

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them, till the time when she who is to
give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will
come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be
saved.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the
world: You who wanted no sacrifice or
oblation, prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was
commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations,
the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and
you took no pleasure in them; and then he

says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.
He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with
the second. And this will was for us to be made
holy by the offering of his body made once and
for all by Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:39-44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to
a town in the hill country of Judah. She went
into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.
Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was
filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry
and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should
I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my
Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my
ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes,
blessed is she who believed that the promise made
her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Most Blessed are you !

ROSTERS: Mon 20th Dec to Sun 26th December

Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N & Wilma H 9am: Terry S, Neil & Lorraine, Peter C 11am: Priya F & Patrick S
Lectors	7pm: Rosina Loerand
Christmas Eve	10pm Janet Roffey
Lectors	9am: as per Sign up sheets
Christmas Day	11am: as per Sign up sheets
Counters	Tony, Steph, Connie, Peter.
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

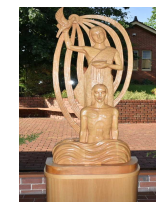
Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029, 97580604

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



4th Sunday of Advent – Year C

18th /19th December, 2021

Father,

May we welcome Jesus, Your Son,

the promised Emmanuel,

and proclaim the good news of his birth to

all the earth. That every age

will see Your saving grace

and follow in Your way of love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Fourth Week of Advent



FOCUS ON THE WORD:

Why would Mary travel to the hill country "in haste"? Pope Francis says Mary experienced the gift she received as a mission.

Do we have the same mission: to reach all people with God's love?

Mary's is *a faith that sets her on a journey*. The young woman of Nazareth, after hearing the message of the angel, "went with haste into the hill country" ([Luke 1:39](#)) to visit and assist Elizabeth, her cousin. She did not consider it a privilege to be chosen as the Mother of the Savior; she did not lose the simple joy of her humility after the visit of the angel. She did not keep thinking about herself within the four walls of her house.

Rather, **she experienced the gift she had received as a mission to be carried out**; she felt urged to open the door and go out; she became completely caught up in God's own "haste" to reach all people with his saving love. That is why Mary set out on her journey. She chose the unknowns of the journey over the comfort of her daily routines, the weariness of travel over the peace and quiet of home; the risk of a faith that makes our lives a loving gift to others over a placid piety. [Pope Francis Apostolic Journey to Budapest](#) Sept 15, 2021

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

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

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
Acting Principal: Ursula DeCorrado

St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
Principal: Catherine Livingston

Mater Christi College 9754 6611
Principal: Maria Haggett

MASS TIMES:
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.

4th Sunday of Advent – Yr C
18th/ 19th December, 2021

LOVE

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently

Juanita Morillo

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Patrick O'Reilly, Terence McDermott, Rosa Saracino, Ryan Castricum, George Kuhlmann, Margaret King.

The sick: Gabby Sundstrom, Ray Loel, Kathryn Kircos, Peter Thomas, Wilma Neville, Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Barbara Kenny, Anne Jaywardena, Lea Hartley, 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 8th November to 20th 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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP, and MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP will all take a Christmas Break. **FRIENDSHIP GATHERING, will resume Thursday 13th January, 2022**

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

FUNERAL SERVICE for the late: **Anthony Goldsmith** will be celebrated on Tuesday 21st December, at 10.30am.

FUNERAL MASS for the late: **Leopoldine Newton** will be celebrated here at St John's on Wednesday 22nd December, at 11am.

IMPORTANT NOTE: recently, all the funds from the St John the Baptist School Building Fund, were transferred to the **Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACs) account**, as they are now responsible for the ongoing management of the School, as a result, **we will no longer be able to offer a tax deduction for thanksgiving offerings.**

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6.30pm Carols
7.00pm Family Mass
9.30pm Carols

10.00pm Mass of Christmas Night

Saturday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.00am Mass
11.00am Mass
~~1.00pm Mass on Christmas Day for Unknown~~

Vaccination Status, -Cancelled A more extensive Mass timetable flyer is available on the trolleys or visit: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



COVID GUIDELINE CHANGES: From 11.59pm Wednesday 15th December, there will not be any Vaccination requirements nor any checks for Vaccination Status at places of Worship.

Face Masks are highly recommended.

All are welcome at any Mass, QR code sign in remains. **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.**

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.



ALPHA Training Workshop Are you interested in joining some parishioners attending an ALPHA training workshop? We ask for your expression of interest.

