

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. 'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. *I love you Lord, my strength.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will
come to them.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

30th/31st October, 2021

*Almighty Father,
Write on our hearts
that You want us to love you,
And teach us how to love all people.
Give us Your grace to learn
that love sacrifices everything.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: Jesus is asked which commandment is first and he provides two commandments as his answer. However, he doesn't bundle them together as one overarching commandment – he very distinctly identifies them as first and second. Sometimes we can feel the way to express love for God is through demonstrating our love for other people in charitable or justice-focused actions. However, Jesus makes clear that the first commandment of all is the love of God with all our being – that God is worthy of love in God's own right. Our love of God may inspire us to action for others but the first step is loving God for who God is. Jesus reminds us 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.' There's an unspoken, underlying idea here that is absolutely crucial. Before you can love your neighbour, you must first love yourself. To say that you love yourself today can imply a level of boastfulness or ego. However, what is required is a genuine love of self – an acceptance; a respect; a true valuing of self. Only then can we know how to treat others. © 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

FEAST DAYS Mon 1st Nov ALL SAINTS Mass at 10am

Tues 2nd Nov ALL SOULS – Mass at 10am & 7pm Thurs 4th Nov St Charles Borromeo

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: Resume, with Covid Limits
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 1st Friday 2pm

WILLOWBROOK MASS: 3rd Thursday 2pm

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5.15 pm

BAPTISMS: Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd 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.

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B
30th / 31st October, 2021

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Angela Simioni, Daisy Sason-Lim, George Brown, Francis Cassar, Alan Lawson, Dean Platt, Carmela Mazzeo, Umberto Paternoster, Louis Theodore, Agnese Paternoster, Elena Catalano, Cameron Cooney.

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=eHZCb0VDeEZLOFJYbUVMXdmB3J2UT09>

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 will resume on **Thursday 4th November for those Fully Vaccinated.** Mandatory Check-in and face masks apply.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will not meet on the 2nd of November, owing to the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday. We will resume on 9th November.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP will not meet on the 2nd of November, owing to the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday. We hope to resume 9th November.

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.

WE WELCOME THE OPENING UP OF OUR PLACES OF WORSHIP and opportunities for gathering but remain mindful and respectful that many in our community remain feeling cautious and anxious, and that density quotients will prevent our full communities gathering as they would wish. **The reopening of church doors comes as a welcome relief for parish priests longing to reconnect with their people, and likewise, parishioners longing to reconnect with their Priest, and community.** For the time being, all Catholics in Melbourne continue to be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further directed by the Archbishop. We continue to carry the happy obligation to keep Sunday holy, whether we can attend Mass or not, and can do so by any kind of prayer with members of our household and parish, reading holy scripture, and encouraging one another in our faith. Prayerfully participating in online Mass continues to be a great source of comfort on Sundays. **Here at St John the Baptist, we will have no more ZOOM Masses after Friday 30th October. MASS IS NOW CELEBRATED IN THE CHURCH.** Fr Thomas is offering Mass for Fully Vaccinated, and Vaccination Status Unknown, so that everyone can have the opportunity to come to Mass. Please choose your time as per below:

FULLY VACCINATED MASSES:

6pm Saturday, and 9am & 11am Sunday indoors
Density Quotient of 4 per sqm, our cap-110people

UNKNOWN VACCINATION STATUS MASS

1pm Sunday Indoors with a cap of 30 people and a Density Quotient of 4 per sqm.- **Bookings essential** for this Mass, via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-100-pm-mass-st-john-the-baptist-ftg-unknown-vaccination-status-tickets-198782683357>

For all Masses, QR-code check-in and Face Coverings must be worn indoors by Victorians aged 12 years or over unless an exception applies

Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting a COVID-19 test verification, including Clergy (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.

CATHOLIC WORLD MISSION APPEAL It's not too late to contribute to this worthy appeal. To help continue this incredible work done by Sr Chalaad & the Good Shepherd Sisters, by using the appeal envelope, or going online at catholicmission.org.au/education Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world. Freecall: 1800 257 296

FIRST FRIDAY - 5th November. Holy Hour before the blessed sacrament - from 10am. Mass at 11am.

FUNERAL MASS –The Funeral Mass for the late **Margaret Corrin** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Thursday, 4th November – at 11.30am.

EUCCHARIST TO THE SICK any Parishioners who are sick in the home, and would like to receive Eucharist, please contact the Parish Office and let us know. You must be double covid- vaccinated to receive this service.

NOVEMBER CROSS November is the month of the Holy Souls where we pray for parishioners, friends and members of our families who have died. We pray that they will live forever with the Lord. As is our custom at St John's, from 1st November you'll have the opportunity to write the names of those you would like remembered on our Memorial Cross. *this year we invite you to send a picture of your departed loved one to the parish office, which will be displayed in the church.* For those who would like to have a Mass offered for their deceased relatives and friends, November offering envelopes will be available on the trolleys.



