

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh!

This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 2:9-11

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

**The Word of the Lord**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*If we love one another,  
God will live in us in perfect love.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark 10:2-12

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**



**SEASON OF CREATION WEEK 5 The Feast of St Francis of Assisi.** Let us ask for the gift of awareness of the choices that we make and the impact of those choices on our environment and the poor. Please see the attached flyer for more thought-provoking information.



**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**



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

**2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2021**

**Plenary Council – Listen to what the Spirit is saying**



**Assembly One: October 2021**

**We call on God's protection and care, seeking the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit as the members gather next week and discern the future that God is calling us to. May God grant the grace to all those gathering, to be open to the Spirit leading through these upcoming days of prayer, listening and discernment. Amen.**

**PLENARY COUNCIL:** Over three years ago the decision was announced to hold a Plenary Council and the People of God began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God and by listening to one another's stories of faith. After this time of listening and journeying the Catholic Church of Australia will gather for the first assembly of the Plenary Council **from 3-10<sup>th</sup> October 2021**. The Plenary Council website will provide **daily livestreams** of parts of the opening Plenary sessions and Masses (including the Opening Mass on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 2pm). <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/>

**Plenary Council Masses and daily morning prayer booklets** for full participation are available here: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/prayer/>

**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 4<sup>th</sup> Oct St Francis of Assisi*      *Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Oct St Faustina Kowalska*  
*Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Oct St Bruno*      *7<sup>th</sup> Oct: Our Lady of the Rosary*      *Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Oct: Denis & Companions, St John Leonardi*

***I have come that you may have life and have it to the full***

***(John 10:1)***

**PARISH PRIEST:**  
Fr Thomas Kuruvi 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.

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B  
2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2021  
**PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*



**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Vincenzo Sasso, Jim Healey, Antonietta Rech, Pamela Bentham, Nicola Mazzei, Angelo Furno.

**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=eHZCb0VDeEZLOFJYbUVMXMdb3J2UT09>

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.

**Worldwide Virtual event "ROSARY CRUSADE FOR VICTORY AGAINST THE DARKNESS"**

6:30pm central time on October 7, 2021, right on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Here's where to sign up: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/avilafoundation/568089#>  
Our Lady of Victory, pray for us.

**FRIENDSHIP GATHERING** is currently postponed. We await the next Covid-19 update.

**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


**WHAT IS A "PLENARY COUNCIL" AND WHY ARE WE HAVING IT?** A Plenary Council is the highest form of gathering a local Church can have. It has governing and legislative authority, so whatever resolutions are passed at the end of this Plenary (which won't be until after the second Assembly in 2022) will be binding for the Catholic Church in Australia. Nonetheless, what has taken place up to this point has been an exercise in **deep listening and prayer**, or what Pope Francis has called a move to a more synodal church 'which listens' and which realises 'that listening is more than simply hearing'. (*Evangelii Gaudium*, §171) It should be noted that a Plenary Council has no power to change or pronounce doctrine. It is, we might say, a more practically-minded Council, **looking at how the Church can be more effective in Australia today**. This is Australia's fifth Plenary Council, the last one having happened in 1937 (and prior to that in 1885, 1895 and 1905). The fifth Plenary Council might be commencing this Sunday, but this event has been years in the making. After almost 20 years of discernment and discussions about a national event for the Catholic Church in Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference confirmed in 2016 that they planned to host a Plenary Council in 2020. This was later postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. Here's what is going to happen now the Preparatory Stage is over: **There will be two major assemblies held. This is the real guts of the Council.** The First Assembly is being held from 3-10 October 2021. The plan was to have all members gather in Adelaide, but this is no longer possible with the COVID situation as it is. It will now be held both online and in-person. For six of the eight days that constitute the First Assembly, the attending Members will be breaking into small groups twice a day in order to discuss the questions on the Agenda. There will be opening Masses and a closing Daily Examen in order to frame each day, keeping them prayerful and discerning. There are not only Members involved; there are also 20 theological experts (periti) who will be called upon as advisors – these include some well-known names in Australia: Dr Tracey Rowland, Dr Paul Morrissey of Campion College, Rev Prof Frank Brennan SJ, Dr Sandie Cornish, Rev Prof Francis Moloney SDB and Rev Brendan Byrne SJ. At the end of the First Assembly, there should be a sense of where the Council is heading in terms of its leading ideas and proposals. Between November 2021 and June 2022, there will be continual discernment and a preparation of proposals for the Second Assembly's discussion. From 4-9 July 2022, the Second Assembly will be held in Sydney. **Decisions will be voted on that will be binding for the Church in Australia. However, before these decisions can be enacted, they must be sent to Rome to be reviewed and approved by Pope Francis.**

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=RzZjNlVGdnZHVUhxZWR2TE1qaHNOZz09>  
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 7th October 21  
**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94607350318?pwd=R21LVDA2NW1KMGEFZk2JDY3o2RHkzUT09>  
**Meeting ID: 946 0735 0318** Passcode: SJBChatMary Makarucha – Faith Development Co-ordinator.



 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS – SPRING FORWARD** this weekend. Remember to move your clocks forward one hour at 2am on 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct.

**COLUMBAN CALENDAR** "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul; has 2022 Columban Mission calendars for sale at \$8.00 each. If you need a copy please contact Connie on 0413 747 685 and a copy will be organised to be delivered to you."

