

## FIRST READING

**A reading from book of Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8**  
Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/. *The just will live in the presence of the Lord.***

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St James 1:17-18, 21-22,27.**

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accepted and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoil religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21,-23**

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the marketplace they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless,

the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**



*What is important for a person is in our hearts.*



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**  
**Knox Deanery**  
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Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)



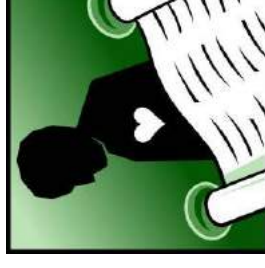
**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**  
**28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2021**

*Loving Lord,  
Stretch us, please.*

*Let us reach out to our neighbour,  
when we are too busy or tired.*

*Let the world know we are your disciples,  
not because our hands are clean,  
but because they are dirty,  
with the mark of service*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** For Jesus, hypocrisy was one of the greatest failings. Because Jesus placed such a high price on integrity of word and action he could not abide those who proclaimed to be just, pious or forgiving and yet acted in ways that were contrary to these claims. His chastisement of the Pharisees – calling them hypocrites – was a challenge to their observation of external practices and rituals instead of seeking to understand the Torah as a call to a change of heart. Jesus points out that no amount of ritual cleansing will make a person clean within. We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors; some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret. Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person 'unclean' – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within, and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop. ©

Greg Sunter

**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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

**FEAST DAYS**

*Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> September, St Gregory the Great*

*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

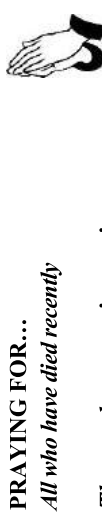
**MASS TIMES: SUSPENDED FOR LOCKDOWN**  
**Saturday** 6:00 pm  
**Sunday** 9:00 am, 11:00 am  
Tuesday 7:00 pm  
Wednesday & Thursday 9:15 am  
Friday 11:00 am

**GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2pm  
**WILLOWBROOK MASS:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2pm  
**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

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

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B  
28<sup>th</sup> /29<sup>th</sup> August, 2021  
Year of St Joseph



**PRAYING FOR...**  
*All who have died recently*

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**  
Amy M. Judit (40days) Luigia Colella, Dennis James, Jack Kolmus, Chris Smolders

**The sick:** Ray Loel, Kathryn Kircos, 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 Faithurst, 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. We await the next Covid-19 update.  
**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** Our meeting is currently on hold, until covid restrictions allow.  
**MOTHERS' PRAYERS** postponed due to covid.

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

**IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND OUR OWN ZOOM MASS, you can view Mass on the TV** from St Patrick's Cathedral, Sundays at 1am, 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](#) Stay Safe everyone!

**PARISH LETTERBOX** just a note to let you know it's best not to place anything of value (such as Thanksgiving offerings) in the Parish Letterbox. Thank you.

Fr Thomas will be offering **ZOOM MASS DAILY (Except Mondays) AT 10AM**. So you can be a part of our own congregation's Mass Celebration, from the comfort of your own home, using the link below.  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95544717317?pwd=RZJlNVGdmZHVUhxZWZWR2TElqaHN0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 955 4471 7317  
Passcode: SJBMass  
We hope that these Masses will bless you, during the Lockdown conditions, and that it won't be too long before we can all meet in person once more.

**THE PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION ANNUAL FATHERS DAY APPEAL** traditionally takes place as we remember Fathers for Father's Day next weekend. Even though we can't be together for this collection due to the Lockdown, please remember to support our priests who have served actively and tirelessly in the Archdiocese, and now live in retirement. You can donate via the webpage at: <https://www.cam1.org.au/foundation/Donate> or contact 03 9926 2472  
PO Box 615 East Melbourne Victoria 8002

**FATHERS DAY DRIVE:** Foothills Community Care and Red Coral Seafood have partnered together again to provide a free Father's Day feast this year with our The Big Father's Day Drive 2021. To order your meal or for more information, go to: <https://www.foothillscare.org.au/the-big-fathers-day-drive/>

**SHHHH AN IDEA FOR FATHER'S DAY... DAD'S SURVIVAL KIT** The first Sunday in September is Father's Day! Here is a simple idea for children to make a small gift for the special men in their lives – maybe their Dad, their Grandpa, an uncle, a brother. Take a clear plastic or cellophane bag and put in: **a packet of Smarties, a Time Out bar, a sherbet lolly or packet, a red, green or chocolate frog, a banana lolly, a Mintie** Print out the Survival Kit instructions on bright paper and attach it to bag.  
**RATIONS TO HELP YOU IN TIMES OF STRESS -**  
Mintie – for one of those 'moments'  
Sherbet – for when you lose your fizz  
Banana – for when you're going around the bend  
Frog – to keep one jump ahead  
Time Out – for when you need it  
Smarties – for when you need to be extra smart!  
Enjoy!

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND** invest in your most precious asset...Your Marriage! The next weekend will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – Virtual weekend on Zoom. For Bookings OR more information please contact: Mercy & James Bvirakare Phone: 0409 183 676 Email: [vicbookings@www.mtc.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@www.mtc.org.au)

**INSPIRATION DURING LOCKDOWN** If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a tent with a mosquito. ~African Proverb



So here are a few ideas to brighten someone's day. Perhaps you could... **1. LEAVE AN INSPIRATIONAL NOTE IN A RANDOM PLACE**, for example: Books in the library, on people's car window, under you're a family members pillow, wherever. Imagine if you walked into a public restroom and found a sticky-note on the mirror that says something like, "Make it a great day"? A special inspiration that will make you feel good as well.

**2. THANK SOMEONE!** Never underestimate the power of those two small words – Thank you!  
**3. MAKE A SONG PLAYLIST** of a loved one's favourite songs. A great surprise to give, and to receive!

**4. SURPRISE SOMEONE WITH A GIFT** maybe a bunch of flowers or buy a barista coffee and give it to the person in line behind you!

**PERMANENT DIACONATE INFORMATION SESSION CANCELLED** Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions and the uncertainty of when restrictions will be eased, it is impossible to proceed with the planned 4th September Information session. It is regrettably cancelled. The possibility of holding an information session will be considered after any easing of restrictions. The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The preferred age limit is being able to be ordained by the 60th year.

**POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE** Multiple jobs available. For more information visit [the Archdiocese website at: https://melbourneatholic.org/job-vacancies](http://the Archdiocese website at: https://melbourneatholic.org/job-vacancies)