

## FIRST READING

**A reading from book of Isaiah 35:4-7**

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Praise the Lord, my soul!*

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St James 2:1-5**

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

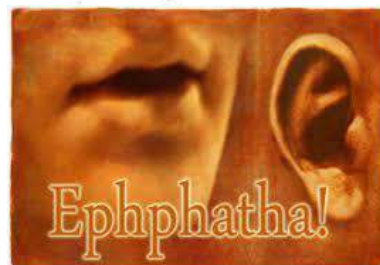
*Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 7:31-37**

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**



**Be Opened!**



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**Knox Deanery**

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

**Phone: 9758 1029**

**Email: [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

**Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**



**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**

**4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**

**Heavenly Father,  
you entrusted your Son Jesus,  
the child of Mary,  
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.  
Bless all fathers  
as they care for their families.  
Give them strength and wisdom,  
tenderness and patience;  
support them in the work they have to do,  
protecting those who look to them,  
as we look to you for love and salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our rock and defender. Amen.**



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** Despite this physical aspect, the healing in today's gospel is probably best interpreted symbolically. This is, of course, the case when the Ephphetha ritual is included in the liturgy of Christian Baptism. The celebrant touches the ears and mouth of the person being baptised and prays, 'May (the Lord Jesus) soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.' In a symbolic sense, then, the man healed by Jesus represents all believers. Apart from the grace of God we are 'deaf' to the Word of life spoken to us by the Creator. In the sacrament Jesus gives us the capacity to hear the life-giving Word, which he then speaks to us in the Scriptures as proclaimed by the Church. Having heard that Word in the context of our own life-experience, we then can turn to praise God and share what we have discovered with our fellow believers. Our ears are opened and our tongues are 'loosened' for full participation in the community of faith. © Brendan Byrne SJ

**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** Wed 8<sup>th</sup> September: *The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

*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.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B**

**4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Year of St Joseph**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*



*Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*

Lothar Tepass, Kenneth Collins, Giovanni Brotto, Sabina Parrella, Lino Bimbi, Vincenzo Di Battista, Maria Niehof, Emmanuel Deidun, Margaret Hill.

*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 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** some of us are meeting on Zoom. Please contact Maree at the Parish office if you would like to join the Zoom.

**MOTHERS' PRAYERS** postponed due to covid.

**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!

**WISDOM FROM THE ABBEY** Mother Hilda speaks this week on our true heritage & identity with God, our Father. Click on this link to listen: [Wisdom-from-the-abbeymother-hilda](#)

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=RzZjNlVGdnZHVUhxZWZWR2TElqaHNOZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 4471 7317

Passcode: SJBMass

**St John the Baptist**

**Dear Parishioners**

**We miss you!**

**How are you? RUOK?**

We would like to keep in touch!

Join us for a cuppa and chat

**YOU'RE INVITED, via Zoom**

**Thursday 9 September, 12 midday**

Please join us, **CLICK ON THE LINK:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86762221098?pwd=Z3BKZXhVbXQxQnFJWkxFSnJmMkFXUT09>

Meeting ID: 867 6222 1098

Passcode: RUOK

**R U OK? because we believe that asking "are you ok?" is important!**

**Wear Something YELLOW**

**THE PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION**

**ANNUAL FATHERS DAY APPEAL** traditionally

takes place as we remember **PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION** Fathers for Father's Day **this**

**weekend.** please remember to support our priests who have

served actively and tirelessly in the Archdiocese, and now live in retirement. **Caring for those who cared.**

Thank you for your kind support, which is much appreciated. You can donate via the webpage

at: <https://www.cam1.org.au/foundation/Donate>

Or telephone: 03 9926 2472, or via post -

PO Box 615 East Melbourne Victoria 8002

**PLEASE NOTE** the additional document emailed with your bulletin, referring to the **SEASON OF CREATION** which we celebrate from the 1 September to 4 October. These four weeks gives a us a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment.

**PRAYER FOR FATHERS:**

God our Father,  
we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers, but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfather, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. **Amen.**

— written by Fr. Healey



**LOCKDOWN LIGHT** A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown. Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations at [www.bit.ly/LockdownLight](http://www.bit.ly/LockdownLight)

**WATCH A TRIBUTE TO DAD: MY OLD MAN** [https://youtu.be/T\\_uGcW-v5EI](https://youtu.be/T_uGcW-v5EI)

**King of the Castle** Plan a special meal and activities to honour Dad on Sunday, Father's Day. Make a crown (poster board, aluminium foil, or whatever materials you have on hand). Plan to **crown Dad** as "King of the Castle!" Brainstorm with the kids to think of ways to make him feel special (let him pick all the TV shows, serve him breakfast in bed, do what he likes to do, say nice things about him at the dinner table, etc.) If there is no dad in your home, plan to honour a grandfather or uncle or other person who cares for your child.



# RUOK?™

A conversation could change a life.



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Meeting ID: 867 6222 1098

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**Wear something yellow!**

St John the Baptist  
Ferntree Gully

