

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Nehemiah  
8:2-6, 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen! Then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
1Cor 12: 12-14, 47

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

**The Word of the Lord**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Lord sent me to bring Good News  
to the poor  
and freedom to prisoners.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
1:1-4, 4:14-21

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’

**The Gospel of the Lord**



**THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME**



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

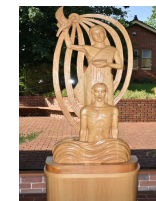
**Knox Deanery**

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

**Phone: 9758 1029**

**Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au**

**Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au**



**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year C**

**22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2022**

*Loving Father,  
Through Your power,  
We are anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
Help us to bring new sight to the blind,  
As we live Your word in truth,  
And give us courage to witness to You.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** The first part of today's Gospel is in fact the opening sentence of Luke where he sets out his goal, which is to give an orderly account of recent events. Theophilus is a code word made up of two Greek words, *God* and *Love*, so in fact Luke is writing to all those who love God. Having told us *Luke's* goal, the Gospel then moves to chapter 4 where Jesus announces *his* goal within the synagogue of his home town, Nazareth. Jesus deliberately selects the text from Isaiah 61, so if we want to understand Luke's story of Jesus we need to understand this text. Jesus has a mission to the poor, to the outcasts, the alienated, the ones society despises, the 'down and outers', the ones living in darkness and pain. Jesus' role is to tell these people, who feel most unloved and rejected, 'You are not despised by God; God has not rejected you.' This is what is meant by 'the Lord's year of favour.' This year is the great fiftieth year of jubilee liberation, when slaves are to be released, when debts are to be written off and people are allowed to return home. Jesus says, 'God keeps Jubilee. Your debts to God are written off, do not let guilt and fear enslave you, come home to a welcoming God.'

If we can understand that this is the goal Jesus announces then we will understand why in Luke's Gospel he spends so much time with sinners and outcasts. What Jesus announces in Nazareth he will then live out, to the great shock of his family and friends. What might Jesus' mission be for you? What might it be like if we looked on others as an extension of our own bodies? What difference would this make in our treatment and care of others? - Mary Coloe

**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 24<sup>th</sup> Jan St Francis de Sales Tues 25<sup>th</sup> Jan The Conversion of St Paul  
Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Jan: Australia Day Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> Jan St Angela Merici and Sts Timothy & Titus 28<sup>th</sup> Jan St Thomas Aquinas

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

**PARISH PRIEST:**  
Fr Thomas Kuruvila 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  
Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 10.00am -2.00pm  
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: 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 in Ordinary Time – Yr C  
22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2022

#### PRAYING FOR...

*All who have died recently*

*Fr Noel Mackay, Fr Peter Rankin (SDB)*  
*Nicholas Donnelly (UK)*

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

Nath McDermott, Patrick Masterson, Margherita Lizza, Jadwiga Godsmark, Chris Quinn, Hazel Maybus.

**The sick:** John Van Der Staak, Gabby Sundstrom, Ray Loel, Kathryn Kircos, Peter Thomas, Wilma Neville, Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Barbara Kenny, Anne Jayawardena, 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

**ROSARY** is recited prior to Morning Weekday Mass on Wed, Thurs, Friday, in the Church.

All welcome to join in the recitation

#### 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** has resumed for 2022. Meet in the Parish Hall on Thursdays between 10am to 1pm for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while. New members welcomed.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** are currently on a break, we plan to resume on Tues 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022. Every Tuesday at 10.15am in the Parish Hall.

**MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP** meet at 9am in the Parish Office, for those Fully Vaccinated. We are hoping to recommence on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, covid regulations permitting.

**FAITH, FUN, FELLOWSHIP ON PILGRIMAGE Harvest Journeys** offer a selection of iconic touring experiences as we combine faith, fun and fellowship together, while celebrating memorable daily masses along the way. [Click here](#) for more information, or call Harvest direct on: 1800 819 156

**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.



**WEDDING** we extend our congratulations and best wishes to **Katrina Sombekke & James Davis** who are to be married here at St John's on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January. 2022.



