

## FIRST READING

**A reading from book of Wisdom 2:12, 17-20**

The godless say to themselves,  
'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.

If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. The Lord upholds my life.*

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St James**

**3:16-4:3**

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*God has called us with the gospel  
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark** **9:30-37**

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

**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**



**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**

**18<sup>th</sup> /19<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**

**Social Services Sunday**

*God our Saviour,  
You call us to serve one another.  
Make us wise and resourceful:  
children of the light  
who continue Your work in this world  
with untiring concern for integrity  
and justice.*

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



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** Away from the crowds, Jesus identifies himself as the mysterious Son of Man and predicts his passion, death and resurrection. The disciples did not grasp the meaning of Jesus' words, and they engaged in a heated discussion about status within the community. Jesus had just admitted his ultimate vulnerability, and they were quarrelling about rank. © Dianne Bergant CSA Jesus seized the moment to teach an important lesson Jesus tells his disciples that if anyone wants to be first, they must make themselves last of all and servant of all. This is as challenging to us today as it was to the disciples and early Christians. Our world seems to revolve around position, status and power – whoever has the most toys wins! -But what Jesus advocated was a leadership based on being of service to others. Being powerful simply means you are in a position to help even more people. Putting yourself last, instead of first, gives respect, dignity and power to others rather than to yourself... © 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** Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Sept: *Ss Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang & Companions*

Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Sept: *St Matthew, Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept St Pius of Pietrelcina*

*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.

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B**  
**18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
**Social Services Sunday**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*



*Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*

Grace Gamley, George Mah, Angelo Crivellaro, Pasquale Lotrionte.

*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.

**MONDAY ROSARY** St John's Parish Monday Rosary will be held on Zoom.

**Time: 7:30 pm Every Monday**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98360074118?pwd=eHZCb0VDeEZLOFJYbUUVSMXdmb3JlUT09>

Meeting ID: 983 6007 4118

Passcode: Rosary

**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!

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=RzZjNlVnGdnZHVUhxZWWR2TElqaHNOZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 4471 7317

Passcode: SJBMass

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST COFFEE AND CHAT ZOOM MEET** You are invited to a scheduled Zoom meeting.



Topic: Parish Chat at 11am.

Time: Thursday, 23 September 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94607350318?pwd=R2lLVDA2NWlKMGMGFZk2JDY3o2RHkzUT09>

Meeting ID: 946 0735 0318

Passcode: SJBChat

- Mary Makarucha – Faith Development Co-ordinator.

**PRAYING FOR ALL VCE STUDENTS** End of year exams are coming up for many secondary school students. Please remember them in your prayers over the coming weeks.

**SEASON OF CREATION - WEEK 3**

**Pope Francis is calling for action. It's time to respond.** Pope Francis urges the world's 1.3 billion Catholics and all people of good will to take urgent action against the injustice of the climate emergency and the ecological crisis, to protect the poor and future generations. His encyclical letter Laudato Si' is a compelling call to care for our common home, Earth, and builds on a long history of Catholic teaching. We are building a vibrant movement to respond to Pope Francis' call. Link: Homepage Original - Laudato Si Movement. Please see the attachment for more information on how you can make a difference.

**Prayer: Loving God,** You created us to live with the birds of the air, animals of the land and sea, trees, flowers, plants and our brothers and sisters around the world. Open our minds, touch our hearts and guide us in ways of care and concern for all you have gifted us. We ask this in Your name. Amen.



**SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY** On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021, we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we invite all to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 43 member organisations, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. **Find out more at:** <https://css.org.au/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees/>



**LOCKDOWN LIGHT - WEEK 3** A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations at [www.bit.ly/LockdownLight](http://www.bit.ly/LockdownLight) Resources for Christian living: Making the most of lockdown In this blog post, local Melbourne mum of six, Kate Moriarty, shares some fun and creative ideas to help families make the most of their time together in lockdown. Find out more at [www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving3](http://www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving3) Getting to know your Bible: Opening up the Old Testament. Getting Started: This video by Bible Snap brings you the Old Testament in 8 minutes, with a comprehensive overview of where the books and people fit in the timeline of history. Watch at [www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted3](http://www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted3) Going Deeper: Exodus is one of the key books of the Old Testament. Hear about the pivotal events in Exodus from a range of other Christian Biblical scholars and theological experts in this 10-minute video. View here [www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper3](http://www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper3)

**A PRAYER FOR COVID-19**

God of all life...  
May your love and light shine in and through me today In a way that no mask can hide. May my eyes dance with the laughter and joy Replacing my hidden smile. May my actions of care and concern Speak louder than my muffled voice ever could. And may the generosity of my heart Radiate out through who I am And how I respond to the world around me So that others may not see my mask But your image shining out Moving in and through me today. Amen  
Br Michael Herry fms



## Acts of Love for the Season of Creation

*“Rivers do not drink their own water;  
trees do not eat their own fruit;  
the Sun does not shine on itself and  
flowers do not spread their  
fragrance for themselves.*

*Living for others is a rule of nature.  
We are all born to help each other.  
No matter how difficult it is....  
Life is good when you are happy;  
but much better when others  
are happy because of you.”*

Pope Francis.





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# SEASON OF CREATION

CALENDAR  
1 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER

<p><b>1.</b> Reflect on your current efforts to care for creation</p>	<p><b>2.</b> Touch Earth with gladness</p>	<p><b>3.</b> Pray for those places relocating people because of climate change: Kiribati, Vanuatu, Taro, Shishmaref, Isle de Jean Charles</p>	<p><b>4.</b> Spend time in silence</p>	<p><b>5.</b> Walk outside, conscious of the weather</p>	<p><b>6.</b> Create a green space in your home place</p>	<p><b>7.</b> Know that to live is holy</p>
<p><b>8.</b> Walk in a park</p>	<p><b>9.</b> Make every day Earth Day</p>	<p><b>10.</b> Look down, look around, look up</p>	<p><b>11.</b> Look alive today!</p>	<p><b>12.</b> Enjoy being in this moment</p>	<p><b>13.</b> Pray for people who work to transform lives by providing access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation.</p>	<p><b>14.</b> Smile at the landscape</p>
<p><b>15.</b> Know that all of life is holy</p>	<p><b>16.</b> Be conscious of the water you use</p>	<p><b>17.</b> Watch the sun rise and set</p>	<p><b>18.</b> Learn a poem or song on the theme of creation</p>	<p><b>19.</b> Take flowers to a shut-in person</p>	<p><b>20.</b> Step outside and look at the stars</p>	<p><b>21.</b> Enjoy the unexpected events of this day</p>
<p><b>22.</b> Write a thank you card</p>	<p><b>23.</b> Pray for people who are victims and survivors of extreme weather events</p>	<p><b>24.</b> Be a blessing for someone today</p>	<p><b>25.</b> Count five blessings in your life</p>	<p><b>26.</b> Rejoice in the gift of your life</p>	<p><b>27.</b> Purchase less of what you need</p>	<p><b>28.</b> Join a green organisation</p>
<p><b>29.</b> Read an article addressing environmental concerns</p>	<p><b>30.</b> Sign a petition or write a letter or share with another person your concern for creation</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Give thanks for all creation</p>	<p><b>2.</b> Choose to walk today rather than drive</p>	<p><b>3.</b> Have a digital device free day</p>	<p><b>4.</b> Review the actions you have taken during this Season &amp; commit to living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with Earth and the Earth Community</p>	

'Each human being is an image of God... each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God...The universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible riches of God.' *Laudato Si'* #84, #86

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[www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)

'We need to take up an ancient lesson... the conviction that "less is more" - a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things, to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack...' *Laudato Si'* #222

Text: Anne Walsh, Design: Clare Locke