

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews
5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.
What shall I say:
Father, save me from this hour?
But it was for this very reason that I have come to
this hour.
Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

‘Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.’

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.



*Unless a wheat grain
falls on the ground and
dies, it remains only a
single grain.*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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5th Sunday of Lent – Year B

20th / 21st March, 2021

Heavenly Father,

*You have written a covenant of grace in our hearts,
sealed by the obedience of Jesus Your Son.*

*Raise us up with Christ,
the grain fallen to earth*

that yields a harvest of everlasting life.

May we glorify Your name,

by following faithfully where He has led.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD Jesus says, ‘Anyone who loves (their) life loses it; anyone who hates (their) life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.’ This can seem pretty tough! It challenges us about how much we cling to the ‘things’ of this life.

Today’s reading reminds us that we are closing in on the events of the Passion that we will remember more closely over the next couple of weeks. Although the Gospel of John appears to have Jesus in and around Jerusalem quite often, the events described in this week’s reading take place in the preparation for Passover, immediately before the final days leading up to Jesus’ death and resurrection. It is a fitting culmination to the Sunday gospels of Lent. It prepares us for the account of the Passion that will be the gospel next week. © Greg Sunter

THE FEAST DAY OF ST JOSEPH was celebrated on 19 March 2021. On December 8, 2020 Pope Francis proclaimed the following year would be the Year of St. Joseph, honouring the 150th anniversary of the declaration that St. Joseph is the Patron of the Universal Church. St. Joseph is most well-known as the patron saint of fathers, families, and workers. [Catholic Church in Australia](#) has several reflections on St. Joseph which you are most welcome to read. The March Reflection has been attached to this newsletter or click on link [St Joseph Reflection March 2021](#)

Thurs 25th March Annunciation of the Lord (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: marymakarucha@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

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.

5th SUNDAY OF LENT – Year B
20th / 21st March, 2021
YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently
Silvana Parolin & Mary Brimelow.



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Giuseppina Zarro (1 Month) Carmella Nardone, Basil Lorimer, Lisa Di Donato, Paul Migliore, Mary Whelan, Dean O'Brien, Peter Trevena, Michael Atkinson, Thomas Schepisi, Brian Mitchell & Domenico Lizza

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. All welcome. Enquires: Barbara 9753 9149 or Maree 9758 6585

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

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY
(NEXT SUNDAY 28th MARCH) This year as part of our Covid-Safe plan, we will begin inside the church, with no procession with Palms.



FUNERAL MASS for **Mary Brimelow** will be celebrated at St John's on **Tuesday 23rd March, at 11.00am.** **FUNERAL MASS** for **Silvana Parolin** will be celebrated at St John's on **Wednesday 24th March at 11.00am** preceded by Rosary at 10.30am

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE is on, **Tuesday 30th March at 7 pm:** Mass with extended Penitential Rite. **7.30 pm-8.30pm** Individual Reconciliation

THE SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM for First Reconciliation is well underway, and the Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Thursday 25th March, at 5pm. Please, do pray for our children.

THE 2021 COMBINED CATHOLIC CHURCHES PARISH RAFFLE IS BACK!! Tickets are now on sale. Please buy a ticket or maybe take a book home with you to sell to friends and family. We thank all parishioners for your support.

CALLING ALL SINGERS/MUSICIANS We need you! Please, join us in the **singing or accompanying** at Mass, as we prepare for the upcoming Holy Week / Easter Services. All ages welcome. Contact Maree on Ph 9758 1029.

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER are on the glass wall. If you are able to help out in the various ministries or other tasks that are available, please write your name in the spaces provided. Your support is much appreciated!



PROJECT COMPASSION This week focuses on Halima, in the refugee camp in Bangladesh, caring for her mother who has a disability. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting the website at: www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE is a vibrant, inclusive and warm community where girls feel safe and build supportive lifelong friendships. There is a surge in demand for places. Parents of Grade 5 students are strongly encouraged to secure a place for Year 7 2023. Visit the college website to apply or arrange a tour. Families seeking enrolment for 2022 should contact the College Registrar on 9754 6611 asap.



BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Skyla Thiele** who will be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy

FAITH DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Greetings, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mary Makarucha. I thank Maree for the introduction she placed in the bulletin last weekend. I would just like to add a couple of things and I would also like to meet you. I am a mother and grandmother; I have 4 adult children and 3 grandchildren. I have worked in administrative role and volunteered for services and ministry within the parishes that I have lived at. As Maree mentioned I currently live in Boronia and have for the past 13 years. Previously, I lived in Glen Waverley belonging to the parish of St Christopher's which is a Pallottine parish, so its mission is based on St Vincent Pallotti. I don't know if you know St Vincent Pallotti. Not many people know that St Vincent Pallotti is the patron Saint of Vatican II because he had the belief and understanding that all are called to holiness. If this is the case, if all are called to holiness then, all are capable of holiness and if that is the case then all have holiness within them. And that is what I understand as my mission as a Faith Development Coordinator; to unveil this concept, to cultivate a deeper relationship with Jesus and through this we become more aware of the holiness within. I am looking forward to meeting you all and of working and serving in this role.
- Thank you and God bless! Mary M.

EMMAUS COLLEGE EMMAUS OPEN DAY will be on Thursday 25th March, 2021, at 3.45pm – 6.30pm. For tour bookings or more information, please visit our website at: www.emmaus.vic.edu.au Years 7-12: 503 Springvale Road, Vermont South Y9@E: 285 Warrigal Road, Burwood. Telephone: 98453211

ROSTERS: Mon 22nd Mar to Sun 28th Mar

Flowers	No Flowers in Lent
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6pm: Help Needed please 9am: Help Needed please 11am: Help Needed please
Lectors	6pm: Rosina L 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Phuong B
Counters	Peter & Dawn, & Peter C
Gardening	Carlos E & Help Needed please