

## FIRST READING

A reading from book of the Apocalypse

Rev 11: 19, 12:1-6, 10

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened, and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready. Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

*Responsorial Psalm*

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. The queen stands at your right hand,  
arrayed in gold.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1Cor 15:20-26

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order; Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Mary is taken up to heaven,  
and the angels of God shout for joy.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

1:39-56

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.

He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy

– according to the promise he made to our ancestors – of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

**The Gospel of the Lord**



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**Knox Deanery**

**19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156**

**Phone: 9758 1029**

**Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au**

**Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au**



## **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Year B**

**14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> August, 2021**

*Almighty God,*

*You chose Mary to be the mother of Your  
Son and gave her the beauty of your grace.*

*Through her integrity of life,*

*and her glory as our Queen,*

*strengthen our faith, make generous our*

*love, and affirm our hope.*

*Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** Since the 5th Century there has been an active tradition and belief around the assumption of Mary. The tradition states that Mary was physically 'taken up' into heaven at the end of her life. It is believed that her soul and her body remained united. This ancient belief was defined as an infallible teaching of the Church by Pope Pius XII in 1950. It is one of only two infallible statements that have been defined as such and both related to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast is celebrated on August 15 and is a Holy Day of Obligation.

The restoration of life to those who are shamed and oppressed that is exemplified in Elizabeth is a compelling theme of the gospel of Luke. Time and again, those who are ground down by a lack of life are given new hope and new life by the extravagant love of God. And throughout Luke, the recipients of this new life are women. The widow of Nain (7:11-15); the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet (7:36-50); the woman with a haemorrhage (8:43-48); Jairus' daughter (8:40-56); and the crippled woman (13:10-17) are all examples of this outpouring of new life.

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**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** Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Aug St Stephen of Hungary Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Aug St Bernard  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Aug St Pius X

*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: 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.

**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Yr B**  
14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> August, 2021  
**Year of St Joseph**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*



*Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*

Veronica Fox, Mary Ryan, Nicola Petracca, Wanda Furno, Mark Grant, Mary Gannan, Ludmila Jancar, Conrad McKeeverne, Bartolomina Marotti, Audrey Uber.

*The sick:* 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 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. We await the next Covid-19 update.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** Our meeting is currently on hold, until covid restrictions allow.

**MOTHERS' PRAYERS** will not meet in person this week owing to the covid-19 restrictions. We hope to resume as soon as limits allow. Enquiries: 9758 1029

**CDFPAY 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 [CDFpay 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 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](#) Stay Safe everyone!

*Marry Queen of Heaven. Pray for Us.*

**SNAP COVID LOCKDOWN EXTENDED** the 'snap lockdown' measures applied across Victoria, will extend until otherwise notified. **Face masks must be worn inside and outdoors:** Everywhere except your own home, and there will be five (5) reasons to leave home. **GOOD NEWS,** 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=RzZjNlVGNdnZHVUhxZWZWR2TElqaHNOZz09>

**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 BISHOPS' SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2021-22: 'CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR,'** affirms that "we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour". It draws from Scripture, from the theological tradition, from Catholic Social Teaching, and from the wisdom of the world, including the insights of the First Nations. In the Statement, the Bishops invite the whole Catholic community to join them in taking up Pope Francis' invitation to a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability, guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. These Goals are: response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; sustainable lifestyles; ecological spirituality; ecological education; and community engagement and participatory action. If you would like to find out more you can watch an introduction and download the statement at: [social-justice-statement-2021-22/](#)

**'EPHPATHA? BE THOU OPEN?'** on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 10am-4pm (AEST) via ZOOM. This reflection event offers you time and sacred space to be set apart and companioned to explore new ways of attuning and responding to your experiences. You are invited to participate in a self-paced personal journey of sensitively and privately opening your heart to your inner feelings. As a means of valuing and holding your insights, you will be encouraged to capture experiences and reflections in a creative journal of your making. Participants will use their own simple art or creative materials and journal. Led by Margaret Trainor, qualified in spiritual direction and art therapy, for Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost \$60. Book and pay via [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne), email [secretary@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:secretary@heartoflife.melbourne), or tel (03) 9890 1101.

**NATURAL FERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK AUGUST 23-29, 2021** Billings LIFE is pleased to launch Natural Fertility Awareness Week with a free Webinar presentation on this year's theme *Tracking Fertility: Tracking Health*. An information session about the Billings Ovulation Method® will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August @ 7.30pm - 8.30pm AEST. To register please click on the link below at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/free-webinar-tracking-fertility-tracking-health-tickets-163000285241> Further information about natural fertility awareness can be found at the Billings LIFE website: <https://billings.life/en/>

**NATIONAL COVID-19 BEREAVEMENT PROJECT.** Each year, at least 44,000 Australians will develop chronic and debilitating mental health impairments following the death of a family member or a close friend. Bereavement during the COVID-19 pandemic, whether attributable to the virus or not, presents additional significant risk factors for poor mental health due to public health measures such as physical distancing, travel restrictions, visitor limitations and reduced physical contact. Currently, little is known about the mental health effects and support needs of people bereaved during and following global crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

To address this significant gap, researchers at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) are undertaking a National COVID-19 Bereavement Project, funded by the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). The project has brought together the nation's leading bereavement and palliative care experts and industry associations. Chief Investigator on the project is Adjunct Professor Liz Lobb from the [Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care through Clinical Research and Translation \(IMPACCT\)](#) Researchers at the University of Technology Sydney invite you to take part in this important research study that explores the experiences and support needs of people bereaved from any cause during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you feel ready to reflect on your experience, participation in the study will consist of a 30 minute anonymous online survey that asks about your experience of bereavement, the kind of support (if any) you have received and wanted, what has been most helpful and least helpful for you, and any other comments you would like to make. Find the survey at: <https://www.lossandgriefduringcovid19.com/>

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