**LOCKDOWN LIGHT—WEEK 5**



Podcasts for Christian living: How to keep our kids Catholic. In this episode of The Word on Fire show, Bishop Robert Barron and Brandon Vogt discuss what helps children retain their faith into young adulthood. Listen at [www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving5](http://www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving5)  
**Getting to know your Bible: Science and the Bible: Are they opposed?**  
*Getting Started:* In this video, Bishop Robert Barron firmly debunks the common claim that science and religion are diametrically opposed. Watch at [www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted5a](http://www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted5a) and visit [www.reasonfaithscience.com](http://www.reasonfaithscience.com) for further resources.  
**Going Deeper:** This video skilfully explores a Catholic understanding of the Book of Genesis' account of creation through a tapestry of voices. View here [www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper5](http://www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper5)

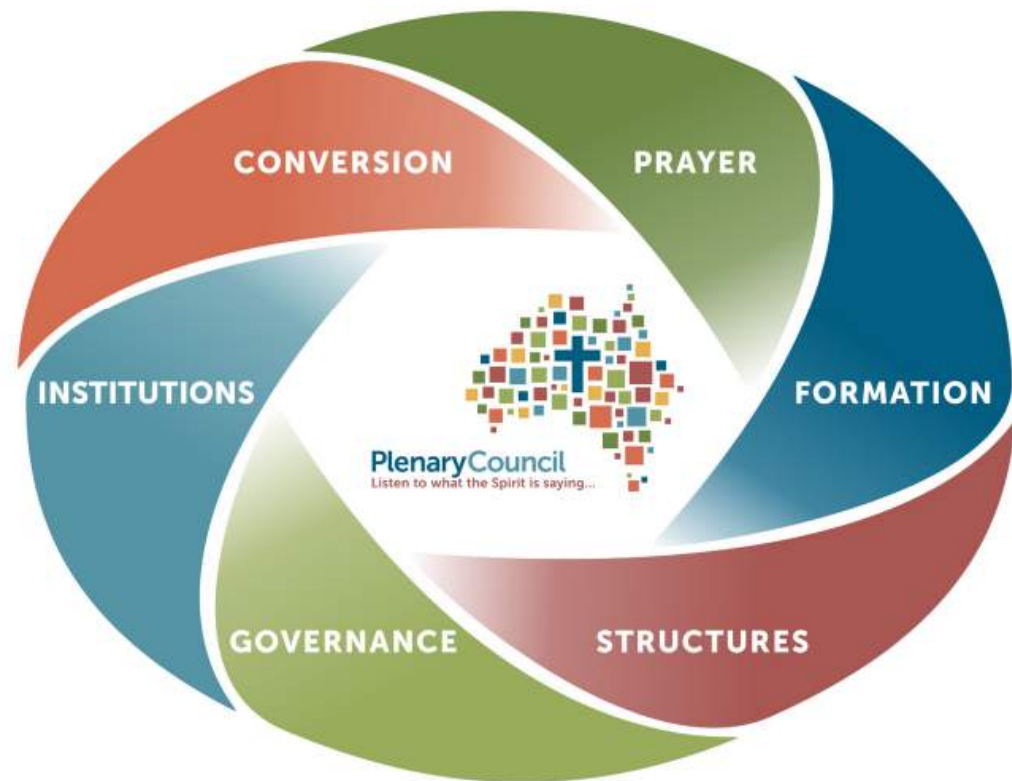


## FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA **AGENDA**

As children of God, disciples of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia are called to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia at this time.

*'I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.'*

*Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 27*



## Conversion

- How might we better accompany one another on the journey of personal and communal conversion which mission in Australia requires?
- How might we heal the wounds of abuse, coming to see through the eyes of those who have been abused?
- How might the Church in Australia open in new ways to Indigenous ways of being Christian in spirituality, theology, liturgy, and missionary discipleship? How might we learn from the First Nations peoples?
- How might the Church in Australia meet the needs of the most vulnerable, go to the peripheries, be missionary in places that may be overlooked or left behind in contemporary Australia? How might we partner with others (Christians, people of other faiths, neighbourhood community groups, government) to do this?
- How might the Church in Australia respond to the call to 'ecological conversion'? How can we express and promote a commitment to an 'integral ecology of life' in all its dimensions, with particular attention to the more vulnerable people and environments in our country and region?

## Prayer

- How might we become a more contemplative people, committing more deeply to prayer as a way of life, and celebrating the liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ who sends us out to "make disciples of all the nations"?
- How might we better embrace the diverse liturgical traditions of the Churches which make up the Catholic Church and the cultural gifts of immigrant communities to enrich the spirituality and worship of the Church in Australia?

## Formation

- How might we better form leaders for mission – adults, children and families, couples and single people?
- How might we better equip ordained ministers to be enablers of missionary discipleship: the Church becoming more a "priestly people" served by the ordained ministry?
- How might formation, both pre- and post-ordination, better foster the development of bishops, priests and deacons as enablers of the universal Christian vocation to holiness lived in missionary discipleship?

## Structures

- How might parishes better become local centres for the formation and animation of missionary disciples?
- How might the Church in Australia be better structured for mission, considering the parish, the diocese, religious orders, the PJPs and new communities?

## Governance

- How might the People of God, lay and ordained, women and men, approach governance in the spirit of synodality and co-responsibility for more effective proclamation of the Gospel?
- How might we recast governance at every level of the Church in Australia in a more missionary key?

## Institutions

- How might we better see the future of Catholic education (primary, secondary and tertiary) through a missionary lens?
- How might we better see the future of Catholic social services, agencies and health and aged care ministries as key missionary and evangelising agencies?