Alpha is an easy-to-use tool for evangelisation which has been used by thousands of Catholic Parishes around the world. This workshop will look at where Alpha fits in the faith formation process in a Parish and how Alpha can become an integral part of a pastoral plan to evangelise and grow missionary disciples. The training workshop will be held on :

Saturday, 29 January 2022

If you are interested to attend the workshop, please contact the parish office asap: email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or phone: 9758 1029

PLEASE Note: the parish office will be closed for 2 weeks from 26 December 2021 to 9 January 2022

ARE YOU A SPIRITUAL LEADER? – The Spiritual Leaders Program is an online (via Zoom) one-year, part-time program. Brochure and application form at www.heartoflife.melbourne or tel 03 9890 1101.

Merry Christmas

...from Fr Thomas & the Parish Staff



PARISH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS / JANUARY HOLIDAY PERIOD: Fri 24th December – Closed from 3pm. The office will be Closed between the 25th December 2021 until 9th January, 2022, reopening on Monday 10th January, 2022.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2021



"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isa. 9:1).

It's time for us to pause and see this Light and feel its warmth. As we celebrate Christmas Masses as one parish family, may the light of Christ illumine your ways and fill your homes.

All the readings for all the various Christmas liturgies proclaim the same mystery: The Incarnation. God not only authors life and sustains it, he chooses to become one of us. Whatever the circumstances of your life right now; grief or joy, struggle or success, faith or doubt, love or betrayal, Jesus has lived it himself, and he longs to live it with you. Allow Him to enter into your moments and give you the life for which you were created.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to our parish this past year. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to reflect God's presence in our community. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the volunteers. Additionally, a special thank you to our staff who have worked so hard despite the current pandemic and the devoted members of the various ministries in our parish and especially to those few who work quietly, behind the scenes all the time to make our parish vibrant.

My Christmas message this year is to challenge all of us to become more involved. It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving more of ourselves. Moreover, that's what God did when he entered our world at the first Christmas. God will fill us with His peace if there is room for Him in our lives.

In closing, my only prayer today, that you, your family and homes be filled with the Blessings of Peace, Joy and Love. At the same time, I thank you all, most sincerely for your thoughtful prayers, inspiring Christmas greetings and priceless gifts. May all my dear parishioners be over shadowed with the mighty and powerful blessings of the Baby Jesus. . . , the Emmanuel.

- Fr. Thomas Kuruvila



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.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

- **Parish Organist, St Gerard's Parish, Dandenong North**
- **Youth Minister, St Christopher's Parish, Syndal**
- **Sacramental Coordinator, St Dominic's East Camberwell Parish**
- **Pastoral Youth Worker, Parish of St Macartan's, Mornington**
- **Communications & Publications Administrator, Bayside Catholic Mission, Bayside**

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

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

Enrich your Marriage with The Marriage Kit

An enrichment course for married couples wanting a lasting, passionate relationship as God intended. Accessed from the privacy of your home on your own timetable, this online course will energise your relationship, revitalise your passion and equip you with practical tools for every day. To find out more visit: smartloving.org/marriage-kit Get 50% off with the coupon code: **Advent**



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – FERNTREE GULLY would like to thank Father Thomas for his continued support for our work. We would also like to **thank all Parishioners, Staff and Students at both St. John The Baptist Primary School and St. Joseph's College** for all their kind donations of cash, Gift Cards, Christmas Hampers, food items and wrapped up gifts. A “thank you” to **Willowbrook Nursing home** who donated many wrapped toys for the Angel Tree. **The total of all cash and Gift Card donations received up until 16th December 2021 is \$5,727.00.** Add approximately \$260.00 for non-perishable food items and wrapped gifts. Parishioners' donations = \$3,115.00, St. John the Baptist Primary School = \$1,655.00 and St. Joseph College = \$957.00. Willowbrook Nursing home donations is estimated to a value of \$500.00. The grand total should increase as more donations are expected to be received at Masses over the weekend of 18/19 December. Our volunteers will be packing and delivering Christmas Hampers on the weekend of 18/19 December. We will deliver approximately 65 Hampers to those families with which our Conference has made contact throughout the year. Each Hamper will include a \$100.00 Woolworths card for food and a Gift Card for each child in the family. The value of each Hamper ranges from \$180.00 to \$220.00. *Without your kind generosity in giving to the Angel Tree, our outreach to families less fortunate than ourselves would not be possible. - Thank you all.*

A huge thank you to all our volunteers. Wishing everyone and your families a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a safe summer holiday season.

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE is hosting its second annual carols special, **Jesus is Christmas**, airing on Monday 20 December at 7.30pm on Community TV Channel 31/44 and the Archdiocesan YouTube channel. https://youtu.be/z_AtagcRpK