**2022 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM – REGISTER NOW, AND SAVE THE DATE.** This year, we will be offering a Sacramental program for children attending schools other than St John the Baptist Primary, wanting to be Confirmed in 2022. Applicants must be in Grade 5 or 6 or beyond. We have opened registrations for this programme, which will begin with a **Confirmation Information Family Night on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, at 7pm** – Please save the date. The program will run every Wednesday night from the 8<sup>th</sup> June, except school holidays, until the **Sacrament, planned to be at 6pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.** Please contact the Parish Office to obtain a registration form, to register your Child/ren. **If you know of family or friends who might be interested, please pass on the details. Enquiries: Mary Makarucha 9758 1029.**

**FUNERAL MASS OF FR NOEL MACKAY** The Funeral Mass will be held on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 11am in St Jude's Church**, 49 George Street, Scoresby. **Holy Rosary** will take place at St Jude's on Wednesday evening **26<sup>th</sup> January, at 7.30pm**

**LECTORS TRAINING MEETING.** We are planning to run a lector's Training Meeting in March 2022. This meeting will help both current readers, and new readers alike! If you have thought about reading at Mass, but lack the confidence, or perhaps you are not sure what it is all about, please contact the Parish Office to register for this Training day.

**FAREWELL TO FR KEVIN DILLON AT ST SIMONS ROWVILLE:** With the retirement of Fr. Kevin as Parish Priest of St. Simon's imminent, the parishes of St. Simon's, Rowville and St. Jude's, Scoresby will soon both be under the leadership of Fr. Mark Reynolds, (currently Parish Priest of St. Jude's) who will have as Assistant Priest newly-ordained Fr. Samuel Pearson. On the weekend of January 29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Mark and Fr. Kevin will celebrate all three week-end Masses at St. Simon's, and each Mass will include a brief, symbolic "handover" component. After each Mass there will be a cup of tea at the Parish Centre to farewell.

**A CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS** This Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> Jan and Wednesday and 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, the Parish Office will be closed due to the Australia Day Public Holiday. Also, this year there will be a change in office hours for our Faith Development Coordinator, Mary Makarucha. Mary will be contactable in the Parish Office on Tuesday's and Wednesdays between the hours of 10am -2pm. Thank you for your understanding.

**LENT DISCUSSION GROUP.** LENT is only 6 weeks away! This year, covid restrictions permitting, Mary Makarucha will be facilitating a **Lenten Discussion Group on Wednesday Mornings, at 10am**, after the morning Mass. This will be using the Book called **THE SPIRIT AND THE CROSS**, a resource from Evangelisation Brisbane. Written for busy individuals but easily adapted for groups, each day includes a scripture reading and a reflection upon it, some questions to aid prayer and discussion, and relevant quotes from Pope Francis. **Books cost only \$5 each plus postage.** It is important for us to know how many books to order. **Please indicate your interest, by signing up on the sheet on the Glass wall. All welcome.**

**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.

**GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** For anyone seeking deeper intimacy with the God of Life; with others and yourself. The focus will be on *Lectio Divina* using both poetry and scripture and as we listen with our hearts, to hear what is resonating deeply within. There will be spacious time to contemplate and share. Held on the Second Thursday of each month 1-3pm, commencing 10 February 2022 at Jesuit & Ignation Spirituality (JISA) Campion, Kew. Contact: Mandy Lane, Spiritual Director & Pastoral Supervisor, Phone [0404663244](tel:0404663244) or email [mandylane@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mandylane@optusnet.com.au) Cost \$35 per session.

#### ROSTERS: Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Jan to Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Flowers   | Genevieve W & Gina P  |
| Linen     | Laurel S  |
| Welcomers | 6pm: Kathryn C & Myra Noth<br>9am: Terry S, Johanna C. Thelma B<br>11am: Patrick S & Anna M |
| Lectors   | 6pm: Louise Di B<br>9am: Carolyn Q<br>11am: Carolyn S                                       |
| Counters  | Public Holiday  |
| Gardening | Tom Noonan and Help Needed  |