

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

1:4-5, 17-19

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations. So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you. Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed. I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you – it is the Lord who speaks.’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. I will sing of your salvation.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

1Cor 13:4-13

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people’s sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

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

4:21-30

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’ And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, ‘This is Joseph’s son, surely?’ But he replied, ‘No doubt you will quote me the saying, “Physician, heal yourself” and tell me, “We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside.”’ And he went on, ‘I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

‘There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah’s day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha’s time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.’

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord



No prophet is ever accepted in his own country



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

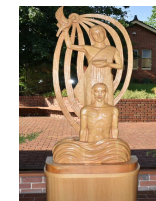
Knox Deanery

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year C

29th / 30th January, 2022

*God of all time,
You knew us before we were formed.
Teach us to value Your gifts of life and love,
And give us the strength to live our lives,
As witnesses to Your Love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: This week’s gospel completes the event in Nazareth that began last week with Jesus’ declaration of mission. The initial response of the crowd is one of astonishment and approval. However, the people have largely missed the point of Jesus’ teaching. When he declared that he had come to proclaim liberty to captives and to set the downtrodden free, Jesus probably didn’t expect his audience to just say, ‘Oh, that’s nice!’ The message he preached, and the message that flows throughout the Gospel of Luke, calls for a fundamental conversion of heart; a change to a life motivated by compassion for the lowly. When the people so obviously missed his point, Jesus virtually dismisses them by saying that ‘no prophet is ever accepted in his own country’. To make his point even further, Jesus then cites instances where two of the great prophets of Jewish tradition responded to the needs of pagans from Sidon and Syria rather than the needs of Israel. The two people helped are also very significant. Widows held a special place in Jewish tradition: God entrusted all widows to the care of the whole town. Whenever widows are named as being in need, it is a comment on the society as a whole neglecting its duty of care. Lepers were regarded as absolutely unclean and outcast by virtue of their condition (something that perhaps has never really changed). For Jesus to remind the people of these events is a great reprimand to them. He is, in effect, saying to them, ‘if you can’t accept my message, I will take it to the pagans; the gentiles; and the socially unacceptable.’ Is it any wonder that they tried to lynch him on the spot? © 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 31st Jan St John Bosco Wed 2nd Feb The Presentation of the Lord
Thurs 3rd Feb St Blaise and St Angar Sat 5th Feb St Agatha

*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
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 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 in Ordinary Time – Yr C
29th / 30th January, 2022

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Giovanni (John) Cecchin, Mary Williams, Ron Prince, Geoffrey Winters, Kenneth Lowden, Teresa Abraham, Giuseppe Pilotto.

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 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 welcomes old and new back to our first meeting this year on Tues 1st February 2022. Every Tuesday at 10.15am in the Parish Hall. All Welcome.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP meet at 9am in the Parish Office, on Tuesday Morning. **We recommence on Tuesday 1st Feb,** come and join us!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – SAVE THE DATE
Friday 4th March, 2022.

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY, 6th FEBRUARY. The Church in Australia will celebrate **Word of God Sunday on February 6th** this year.

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 [CDF Pay Ferntree Gully](#) Many thanks to all our contributors for your generous support.



BAPTISM – We offer our congratulations to **Henry James Hall son of Matthew & Danica** who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



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 2nd June, at 7pm** – Please save the date. The program will run every Wednesday night from the 8th June, except school holidays, until the **Sacrament, planned to be at 6pm on Thursday 14th 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.**



LECTORS TRAINING MEETING. We are planning to run a lector's Training Meeting on **Wednesday 9th March at 7 pm.** 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.

LENT DISCUSSION GROUP. LENT is only 5 weeks away! **Time is running out to order these books.** 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.**

EUCARIST 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.



PARISH SURVEY OUTCOMES
Following on from the survey and feedback we received last year we have condensed the suggestions made, into two categories - **Liturgical activities and Social activities.** To assist with planning, we ask **you** to **complete the expressions of interest form** indicating your preferences and whether you would like to take a leadership role in any of the activities.



FIRST FRIDAY – 4th FEBRUARY, 2022
10am – Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament.
11 am – Holy Mass

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN OUR LOCAL VINNIES SHOP Volunteers are invited to share their time in supporting the work of the Society. The Shop offers a number of household items, wide variety of clothes, children's toys and electrical goods for purchase. As a volunteer, you will be part of a retail team that provides the necessary funds for outreach to the disadvantaged by the conference with food hampers and vouchers. If you can offer any time, please contact the Manager: **Sandra 9758 8501 VINNIES: Unit 7/1821 Ferntree Gully Road, Ferntree Gully.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ASSISTING REFUGEE STUDENTS - MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE – Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr. Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information. A Training Day for new volunteers with emphasis on Child Safeguarding will take place prior to commencement. Mercy Connect Melbourne Tel: 9326 1895 OR Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact) Website: www.mercyworks.org.au

ROSTERS: Mon 31st Jan to Sun 6th Feb 2022

Flowers	Marg H & Judy Geddes
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm: Peter G, Wilma H, Matt V 9am: Joanna C, Thelma B 11am: Anna M, Priya F
Lectors	6pm: Gab V 9am: Peter F 11am: Edwardo Morillo
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S & Guil W
Gardening	Barry Blake and Help Needed please.