

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 17:22-24

The Lord says this:

‘From the top of the cedar,
from the highest branch I will take a shoot
and plant it myself on a very high mountain.
I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,
every winged creature rest in the shade of its
branches.

And every tree of the field will learn that I, the
Lord, am the one who stunts tall trees and makes
the low ones grow, who withers green trees and
makes the withered green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Lord, it is good to give thanks to
you.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to the Corinthians 2Cor 5:6-10

We are always full of confidence when we
remember that to live in the body means to be exiled
from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by
sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually
want to be exiled from the body and make our home
with the Lord. Whether we are living in the body or
exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all
the truth about us will be brought out in the law court
of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves
for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God,
Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds, ‘This is what the kingdom
of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night
and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed
is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of
its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then
the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the
crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap
because the harvest has come.’

He also said, ‘What can we say the kingdom of God
is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a
mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the
soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once
it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all
and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air
can shelter in its shade.’

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word
to them, so far as they were capable of understanding
it. He would not speak to them except in parables,
but he explained everything to his disciples when
they were alone.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Act of Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that You
are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You
sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.
As though You have already
come, I embrace You and unite
myself entirely to You;
never permit me to be
separated from You. Amen.*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



11th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year B

12th/13th June, 2021

All powerful God,

You have sown the seed of your word in us.

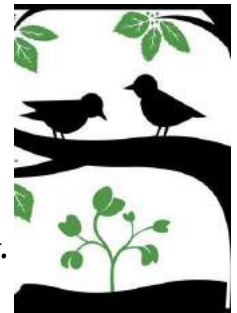
May it grow and bear abundant fruit.

Make us trust in your hidden ways,

that we may pray with confidence

and wait for your kingdom now growing in our midst.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD: The great seasons of Lent and Eastertide are completed and now we return to the cycle of ‘Ordinary Time’ and the sequential reading of Mark’s Gospel. In Mark Chapter 4, the setting is by the Sea of Galilee and Jesus teaches the crowd that gathers, using a number of parables. Our imagination can be helpful here. The crowd that gathers are probably ordinary peasant farmers and so Jesus uses images that they would be familiar with. 4:3-9 Parable of a man sowing his crop; 4:21 Parable of the lamp; 4:26-29 Parable of the seed growing by itself; 4:30-32 Parable of the mustard seed. Parables were often used in the Old Testament as a way of teaching and their value lay in not explaining them, but rather letting the listener be puzzled by them and search for their meaning. Jesus finishes his parables with the words, ‘Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.’ (4:9, 23) You might imagine some in the crowd going away scratching their heads, and talking to each other – ‘What do you think he is talking about?’ Newspapers use a similar technique in some cartoons, which are not just for amusement, but also offer a social or political commentary. Many of Michael Leunig’s reflections are the same – inviting you to think. Could it be that Mark is suggesting that after the time of the initial sowing the seed of the Gospel, then there is a time when it can appear as if nothing is happening? While the seed is quietly and invisibly germinating following its own timetable? © Mary Coloe

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: Saturday 19th June St Romuald, abbot.

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.

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year B
12th / 13th June, 2021
YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently

Lola Payne, Adele Paterson
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Cosimo Coviello, Betty Callahan, David Ritchie, Maureen Witham, Sheila Thompson, Anne Yeo, Donald 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.

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 at 10.30a.m.*
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING is currently postponed in line with the Covid Restrictions. We hope to be running again soon.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP is postponed during lockdown. You can find out more about us at <https://www.ccr.org.au/>

MOTHERS' PRAYERS temporarily postponed due to the Covid Lockdown restrictions.

CDFPAY FOR PARISHES – ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL For those who would like to keep contributing during lockdown, this site enables you to make quick and easy online thanks-giving payments [CDFpay for St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully](#). Many thanks to all our contributors for your generous support.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FIRST EUCHARIST CANDIDATES Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children preparing to come forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time. May this be the step toward a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship. Thank you for their innocence and goodness. Amen.



THE NEW COVID-19 GUIDELINES allows us to once again open the church for Masses, starting from the 11am Mass on Friday 11th June, 2021. **The Limit is 50 persons per Mass.** To be fair to all, we have resumed the online ticketing system for **all weekend Masses**, through Eventbrite- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holy-mass-weekend-tickets-158678560847> this link will go-live from 2pm Friday, 11th June.

