

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!*

*Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
Give me living water, that I may
never thirst again.*

*Glory to you, Word of God
Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Shorter form) Jn 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come – in fact it is here already when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the

(continued overleaf.)



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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Third Sunday of Lent – Year C

19th / 20th March, 2022

*Lord Jesus,
In this season of Lent; Let us seek the
water which brings eternal life.
May we, be a source of living water,
for all who thirst for meaning and purpose
in their lives.*

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD: The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'. The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. Jesus dismisses major differences between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law. Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

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 - **NEXT TEAM MEETING: 23rd March 2022 7.30pm**

FEAST DAYS Fri 25th Mar: The Annunciation of the Lord

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:
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.

3rd Sunday of Lent – Yr C
19th / 20th March, 2022

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently


Peter Berthelot, Kath Hine, Giuseppina Russo, Allen Spencer (Benella).




Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Domenico Lizza, Carmella Nardone, Joseph Kuek, Troy Chapman, Michael Atkinson, Tom Schepisi, Mary Whelan, Ronald Gallenti, Maureen Hayman, Brian Mitchell.

The sick: Lucy Denzin, 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.

 **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** The Stations of the Cross will be recited at 10.30am in the Church every Friday during Lent. All welcome.

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 friends welcomed.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP is meeting each Tues Morning at 10.15am for prayer, praise and worship, followed by the **Lenten Discussion Group** in the Parish Hall. All Welcome.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP meet at 9am in the Parish Office, for 1 hour on Tuesday Morning. God has used this group for healing in families and the Church across the world. Come and join us!

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 Pav Femtree Gully](#). Many thanks to all our contributors for your generous support.

PROJECT COMPASSION Week 2: Janice's Story – Australia.



This week, Project Compassion features the story of Janice, a Wagilak woman from the Northern Territory. Janice, who lives in a remote community, is part of the Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, supported by

Caritas Australia. Janice is among those overcoming many obstacles to keeping their culture strong. She does this through dance. She honours the generations who have come before her and taught their community how to respect the land and live in harmony with it. Our response to Project Compassion is providing practical support for the blossoming of Indigenous culture for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413


FUNERAL PRAYERS for the late **Peter Berthelot**, will be at St John the Baptist church on Monday 21st March, at 10.30am.

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Kathleen Hine** will be at St John the Baptist church on Thursday 24th March at 11am.

PARISH SURVEY PLANNING DAY The results of the Expressions of Interest forms, kindly submitted by you the parishioners have now been tabled at the recent Parish Pastoral Group meeting. A meeting has been planned and all those who responded to the EOI form and any other parishioners who would like to attend to plan the way forward are invited - to meet on: **Sunday, 3 April at 2:30pm** In the Parish Hall. Please come!

RCIA NEWS This weekend **Kathryn Camille** our RCIA candidate, will recite the Apostles Creed a part of the First Scrutiny as she continues her journey to becoming a Catholic at Easter. Please keep Kathryn in your prayers.

HARMONY WEEK runs from 21st-27th March. it is about coming together to celebrate the cultural diversity in your area and spread the message of 'everyone belongs'.

 **MUSICIANS/SINGERS URGENTLY NEEDED TO HELP WITH HOLY WEEK LITURGIES** **We need YOU!** Please, join us in the singing or accompanying at Mass, as we prepare for the up-coming Holy Week/ Easter Services. All ages welcome. **Please contact Maree in the Parish office, and record your name on the Sign-up sheets on the glass wall.**

GOSPEL continued...

....woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT Fr Gilbert Carlo SVD will be hosting a Retreat here at St John the Baptist Parish. Fr Gilbert will give the homily at the Masses on Saturday 2nd or Sunday 3rd of April, 2022, **the retreat will run: Mon 4th April, 7pm Mass, 7.30pm Talk and Adoration, Tues 5th April: 7pm Mass, 7.30pm Talk and Adoration.** This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds for Easter.

The Prodigal Son – a weekend Lenten Retreat This beautiful human parable of mercy is at the centre of the Spirit of Corpus Christi Community Greenvale, an outreach ministry of JISA Campion, a home for homeless men. With input, silent reflection, and shared spiritual conversation, this Lenten retreat is facilitated by Anne Priestley rsm and AnnMaree Sutton from JISA Campion's Corpus Christi ministry.

Location: Don Bosco Retreat Center, 465 Lysterfield Rd, Lysterfield VIC
Date & time: 4pm Friday 1 April – 2pm Sunday 3 April
Cost: \$390 (includes accommodation, all meals and retreat facilitation) **Bookings:** telephone [1300 EXAMEN \(1300 392 636\)](tel:1300EXAMEN) or info@jisa.org.au

PARISH PASTORAL GROUP NEWS the latest news from the Parish Pastoral Group meeting on 8th March, 2022 is available to read **on the notice board on the back wall of the church.** Be sure to have a look!

ROSTERS: Mon 21st Mar to Sun 27th Mar 2022

Flowers	Lent – no flowers
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm: Lia U, Kathryn C 9am: Rosa L & Florence J 11am Shamindri & Chamal A,
Lectors	6pm: Trish M 9am: Peter F 11am: Eduardo M
Counters	Peter & Dawn, Peter C, Florence J
Gardening	Carlos E & Help needed.