

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of the Kings
17:10-16

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Praise the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
9:24-28

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of

the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
Alleluia!*

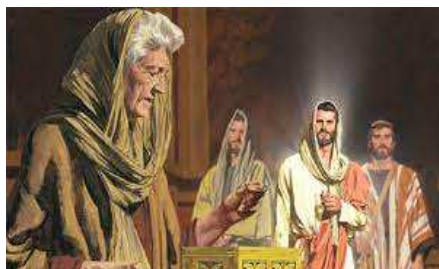
GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
12:38-44

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

The Gospel of the Lord



She gave everything she possessed.



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



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

6th/7th November, 2021

*Jesus, give us grace not to count the cost.
Help us share what we have,
With generous hearts,
in outreach to all in need.
Teach us to attend to the needs of others.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: We would normally hear or read the second half of this week's gospel as a stand-alone example of generosity and faith – often without the section that immediately precedes it. Whilst the actions of the widow are certainly worthy of comment, when we read it in the context of the condemnation that immediately precedes it, the widow's offering is placed in a different light. **Jesus condemns the scribes** who parade their wealth and seek trappings of earthly power and glory: being recognised and greeted as they walk the streets; taking the front seats in synagogue; and expecting to be seated in the place of honour at banquets. Whilst parading their wealth and feasting at banquets, **they are also swallowing up the property of widows** – taking advantage of those in need. We often hear widows and orphans named in the scriptures as those in need. Widows and orphans are marked out in the Torah, named as deserving of special care – the lost and broken of society. So despite holding a special place in Jewish Law and tradition, the widows are being taken advantage of by the scribes, who are taking over their property for their own gain. One of the duties of the scribes was to administer the proper payment of Temple taxes. Rather than a great act of generosity, **we can now see the widow's payment of Temple tax as a burdensome, heart-wrenching obligation** to pay the very last coins she had to a corrupt, uncaring system. We usually read praise into Jesus' comments about the widow's offering, but it can also be read as moral outrage at the system that demands this woman pay all that she possesses to the Temple.

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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

FEAST DAYS Tues 9th Nov The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Wed 10th Nov St Leo the Great
Thurs 11th Nov St Martin of Tours Fri 12th Nov St Josaphat

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.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B
6th / 7th November, 2021

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently

Michael Johnson, T.J. Johnney

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Fr. Bill Bainbridge, Michael Palandri, Salvatore Teofilo, Carmela Piro, Eufroonia Oracion, Margaret Cecchin, Patricia McCann.

The sick: Jack Spencer, 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
Please note that the link has been changed.



Join Zoom Meeting :
Meeting ID: 796 0389 1036
Passcode: Rosary

This is a reoccurring meeting on Mondays at 7:30 on Zoom from 8th November to 20th December 2021.

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: Everyone who is Fully Vaccinated is welcome on **Thursdays between 10am to 1pm** for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while. Please bring your Vaccine Certificate.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP We will resume on 9th November, for those who are Fully Vaccinated. Please bring your Vaccine Certificate

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP will resume **9th November**, at 9am in the Parish Office, for those Fully Vaccinated.

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](https://www.cdfpayforstjohnthebaptistparish.com.au/) Many thanks to all our contributors for your generous support.

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.

'CUPPA WITH MARY' -The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre (MMHC) is reopening for parishioners on **Mon 8th Nov from 9 am – 5 pm.** Come visit the Museum that tells Mary and the SOSJ's story, do a



walking tour of the Mary MacKillop Heritage trail and Mary's place of birth. Special times have been set aside for Parish groups to have a **'Cuppa with Mary' which includes a presentation, tour and prayer reflection in the Chapel where Mary prayed, at a cost of \$20 per person.** Contact Kate on 9926 9300 for a group booking.

CATHOLIC CARE MARKS TODAY AS PRISON SUNDAY. Pastoral and spiritual care is, ultimately, a ministry of presence. If you would like to make a donation, to support support thousands of Victorians every year in hospitals, prisons and youth justice centres and those living with HIV/AIDS. please go to <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/7/chaplaincy-appeal>

ADVENT IS FAST APPROACHING have you considered joining or starting an **Advent Discussion Group?** There's time for prayer, the reading of Scripture, as well as discussion. Please indicate your interest on the sign-up sheet beneath the poster entitled **New Life in Christ**, situated on the glass wall. Cost: Books: \$5.00.