FIRST EUCHARIST We are still unsure as to whether First Eucharist will go ahead on Saturday 19th June and Sunday 20th June. This will be dependent on the current restrictions being lifted. We will communicate with families as soon as we have any information.

You can view Mass on the TV from St Patrick's Cathedral, Sundays at 11am, **live on C31 (channel 44 on digital TV)** as well as live-streamed on the Archdiocese website and YouTube Channel. [Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne - YouTube](#) - Daily Mass live streamed from: [St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.](#) Or try participating in a **MASS ONLINE** - go to: <https://stsimonparish.com.au/mass-videos> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION It would be greatly appreciated if all volunteers at St John the Baptist Parish would sign the current Code of Conduct to ensure that our parish is compliant in accordance with the appropriate regulations. Copies can be found at the exit point of the Church. Please read, sign and return to the Parish Office at your earliest convenience. Thank you to all our volunteers for your continued support.- Parish Safeguarding Committee.

WINNERS OF THE COMBINED CATHOLIC CHURCHES RAFFLE

Prize No	Prizes	Ticket No	Originating Parish, Location
Suzuki Beleno		067629	Holy Trinity, Wantima South
\$5,000 Gift Cards		076169	St Simon's, Rowville
\$2,000 Gift Cards		032504	Good Shepherd, Mulgrave
\$1,000 Gift Cards		049130	St Michael's, Ashburton
\$1,000 Gift Cards		051855	St Thomas, Clyde Nth
\$1,000 Gift Cards		032099	Good Shepherd, Mulgrave
\$500 Gift Cards		047457	Resurrection, Keysborough
\$500 Gift Cards		034273	Good Shepherd, Mulgrave
\$500 Gift Cards		030396	St John Evangelist, Epping
\$500 Gift Cards		053783	Sts Peter & Paul, Doncaster Est
\$500 Gift Cards		063650	St Paul, Endeavour Hills
\$500 Gift Cards		044181	Resurrection, Keysborough
\$500 Gift Cards		044752	Resurrection, Keysborough
\$500 Gift Cards		050482	St Michael's, Ashburton
\$500 Gift Cards		048859	Resurrection, Keysborough
\$500 Gift Cards		067768	Holy Trinity, Wantima South
\$500 Gift Cards		076793	St Simon's, Rowville
\$500 Gift Cards		067736	Holy Trinity, Wantima South
\$500 Gift Cards		041340	Nazareth, Beaumaris
\$500 Gift Cards		040880	Nazareth, Beaumaris

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL With the recent storms and flooding, and wintery weather, the need for assistance is great. You are invited to support this appeal by **donating non-perishable food** for the weekly food hampers, which can be left at the back of the church after Mass, **making a generous financial donation, donating clothing to the OP Shop**, donating to the **Knox Vincentian Scholarship Scheme** or **volunteering**. Go to: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal>

12th JUNE, 2021 IS THE WORLD DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR. Child labour has decreased by 38% in the last decade. **But, 152 million children are still in child labour.** It's time to accelerate the pace of progress. It's time to inspire legislative and practical actions to eliminate child labour for good. **Almost half of child labour happens in Africa (72 million children), followed by Asia and the Pacific (62 million).** To find out more go to <https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour>

'HEART OF LIFE Mindfulness & Meditation' (via ZOOM), Saturday 19 June 2021, 10am-3pm (AEST). When we are present to the 'now', centredness and relaxation become a natural part of life, and we know how to act from a heart of love. This is a day of reflection in the practice of Mindfulness & Meditation, and we invite you to come prepared to be still and journey within. Facilitated by Paola Cheng. Cost \$50. Book and pay via website www.heartoflife.melbourne or email info@heartoflife.melbourne.

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



So how do we nurture our tiny seed of faith into a beautiful, life-sustaining plant that leads us to the Father?
1. Our walk with God is a choice. It's a decision we make as to whether we care enough to make the effort it takes time to get to know Him and nurture a relationship with Him. 2. A relationship can't grow without commitment – without dedicated time and effort. 3. Water sustains life. How do you water your faith? By Listening to God.