

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St John

3:18-24

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are the children of the truth and be able to
quieten our conscience in his presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and
he knows everything.
My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own
conscience, we need not be afraid in God's
presence, and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments and live the
kind of life that he wants. His commandments are
these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus
Christ and that we love one another as he told us
to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in

God and God lives in him. We know that he
lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Live in me and let me live in you, says the
Lord; my branches bear much fruit.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
very branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away, and every branch that does bear
fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to
you. Make your home in me, as I make mine
in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by
itself, but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you
can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain
in me is like a branch that has been thrown
away – he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on the
fire, and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you should
bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**I am the vine,
you are the branches.**

John 15:5



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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5th Sunday of Easter – Year B

1st / 2nd May, 2021

Heavenly Father

***You are the Vinedresser who nourishes
us through our connection
to Jesus, the True Vine.***

***Prune any distractions from our lives,
and help us to remain grafted to Jesus
your Son, that we might bear
abundant fruit.***

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD Today we reflect on the way salvation brings an ecclesial community into being. This community is joined to Jesus as branches are part of the vine. It is a multi-faceted community, devoted to good works and to prayer.

The image of the vine and the branches is an intimate characterisation of the community of believers who share the same divine life. This community thrives on Christ's resurrected life that surges through all of its members. The early church was a multi-ethnic community. It included inhabitants from Jerusalem, Judaea, Galilee, Samaria and even Damascus. Some of these people were firmly rooted in Jewish customs, others were more Greek in their culture. It was the fulfilment of the promises made so often in the past, that the saving power of God would reach the whole world. Our own ecclesial community of believers is also multi-ethnic. Where formerly parishes or liturgical assemblies might be made up of people of only one ethnic identity or economic status, today there is much greater diversity and rapid change of character. Like the early Christians, we too are often suspicious of newcomers. In the face of all of this variety, we are called to open our hearts to the various manifestations of God's power and to fashion a community that gives glory to God. Today's readings remind us that we demonstrate our love for God and for each other in the way we live. Joined to Christ as branches are part of the vine, we too are enlivened and thereby bear fruit in abundance. © Dianne Bergant CSA

FEAST DAYS: *Mon 3rd May St Philip & St James - apostles*

***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
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 Easter – Year B

1st / 2nd May, 2021
YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Ortensia Murrarotto, Anna Bogner, Omar Foda, Agnes Russell.

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.

WEEKDAY ROSARY on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, Rosary will be recited 25 minutes prior to the Weekday Mass. 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 calling all those who like to knit or crotchet... would you like to make a shawl or knee rug to be blessed and given to someone in ill health? And / or make you choice of a beanie, scarf, gloves, small children's wear or rug squares to be given to **KOGO- Knit one Give One-**, a charity that **donates to the most vulnerable. Come on Thursdays between 10am and 12.00pm** in the Parish Hall, Wool available at no cost. Ladies and Gentlemen welcome anytime to have a chat, play cards or knit. New members welcome.



CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meets on Tuesdays at 10.15am in the Hall for prayer and praise. All welcome.

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. Join us, on Tuesday Mornings at 9am-10am in the Parish office. Enquiries 9758 1029.

POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE Multiple jobs available. For more information visit **the Archdiocese website at:** <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

FIRST EUCHARIST INFORMATION NIGHT
All families of children making their First Eucharist this year are invited to a family faith formation evening on **Thursday 6th May at 7.00pm** in the school hall. This is an important evening as we prepare the children for this important sacrament.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS – Will be on Friday 7th May, at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am.

QR CODE: On Friday 26th March, Victoria moved to a more relaxed COVID safe setting. As part of these changes, electronic record keeping became mandatory for all venues and facilities, including our Places of Worship. Therefore, registering via **QR CODE WILL BE MANDATORY**. We ask all parishioners to please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass and **Remember to Bring your Mobile Phone** to allow time for registration using the QR Code. If you do not have a smart phone, you will receive assistance.

HELP NEEDED we are looking for volunteer welcomer's to welcome our Parishioners and assist with QR code logging in at the door, as well as making sure that all people attending our church are checked in with the QR code. Helpers will need to arrive about 25 minutes prior to Mass starting. If you could help, please contact the Parish office, so we can arrange a roster asap.

THE 2021 COMBINED CATHOLIC CHURCHES PARISH RAFFLE We thank everyone for your support in the Combined Catholic Parish Raffle ticket sales. Now it is time that all raffle books **sold/unsold MUST BE RETURNED BY 9TH MAY AT THE LATEST**, to the parish representative selling tickets at the mass you attend. Your help would ease our follow up phone calls. Thank you for your assistance.

'PONDERING GRIEF', on Saturday 22nd May 2021, at 10am-3.30pm. There will be a reflection day which offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop offers a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Facilitated by Linda Espie at Heart of Life, Kildara Centre, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern. Cost \$80 (Materials provided, BYO lunch). Book for this day, and pay via website heartoflife.melbourne. For more information please email info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel 9890 1101.

FIRST EUCHARIST GIFTS With First Eucharist ceremonies approaching in June, please note that we have a supply of First Eucharist gifts, and cards as well as baptism keepsakes available to buy in our piety stall (located in the foyer of the church). You may browse before or after each of our Masses.



Are you considering becoming Catholic? Would you like to know more of the Catholic Faith? JOIN OUR RCIA PROGRAM



RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, it is for those seeking to become full members of the Catholic Church; a baptised adult of another Christian Church desiring to be with full communion of the Catholic Church; a Catholic who has been baptised and would like to be fully initiated into the Church by receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. You are most welcome and we look forward to assisting those who wish to know more about the Catholic faith. We meet once a week where we learn more about the basic message of Christ, the story of the Catholic Church as well as prepare for the sacraments. **Please contact the Parish Office** giving your name and contact details on 9758 1029 or email marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

CHAPLAINCY SUNDAY NEXT WEEKEND
There will be a collection at all masses next weekend to help support the work done by our chaplains serving those in need across healthcare, HIV/Aids, Seafarers, prisons and youth justice. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated

GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS Fr Thomas will say Mass at Glengollan Village on 1st Friday of each month at 2pm.

SEEKING A PIANIST TO ASSIST AT 9AM MASS
are you able to play the piano? Please contact Maree Wilson at the Parish office on 9758 1029.

ROSTERS: Mon 3rd May to Sun 9th May 2021

Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6pm: Help needed 9am: Help needed 11am: Help needed
Lectors	6pm: Rosina L 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Eduardo Morillo
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S and Guil W
Gardening	Tom Noonan & Help Needed Please