

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah  
3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!  
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.  
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.  
When that day comes, word will come  
to Jerusalem:  
Zion, have no fear,  
do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.  
He will exult with joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;  
he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Cry out with joy and gladness: for  
among you is the great and Holy One  
of Israel.*

## SECOND READING

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

I want you to be happy, always happy in the  
Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.  
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the  
Lord is very near. There is no need to worry;  
but if there is anything you need, pray for it,  
asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,  
and that peace of God, which is so much  
greater than we can understand, will guard  
your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according  
to Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we  
do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he  
must share with the man who has none, and the  
one with something to eat must do the same.'  
There were tax collectors too who came for  
baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what  
must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more  
than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their  
turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said  
to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be  
content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the  
people, who were beginning to think that John  
might be the Christ, so John declared before them  
all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is  
coming, someone who is more powerful than I  
am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his  
sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit  
and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear  
his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his  
barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will  
never go out.' As well as this, there were many  
other things he said to exhort the people and to  
announce the Good News to them.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



## **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

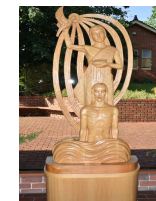
**Knox Deanery**

**19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156**

**Phone: 9758 1029, 97580604**

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Year C**

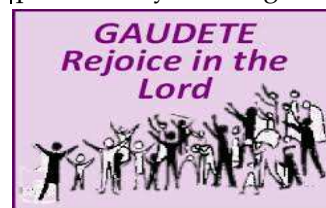
**11<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> December, 2021**

*Lord, ready our hearts for Your coming,  
baptise us in the fire of the Holy Spirit.  
Burn the chaff from our wheat,  
Warm our hearts to receive You, and to  
share Your love with everyone.  
In You Lord,  
we find our joy. Amen*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD: Have you thought? – A change of heart**

The baptism that John preached and practised was a baptism of repentance. What he called on people to do was to recognise the areas of their lives that were unbalancing their relationship with God. There was a strong recognition that unless they were in right relationship with one another they could not be in right relationship with God. In recognising the need for change in their lives, John challenged them to also make a change of heart: to approach their lives differently. This is why they were questioning him about practical ways of living out their new commitment. . © Greg Sunter



The Third Sunday of Advent is known as '**Gaudete**' Sunday as it is the first word (in Latin) of the Entrance Antiphon for the day; it means 'Rejoice' and the **liturgical colour used is rose** (the candle and the vestments). The change of colour visually moves us up a gear as we expectedly draw closer to the Solemnity of Christmas Day. It's almost like a preview or sneak peek at the joy of Christmas, but we then go back to fervently waiting, as the

Fourth Sunday of Advent we have purple again.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> Dec: St Lucy  
Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Dec: St John of the Cross

*I have come that you may have life and have it to the full  
(John 10:10)*

**PARISH PRIEST:**  
Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029, 97580604  
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 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.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Yr C**  
**11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2021**

**JOY**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently*

Ethel Arrowsmith, Leopoldine Newton,  
Anthony Goldsmith.

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

Darren Maloney, Jacques Walter, Max Cartledge, Alyda Donegan, Wally Johnson, Judith Cherry, Peter Windebank, Maureen Bicker.

**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. This is a reoccurring meeting on Mondays at 7:30 on Zoom from 8<sup>th</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021. **Time: 7:30 pm Every**

**Monday.** Join Zoom Meeting

**Meeting ID: 796 0389 1036**

**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 finish 2021 with a **Shared lunch on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December**, all are welcome. Please check in with your QR code and show your vaccine certificate.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** will end the year on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, at Jells Park for our Christmas Break-up. All are welcome. Enquiries, Maree Wilson via the Parish Office.

**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.

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

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

6.30pm Carols  
7.00pm Family Mass  
9.30pm Carols  
10.00pm Mass of Christmas Night

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

9.00am Mass  
11.00am Mass  
1.00pm Mass on Christmas Day for **Unknown Vaccination Status. Bookings essential!**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-100-pm-mass-st-john-the-baptist-ftg-unknown-vaccination-status-tickets-198782683357> For a more extensive Mass timetable during December/January please take a flyer from the trolley or visit: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)



**CHRISTMAS SIGN-UP SHEETS** We are *still*

looking for volunteers to help with our Christmas Liturgies. Please check out the Sheets on the Glass Wall at the rear of the church, 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 15<sup>th</sup> December, at 7pm within the Mass, with the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** following Mass.

**UNKNOWN VACCINATION STATUS MASS**

1pm Sunday **Indoors with a cap of 50 people and a Density Quotient of 1 per 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.**

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

*Joy to the World, - Jesus is near!*

**SCHOOL NEWS** it is with sadness that we inform you that our Principal Mrs Cathy Mason will be leaving us at the end of the year. Cathy commenced at St John's in early 2015. We thank her for her outstanding leadership, and wonderful contributions strengthening our staff, students, and community. She will be sadly missed. We wish Cathy every success in her future endeavours, as she moves into the role of mentoring & developing new principals within the Sale Archdiocese.

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS** All children



(especially the little ones) are invited to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds. Costume, need not be elaborate – a white dress or fairy skirt & wings for angels and tea towel headwear for shepherds will do. The children will be asked to sit in the area surrounding the altar.

**FUNERAL MASS** – for the late **Ethel Arrowsmith** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December. *Mass will be at 11:30am, viewing starts at 10:30 am.*

**FUNERAL MASS** for the late: **Leopoldine Newton** will be celebrated on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, at 11am..

**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:

- Donate your **Christmas food items** or those who might like to donate a complete hamper, may do so.
- 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.

Please place you 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 trollies. A huge, thank you for your ongoing generosity this year in supporting our work. SVDP.

**ROSTERS: Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Dec to Sun 19<sup>th</sup> December**

<b>Flowers</b>	Genevieve W & Gina P
<b>Linen</b>	Sue N
<b>Welcomers</b>	6pm: Rosina L & Myra N 9am: Lia U, Marg & Adrian D 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
<b>Lectors</b>	6pm: Jenny K 9am: Pamela E 11am: Phuong B
<b>Counters</b>	Genevieve & George & Bindu M
<b>Gardening</b>	Patrick S & Harry R