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to:
Alice Somers daughter of Andrew & Rachel and Joseph Haarbarger son of Paul & Xiao who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.



EUCHARIST 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.

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.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 11th November. Every year at 11am on 11th November – **the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month** – we pause to remember those men and women who have served and those who have died in all wars and peacekeeping operations.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN CODE OF CONDUCT FORMS: in our Parish, **Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.** Please see the display on the notice board at the rear of the church, and if you haven't already, please sign a code of conduct form.

ROSTERS: Mon 8th Nov to Sun 14th November

Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm: Rosina L & Myra N 9am: Lia U, & Marg & Adrian D 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Help needed 9am: Help needed 11am: Help needed
Counters	Bryon, Ruby & Guil
Gardening	Carlos E

POSITIONS VACANT: 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**
- **Parish Secretary, Westernport Parish, Hastings**
- **Parish Secretary, St Mark's Catholic Parish, Fawkner**
- **Parish Secretary, St Mary's Parish & St Colman's Parish, St Kilda East & Balaclava**
- **Office Administrator, Mary Mother of the Church Catholic Parish, Ivanhoe**

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>

Pastoral Care in pandemic times

A couple of current and upcoming events invite us to pause and reflect on what Pastoral Care might mean for us. One of these events is International Pastoral Care / Spiritual Care Week, celebrated last week – its focus on Spiritual Care in a health setting. The other, being celebrated in the catholic community across Australia this Sunday on 7th November, is prison Sunday.

Pastoral and spiritual care is, ultimately, a ministry of presence.

Up until two years ago, such a statement would simply have been taken as a given, especially for those of us who know and understand the world of pastoral and spiritual care.

But then the world changed.

A global pandemic took hold and virtually every aspect of our lives had to be refashioned through a “COVID safe” prism. All client facing services were faced with the challenge of finding ways to stay connected with our people – pastoral and spiritual care was no exception.

Our health and prison teams, two areas among CatholicCare Victoria’s varied pastoral ministries, have found that being a presence in hospital settings that are under great stress, or across prisons and youth justice custodial centers that have been in lockdown for extended periods of time, has been especially challenging.

Our hospital chaplains can share many heartbreaking stories of patients whose life journey has come to an end without being able to share these precious moments surrounded by their significant others. Here, pastoral accompaniment has become that point of connection between the patient and family.

Over different periods of time during the pandemic, hospital chaplains have sometimes worked remotely connecting with people via telehealth, or have been a pastoral presence on the wards despite the necessary challenges of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection control regimes.

Across the Corrections landscape, except for short periods of being physically present in the custodial facilities, our Chaplains have learnt to transcend the COVID imposed restrictions.

Working collaboratively with the Prison providers, the world of Zoom has become a vital tool to remain pastorally connected with many, many residents in the 15 prisons across the State.

Limitations notwithstanding, our Chaplains have made connections with several thousand residents over the last year.

Among the current population of almost 7,000 people in our Victorian prisons, some could be described as “career criminals”. The vast majority however are very vulnerable people whose lives are impacted by so many hurdles.

Whether the setting is a hospital or a custodial facility, the offer to reconnect with a sense of purpose and meaning is at the heart of the pastoral relationship between the chaplain and the person.

In the midst of a pandemic, we boldly continue to dream that profound human connection is possible. As [Pope Francis put it](#),

Let us dream together, because it was precisely the dreams of freedom and equality, of justice and dignity, the dreams of community, that improved the world. And I am convinced when we look through these dreams we will find God’s own dream for all of us.

To support the Pastoral Care ministries at CatholicCare Victoria, please consider making a donation. Your assistance can enable chaplains to continue being a pastoral presence for people in need.

Written by

[Paul Zammit, CatholicCare Victoria](#)

Paul Zammit is Senior Manager of Pastoral Care Services at CatholicCare Victoria, the social service agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and the Dioceses of Sale, Sandhurst and Ballarat.