

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life,
says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27,33-45

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness

will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,

but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord



**'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'
Lazarus,
Come Out!**



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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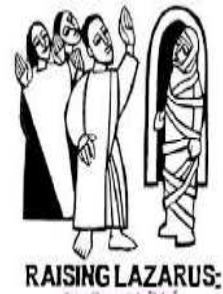
Fifth Sunday of Lent– Year C

2nd / 3rd April, 2022

*Lord God,
come to our aid.*

*May we walk courageously in
that same love Your Son offered us
in giving Himself over to death
on the cross.*

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD: The raising of Lazarus marks a turning point in the gospel of John. Chapter 11 concludes with the Jewish authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and then Chapter 12 begins the final week of Jesus' life in Jerusalem. The significance of this episode is highlighted by the disciples who question Jesus about the wisdom of going back to Judea when the people there had wanted to stone Jesus to death. In going to save the life of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knows that he is journeying towards his own death. In fact, the end of Chapter 11 makes clear that it is some of the witnesses to the raising of Lazarus who go and complain to the authorities and precipitate the action against Jesus. In the gospel of John, it is the episode with Lazarus that effectively signs Jesus' death warrant. The gospel makes clear that Jesus gives up his own life so that Lazarus may live.

Living the Gospel - Unbind him, let him go free To see a man bound up for burial suddenly come walking from his tomb must have been an unnerving experience to say the least. However, Jesus calmly commands the astonished onlookers to 'unbind him, let him go free'. These words speak to us today as we come to the end of the Lenten season and approach the celebration of Easter. What are the things that 'bind' us? From what do we need to be released so that we may 'go free'? Are they bindings placed by ourselves or others? What will it take to be unbound?

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 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:
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.

5th Sunday of Lent – Yr C
2nd / 3rd April, 2022

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently



Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Archbishop Frank Little, Mark Fabian, Debra Fowles, Oscar Santurini, Christopher Betka, Sheila McDonald, Peter Reed.

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.



WALK FOR JUSTICE AND FREEDOM FOR REFUGEES Sun 10th April 2.00pm – 4.00pm State Library, Swanston Street [Refugee Advocacy Network Victoria](#). Meet the CAPSA community at the Walk for Justice and Freedom for Refugees in Melbourne! If you would like to meet together with members and supporters of CAPSA prior to the walk, we will be meeting prior to the walk at **1:00pm** at the **Treasury Gardens (specifically the north-west Spring Street corner, near Treasury Place – see coordinates here)**.

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.

PLANNING MEETING FOR GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS If you would like to help with the reading of a Station of the Cross on Good Friday, please come join us here at St John the Baptist Church on **Saturday 2nd April at 10.30am**



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

RCIA NEWS: this weekend our candidate Kathryn Camille will be presented with The Lord's Prayer. Please keep her in your prayers.

PROJECT COMPASSION Week 5: Shaniella's Story

Solomon Islands Shaniella, 23, grew up in a village in the Solomon Islands with her parents and three brothers. In 2020, Shaniella moved away to study at a vocational school supported by Caritas Australia Solomon Islands. The school is in a particularly disaster-prone area and not long after Shaniella started, the school was hit by a landslide, flooding, and a cyclone, all in quick succession. With your generous support, Shaniella's prospects have improved, as have her school's. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, or by calling 1800 024 413



PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (Next Sun 10th April)

The 11am Mass on Palm Sunday will begin outside the doors to the School Hall and will then process into the church. Both the 6pm and 9am Masses will begin inside the church. Some young people are needed to assist with the distribution of palms. Please come 15 minutes early, or see Sue this weekend, if you're able

HOLY WEEK PLEASE NOTE: NO MASS on Tuesday 12th April owing to the Chrism Mass at St Patricks.

Wednesday 13th April:

9.15am Mass followed by Individual Reconciliation
7.00pm Mass with extended Penitential rite and individual Reconciliation from 7.30pm

Thursday 14th April Holy Thurs Mass 8pm

Friday 15th April – Good Friday 9.30am Walk of Witness starting at St Thomas' UFTG, and Stations of the Cross at **10.00am at St Johns.**

3pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil 8.00pm

Easter Sunday Mass at 9am & 11am.

UPDATE – UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

Don Bosco Salesians throughout Poland continue to join forces to help the victims of the war. The on-going challenge is to prepare housing for refugees which are mostly women and children. Currently, they have housed over 1100 refugees in Salesian works throughout Poland, however this number is dynamic and changes daily. Community members working with the Salesians have also opened their doors to provide safe housing for Ukraine families. Less Polish Government Subsidy it will cost just over 500,000 a month to continue to provide assistance. Can you help? To make an online donation please click on the [Donate Today](#) button below. If you wish to contact us email salmiss@salesians.org.au or phone: 9377 6060. Donations to this fund of \$2 and over for development projects are tax deductible

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Zachary Griffin** son of Mitchell & Melissa, and **Catherine Francis** daughter of Craig & Claire-Maree who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



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.

NEW PATHS/NEW DIRECTIONS you are invited to join us for a meeting in the Parish Hall, **this Sunday 3rd April, 22 at 2.30pm** to plan for the future!

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER are on the glass wall please write your details in the spaces provided. **MUSICIANS/SINGERS URGENTLY NEEDED** Please contact Maree in the Parish office, and record your name on the Sign-up sheets on the glass wall



ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY CONFERENCE OF FERNTREE GULLY

Our conference has worked every day throughout the year responding selflessly to the many instances of disadvantaged in our area. We have continued to support many clients who have had the following experiences: **unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, mental/ physical/ emotional abuse & homelessness; single parents.** We have appreciated the many donations that you have made. Please see list of non perishable food/toiletries that we would welcome, on the trolleys, Items such as: All-in-one meal tins, Beef / Beef & Vegetables etc, Tin Pasta Meat Sauce, Tin Soup – all varieties, tea/coffee, biscuits, long life milk., and toiletries. All donations gratefully received. – Thank you

ROSTERS: Mon 4th Mar to Sun 10th April 2022

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| Flowers | Lent – no flowers |
| Linen | Carole D'S |
| Welcomers | 6pm: Rosina L & Myra N 9am: Lia U, Marg & Adrian D 11am Shamindri & Chamal A |
| Lectors | 6pm: Rosina L 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Phuong Breisch |
| Counters | Peter & Dawn G, Peter C & Florence J |
| Gardening | Patrick S & Harry Roeloffs, Roger K |