MASS FOR ALL SAINTS 10am,
MASS FOR ALL SOULS 10am & 7pm

The CCD Wollongong team are excited to invite you to **PRAYER SEMINARS, which will run weekly, 7pm – 8:30pm each Tuesday. From 5th Oct – 30th Nov 2021** <https://www.dow.org.au/events/prayer-seminars/> Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30pm This week, Sr Magdalen Mather OSB will present A Benedictine path to prayer For more information, check the website.

A MESSAGE FROM AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA: Would you consider becoming an ACN parish representative and volunteering to help ACN tell more Australians about the suffering Church? If you are interested in representing ACN in your local parish, please call 1800 101 201 or email cecilia@aidtochurch.org.

ROSTERS: Mon 1st Nov to Sun 7th November

Flowers	Genieve & Gina
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm: Peter G & Wilma H 9am: Joanna C & Thelma B 11am: Anna M & Peiya F
Lectors	6pm: Help needed 9am: Help needed 11am: Help needed
Counters	Bryon, Ruby & Guil
Gardening	Carlos E

POSITIONS VACANT: Current vacant roles listed on our Melbourne Catholic website. Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

- **Cook, Brigidine Community, Malvern**
- **Coordinator-Before and After School Hours Care Program (SLOSH), Wantirna**
- **Service Delivery Manager, Emerging Futures Collaborative Limited, Melbourne**
- **Business Manager – Keysborough / Noble Park Parish Communities**
- **Spiritual/Pastoral Care Worker, Sacred Heart Mission**
- **Parish Secretary, Westernport Parish, Hastings**
- **Parish Secretary, St Mark's Catholic Parish, Fawkner**

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

MASS BOOKINGS VIA EVENTBRITE: Please click on the below link for mass bookings:



1pm Sunday- For Unknown Vaccination status:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-100-pm-mass-st-john-the-baptist-ftg-unknown-vaccination-status-tickets-198782683357>

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC LITURGICAL ART: new article on the art.catholic.org.au website discusses the St Francis paintings of Clifton Pugh. A forthcoming article will look at Arthur Boyd's series of twenty pastels, lithographs and tapestries. There are other new articles on Australian artists which help us to see the world with fresh eyes and to appreciate the wonderful world of God's creation. See the utterly simple work of Caroline Hawkins and the epic creation paintings of William Robinson.

PREPARING TO COME BACK AND RECEIVE OUR LORD

This weekend, churches across Melbourne will thankfully be able to welcome back larger numbers of parishioners for Masses after months in lockdown. As local communities of faith gradually begin to re-gather, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli offers a few ways in which individuals and families might prepare to once again receive the Lord in the Eucharist.

Coming back into being physically present with one another, is a very tangible reality we can look towards. It's a way in which we gather as God's people. The image of the church that St Paul gave us is the image of a body, the Body of Christ, and we are members of that body. So there's a bodily reality that has been missing during the lockdown that may now come about again. I recognise there's going to be a staged opening up. It's not ideal—none of this has been ideal all along—but it'll be a case that we will gradually come to a point where all of us can be together, no matter what our particular vaccination status might be and so on. But how might you prepare for coming back to receiving the Lord, particularly sacramentally, in the Holy Eucharist? Can I suggest a few things.

Firstly, maybe there's some things you can do at home as a family. You can talk about perhaps previous Masses that you've been to in your local parish and those celebrations and the ways in which you as God's people were able to come together before; talk about that as a family, and to share those stories. Sharing the story about faith is always important in growing our faith.

Secondly, may I suggest that you take the opportunity to seek the Lord's mercy and forgiveness. We're all in need of that mercy and forgiveness—we're all sinners—me included.

And we have this wonderful sacrament in our church of reconciliation which is God's forgiveness. And so I encourage you to have the chance to make a good examination of your conscience ..to take the opportunity in your local settings to seek the Lord's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so that when you then come forward to receive the Lord in the Holy Eucharist, you can do so knowing that He has already filled you with His tenderness and mercy and forgiveness. It's a very beautiful thing.

And then when you're actually coming back, pause, if I might suggest. Pause at the door of your church. Pause there for a moment in silence... allow the Lord to welcome you back in, and allow that moment.

to be filled with His grace and His peace. And finally, as best you can—everyone's got their own situations—but as best you can come back with someone. So come back, book in — you'll have to book in as you know, initially for some number of months as we'll be restricted in number, so you'll need to do bookings — but book in with someone. A neighbour, perhaps a friend; invite them also to come with you so that you can give expression to the Body of Christ with the one who you are coming with. It might be another family if you're coming as a family.

So those three things, can I suggest: something at home, remembering; in preparation, particularly through the sense of the gift of God's forgiveness, and the renewing of your own relationship with God and with one another, and a sense of pause before entering to invite the grace of God to enter you especially; and to bring someone along with you, so that the gift of the Lord may be theirs as well.

May the Lord be with you in the week ahead.



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli