

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians **4:1-7, 11-13**

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There

is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is father of all, over all, through all and within all. Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always,
until the end of the world.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark **16:15-20**

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

GO into all the world
and preach the gospel
to every creature.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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The Ascension of the Lord – Year B **15th / 16th May, 2021**

*O God of power and might,
in the mystery of the Ascension
You have raised up and glorified Your Son, Jesus.
Grant us wisdom and knowledge,
and strengthen our hope in You.
So that by Your Grace,
we may continue the mission of Jesus,
throughout the whole world. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, 'Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words!' In every interaction we have we say so much about who we are, what we think of the other person and what we believe – even without opening our mouth. Our actions and attitudes proclaim our beliefs more powerfully than our words ever do. If we claim to be concerned about justice and yet behave unjustly then it is our actions, not our words, that will be heard! When we are called to 'proclaim the Good News' we are called to do this first and foremost in action. © Greg Sunter Today we are overwhelmed by the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Amidst shouts of joy and exaltation, Christ is enthroned in heaven in both his divinity and his glorified humanity. Now he is present with us in a new way, in a new body, in the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists; he ministers through its prophets and pastors. Through us he continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have each other; together we make up the new body of Christ. © Dianne Bergant CSA

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN: The Parish of St John the Baptist, and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. You can find out more about the church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention

FEAST DAYS: Tue 18th May St John I Thurs 20th May St Bernadine of Siena
Fri 21st May St Christopher Magallanes Sat 22nd May St Rita of Cascia

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

GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS 1st Friday 2pm

WILLOWBROOK MASS: 3rd Thursday 2pm

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.

The Ascension of the Lord – Year B
15th /16th May, 2021
YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently

Judith Spicer.



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Laurie Nicholls, Peter Dunlop, Joseph Ruek, Lucy Lee, Conchita Censon, Eleonora Discenza, Sasty Sastradipradja, Gilda Migliore, Walerian Koroluk and Angela Sawyer .

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 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 Tuesday Mornings at 9am-10am in the Parish office. Enquiries: 9758 1029.

PROJECT COMPASSION ANNUAL SPECIAL APPEAL A Big thank you for your generous donations to this appeal. **For anyone who has requested a tax-deductible receipt, they are now available for collection in the church.**

LAUDATO SI' WEEK occurs on 16th – 25th May 2021. It signals the end of the special 5th anniversary year of the Pope's encyclical and the responses made by the church to give life to its goals, which are of great significance to all communities where we live and serve. The theme for Laudato Si' Week 2021 is, **"for we know that things can change"** (Laudato Si', 13). The Peace, Ecology and Justice Office at the Columban Mission Centre in Melbourne are partners in promoting Laudato Si' Week 2021. which will herald new announcements from the Vatican to encourage, inspire and support Catholics, and all people of goodwill, to better care for our earthly home through the implementation of the Vatican's new Laudato Si Action Platform and Goals. For more information about this, please go to: <https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications>

OUR QR CODE HAS CHANGED, in line with the Victorian State Government Directive. Checking in at venues and facilities helps with contact tracing and keeps Victoria (and our Church) safe and open. It's not difficult if you have a smart mobile phone. Please check if you have the **SERVICE VICTORIA APP**. If you don't have this app, you can find on the government website at: <https://service.vic.gov.au/check-in/> and follow the instructions there to download it. **Who can I call if I need help?** If you need help call the Department of Health COVID hotline – open 24 hours, 7 days, Ph: [1800 675 398](tel:1800675398). **REGISTRATION AT MASS IS NOW 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.



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.

COMING TOGETHER AGAIN – NEXT WEEKEND on **Sunday 23rd May**, we wish to invite Parishioners new and old, to gather **after the 11am Mass** in the school hall to celebrate our gifts and talents. Please come and be a part of this fun event. Grab a **sausage at our sizzle**, or a cuppa or cool drink. We are looking forward to offering some displays showing some of the marvellous groups and wonderful people our Parish has to offer!



CHAPLAINCY SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND Each year on Chaplaincy Sunday, an appeal is held as an opportunity to raise awareness and funds for the important work carried out by Catholic chaplains across Victoria. By providing a listening ear and a compassionate presence, chaplains assist people in coping with emotional pain and loneliness. Having someone to walk with the vulnerable, shoulder-to-shoulder, along their journey can help them to feel cared for, to feel empowered, and to find hope. Please give generously via the envelopes, or You can donate online at www.ccam.org.au



PARISH RAFFLE On behalf of St Vincent de Paul – Ferntree Gully Conference and the Parish Social Justice Group we would like to **thank you most sincerely for your generosity** with the: **COMBINED CATHOLIC CHURCHES RAFFLE- 2021.** Thanks to the support of Fr Thomas both Parish groups coordinated this year's raffle. The proceeds will be shared equally between the two organisations to continue their charitable works. Thank you to all volunteers, too many to mention individually for their help with the sale and finalisation of the 2021 raffle tickets. The draw will take place: **Saturday 5th June at: 7.15pm, at St Simon's Parish Church, Rowville.** Details will be published on: Wednesday 9th June 2021, on the websites below: www.stsimonsparish.com.au; www.geelongdeanery.cam.org.au We would like to thank you, your families and friends in supporting this parish project. Jenny Keating Patrick Sawyer
President Chairman
SVDP FTG conference Social Justice Group

PARISH CENSUS CARDS all parishioners, please fill in a card if you haven't already.

ROSTERS: Mon 17th May to Sun 23rd May	
Flowers	Genevieve W & Gina P
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm: Help needed 9am: Help needed 11am: Help needed
Lectors	6pm: Jenny K 9am: Pamela E 11am: Peggy S
Counters	Peter & Dawn, Peter C
Gardening	Tom Noonan & Help Needed Please