

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

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

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He (continued overleaf.)



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

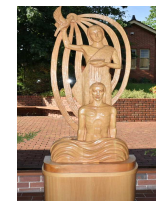
Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



Fourth Sunday of Lent– Year C

26th / 27th March, 2022

*God of compassion,
You await the sinner's return
and spread a feast to welcome home the lost.
Save us from the temptations
that lead us away from You,
and draw us back by Your constant love,
that we may take our place in Your household.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: You would need a heart of stone not to be affected by the stories we encounter today. Most of us have heard the story of the two sons in today's Gospel over and over. The brilliance of the way Jesus tells stories is that it still gets under our skin. Here are two young men who think they can live on their own terms. One has a sense of entitlement and demands his share of his father's estate which he then squanders. He is finally prepared to eat humble pie and find his way home. The other son has a different sense of entitlement. He believes that his hard work and reliability should provide him with a greater share of his father's love. At different times in our life, we can relate more to one or other of these people. Jesus implies that they are both blind to the way God's love works and that they both need to grow. They have both been dead and need to come to life.

Historical Context – Customs and culture:

The parable of the lost son is a fascinating study of Jewish culture and purity laws. The son could not have distanced himself more from Jewish custom. Firstly, he demanded his inheritance, effectively treating his father as dead. Secondly, he travels to a pagan land and then in despair finds himself feeding pigs – animals whose meat was forbidden to Jews. He knows that his actions have alienated him from his family and culture and yet when he returns, his father gives him a fine robe and a ring to wear – signs of a father claiming a son as his own.

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

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE Tell three people about the importance of buying only slavery-free chocolate this Easter and beyond. Try some and tell them how good it tastes. Look for this symbol:



*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.

4th Sunday of Lent – Yr C
26th / 27th March, 2022

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently

Giuseppina Russo, Tess DeAraugo.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Adam Brown, Robert (Bob) Lisle, Janina James, Troy Chapman, Pat Smith.

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!



REMINDER: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS NEXT WEEKEND. Sunday 3rd April 2022 Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour.

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



PROJECT COMPASSION Week 4: Rosalie's Story – Democratic Republic of Congo This



week, Project Compassion features the story of **Rosalie 44**, she is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community. With your Generous help, Rosalie was able to participate in business and social skills training, supported by Caritas Australia's partners, through the program, she gained essential skills in generating an income while gaining a sense of belonging and community spirit. Rosalie is now a business owner, a community leader and a role model for other ex-combatants who are seeking to readjust to civilian life. She is inspiring women and other members of her community to overcome the violence of the past, to work towards a more peaceful and harmonious world 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 MASS for the late **Giuseppina Russo** will be at St John the Baptist church on **Tuesday 29th March Rosary at 10.30am, 11am Mass.**

NEW PATHS / NEW DIRECTIONS Fr Thomas and the Parish Pastoral Group requests the pleasure of your presence and participation at our **Follow up on your Feedback - Planning the future.** In the St John the Baptist Hall. We will go forward and plan New Paths and New Directions Looking forward to seeing you all **Thank you all for your participation in bringing our Parish together! The meeting will be held on Sunday, 3 April 2022. Starting at 2:30pm and will run for approximately one hour. Please attend there is plenty to discuss and plan as we go forward.**

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...

was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

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

ROSTERS: Mon 28th Mar to Sun 3rd April 2022

Flowers	Lent – no flowers
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm: Peter G & Wilma Hm Matt V 9am: Joanne C & Thelma B 11am Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm: Gab V 9am: Pamela E 11am: Peggy S
Counters	George, Genevieve & Bindu
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry Roeloffs