishop Comensoli will present the 2021 Patrick Oration and warmly invites the community to reconnect and rediscover our hope for the future. **The 2021 Patrick Oration will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. The broadcast begins at 7.30pm and can be viewed on community channel C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and via YouTube at 7.30pm.**



**EMMAUS OPEN DAY** will be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, at 3.45pm – 6.30pm. Principal Ms Karen Jebb, warmly invites you to join the day at the Vermont South Campus on Open Day to see the school in action. For tour bookings or more information, please visit our website at: [www.emmaus.vic.edu.au](http://www.emmaus.vic.edu.au) Years 7-12: 503 Springvale Road, Vermont South Y9@E: 285 Warrigal Road, Burwood. Telephone: 9845 321

ROSTERS: Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar to Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	
Flowers	No Flowers in Lent
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm: Help Needed please 9am: Help Needed please 11am: Help Needed please
Lectors	6pm: Gab V 9am: Terry S 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Peter & Dawn, & Peter C
Gardening	Carlos E & Help Needed please