

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Baruch

5: 1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes.

God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that

your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths: all people shall
see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 3:1-6

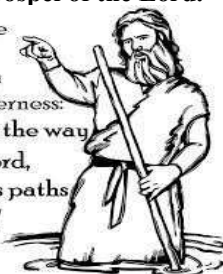
In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'

Luke 3:4



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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2nd Sunday of Advent – Year C

4th /5th December, 2021

*Loving God,
send Your Spirit of love to us this Advent
that we may accept the call to repent and renew.
Empower us with the grace to believe in You,
and remain faithful to Your Word.
In You Lord, we find our peace. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' (Often translated as 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.) The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasises that John was preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favour.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognise our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts – to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognise God's love if we 'Prepare a way'. © 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 6th Dec: St Nicholas Tues 7th Dec: St Ambrose
Wed 8th Dec: The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Thurs 9th Dec: St Juan Diego Fri 10th Dec: Our Lady of Loreto Sat 11th Dec: St Damasus I

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.

2nd Sunday of Advent – Yr C
4th / 5th December, 2021

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently
Peter Lucas, Domenico Presti
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Eileen & Lionel Roberts, John Masterson, Pasquale Parente, Noel Ryan, Maria Bekkers, Daniel Hurley.

The sick: Alan Bailey, 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 10.30am.*
Venue: 37 Lane Road, FTG. All are welcome.
Contact: Pauline Barlow on 9758 5106.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING: will finish 2021 with a **Shared lunch on Thursday 16th December**, all are welcome. Please check in with your QR code and show your vaccine certificate.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meet every **Tuesday at 10.15am** in the Parish Hall. Join us for a cuppa prior to the meeting. Praise and worship begins at 10.30am, followed by inspiring teaching and prayer ministry Please bring your Vaccine Certificate

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP meet 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](#) Many thanks to all our contributors for your generous support.

EUCARIST TO THE SICK any Parishioners who are sick in the home, and would like to receive Eucharist, please contact the Parish Office



CHRISTMAS SIGN-UP SHEETS We are looking for volunteers to help with our Christmas Liturgies. Please check out the Sheets on the Glass Wall, and sign on to help us make our Christmas Masses extra special. **We particularly need: LECTORS, COMPUTER OPERATORS, USHERS, MUSICIANS AND SINGERS, COVID-SAFE MARSHALLS, HELP TO SANITIZE THE PEWS.** Your help is greatly appreciated!

PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE will be held on Wednesday 15th December, at 7pm within the Mass, with the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** following Mass.

UNKNOWN VACCINATION STATUS MASS
1pm Sunday **Indoors with a cap of 30 people and a Density Quotient of 1 per 4 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.

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL- A HUGE THANK YOU for your generosity in giving to the **Priest's Retirement Foundation.** Contributions amounted to \$1033.50 for this special collection, a great result!



PARISH PASTORAL GROUP NEWS The Parish Pastoral Group met on Saturday 27th November to receive, consider all the recent Parish Survey results and include suggestions in a draft Parish Pastoral Plan for 2022. The PPG is grateful and appreciative of all responses that were sent in. More information will be published on the notice board at the back of the church next week.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 2021 took place on 3rd December this year, during the annual celebration of people with disabilities. The 2021 theme is **'Fighting for rights in the post-COVID era.'** This year, we are celebrating the challenges, barriers and opportunities for people who live with disabilities, in the context of a global pandemic. Find out more at: <https://idpwd.org/event/international-day-of-people-with-disabilities-2021/>

FUNERAL MASS – The Funeral Mass for the late **Domenico Presti** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Thursday 9th December, at 12pm, - Rosary will be recited the night before on Wednesday 8th December.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANGEL TREE Each year we provide needy families that we have visited throughout the year with a Christmas food hamper and gift cards for each of their children. We invite you to contribute to either of these:



- Under the Angel Tree we will provide basket/bags for your **Christmas food items** or those who might like to donate a complete hamper. Please feel free to supply your own bags if you wish.
- The **gift cards** we will provide allows the parents to purchase a suitable gift themselves according to the age and needs of their child or children.

You may like to take an "Angel" from the tree and purchase a gift card to the amount of either \$10, \$20, or \$30. Please place your donation in the box near the tree. The Gift cards can be purchased from **Kmart, Target, Coles, Myer** or any other store of your choice.

Should you wish to make a **cash donation** to the SVDP Christmas Appeal, envelopes are available on the trolleys. These can be placed on the collection baskets during mass. On behalf of our SVDP local conference, we would like to sincerely thank you for your ongoing generosity this year in supporting our work with the disadvantaged. encouragement on behalf of our parish - SVDP :- Ferntree Gully Conference.

STLUKE'S BEFORE AND AFTERSCHOOL HOURS CARE (SLOSH) COORDINATOR Applications invited. The job description can be found on the website www.stlukeswantima.net. Applications and resume are to be sent to Joseph.Amal@cam.org.au

POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE Details can be found on the Archdiocese of Melbourne website at <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

ROSTERS: Mon 6th Dec to Sun 12th December	
Flowers	Carole D & Lia U
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm: Peter G & Wilma H 9am: Joanna C & Thelma B 11am: Anna M & Priya F
Lectors	6pm: Louise D 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Edwardo M
Counters	Genevieve & George & Bindu M
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R