

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom 18:6-9

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

11: 1-2, 8-12

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

The Word of the Lord.



Be ready with your lamps lit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

12:32-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.'

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

6th / 7th August, 2022

Vocations Awareness Week

***Almighty Lord,
You tell us to be vigilant and
watch for Your coming.
Keep our lamps burning brightly
and our hearts ever watchful for
Your Son's return.***

May we open the door as soon as he knocks.

And may we be welcomed by him to the eternal banquet.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



FOCUS ON THE WORD Even after his resurrection the earliest Christians believed Jesus would return very soon, so they could afford to live as if they were, literally, in the last days. When this didn't happen there was crisis in the community. The earliest disciples, to whom much had been entrusted, had to hand on a faith in a more unpredictable God who does not fulfil all our expectations or run to our timetable. Luke points out that **the greatest gift we Christians have received is knowing that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ.** What a relief to know we do not have to shop around anymore. From everyone to whom much has been given, however, much will be required and so **knowing who Jesus is only goes halfway. Living out the reality of the Christian life is the other half.** Today's Gospel teaches us that our Christian life should be marked by five characteristics, that we: willingly share with those in need; are ready to act justly; stay alert to the presence of God in the world; guard against those people or things that can rob us of our faith; not abuse others but live in peace. With or without a sense that Jesus is due back at any minute, the Christian life is meant to focus on the essentials. Two thousand years later we are still waiting for Jesus' return and many of us live complicated lives that rob us of true happiness. Sadly, it often takes a tragedy for us to reassess what we have been given. We all know the world is not quite so neat, not so either/or, but these words focus the question well enough: **what are the essentials of our life, or as Jesus puts it, what is our treasure and where is our heart?** © Richard Leonard SJ

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 8th Aug – St Mary of the Cross Tue 9th Aug St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
Wed 10th Aug St Lawrence Thur 11th Aug St Clare Fri 12th St Jane Frances de Chantal
Sat 13th Sts Pontian and Hippolytus

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 7.00pm
Wed & Thurs 9.15 am
Friday 11.00 am
RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5.15 pm

GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS 1st Friday 2pm
WILLOWBROOK MASS 3rd Thursday 2pm

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.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
6th / 7th August, 2022
Vocations Awareness Week

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Kathleen McGough, Patrocínio Sason, Maria Veltri, Janice Motteram, Elena Russo, Nora Ryan, Johanna Roelofs, Brian Hayman, Joan Lineen.

The sick: Jennifer Silva, Maureen Wilson, Lucy Denzin, Gabby Sundstrom, Ray Loel, Kathryn Kircoos, Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Barbara Kenny, Anne Jayawardena, Lea Hatley, 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.

SICK LIST – If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.



ROSARY is recited prior to Morning Weekday Mass on Wed, Thurs, Friday, in the Church. All welcome to join in the recitation. **Pope Francis has invited everyone to pray the Rosary with him for peace around the world.**

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

When: First Saturday of the Month at 10.30 am.
Where: 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 friends welcomed.**

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP We in the Parish Hall 10.15am on Tuesday Mornings. All welcome. Enquiries: Judy on 9752 2986.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP. Come and join with other mothers of any age to pray together. 9am–10am each Tuesday in the Parish Centre.

CDFPAY FOR PARISHES – ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL for those who would like to contribute to our Parish electronically, please click on: [CDFpay](#)
Many thanks to all contributors for your support.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL OP SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Located at Unit 7/1821 Ferntree Gully Rd, FTG, is in need of more helpers. **Please contact Diane on 9758 8501** if you are able to help

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION
MONDAY 15th AUGUST
Holy Day of Obligation



Masses will be celebrated at 9.15am

CASUAL POSITION AVAILABLE A part time casual position is available at the **Don Bosco Retreat Centre** in Lysterfield Rd. Lysterfield as required at the time of a Retreat. If you or someone you know is interested in such a position, please contact:- Fr. Shane Reade on 0417 234 647, at the Don Bosco Retreat Centre. Or Email: dbrclysterfield@gmail.com

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Concetta Porcaro** will be celebrated on **Tues 9th August** 10am Viewing 10.30am Rosary, followed by **Mass at 11am.**

FEAST of ST MARY OF THE CROSS 8th AUGUST, 2022 Mary MacKillop founded Australia's first order of nuns, the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, and also established St. Joseph's School in a converted stable in Penola, providing a free education to children from the area. In 1867 she took vows and became the first mother superior of the sisters. The following year the sisters opened schools in other Australian cities, as well as an orphanage and a refuge for women released from prison. <https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/chapel/feast-day-resources/>

RCIA 2022—THE RITE OF CHRISITAN INITIATION OF ADULTS St John the Baptist RCIA program will begin on **Thursday 1st September 2022.** It is a formation program open to those considering becoming a Catholic, those just interested, as well as Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. The program will take place every Thursday evening at 7pm. Please call the Parish office to register your interest Ph: 9758 1029 or office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

FAMILY GROUPS ANNIVERSARY MASS, this year we celebrate 34 years of Family Groups operating in our Parish, with the aim to build an extended family atmosphere within our community. Please join us at the **11am Mass on Sunday 28th August** to celebrate!

CATHOLIC CARE VICTORIA APPEAL is next weekend As our parish's social service agency, CatholicCare Victoria delivers over 60 programs and services including counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refuge and asylum seeker help, pastoral care in hospitals and prisons, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Donations help CatholicCare Vic, support the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community and empower everyone to live life to the full **Please bring a little extra next week** to donate, to help those broken. See www.catholiccarevic.org.au P 92875513

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Mary Burns** daughter of Martin & Judith, **Elijah Bishop**, son of Daniel & Sarah, **Elaine Hammer**, daughter of Matthew & Rebecca and **Harlow Bleazby & Dexter Bleazby**, daughter and son of Allan & Jessica who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK: 7 - 14 AUGUST 2022. Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life. Learn more, either at the Vocations Website: <https://vocations.melbournecatholic.org/> or call 99265733

PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID AND PERSONAL SUPPORT TRAINING: VCC EM training is a comprehensive training package designed to equip members of faith communities to respond to emergencies and disasters in Victoria, through their participation in VCC EM deployments. The VCC EM is authorised by Government to coordinate an integrated faith communities' response when disaster occurs. If you are interested in this training, please go to <https://vccem.org.au/training/> and click on the link to the right of the preferred course, to register your interest.

KNOWING JESUS DAILY DEVOTIONAL VIDEOS You cannot become what you do not know. Join us as we seek to dive deep into the life of Jesus to expand our understanding of who He is and help us live and become more like Him. **This FREE Daily Devotional series** is presented by Bruce Downes, known as The Catholic Guy, and starts on **Monday 15th August, 2022.** Sign up today: go to our website BruceDownes.org

BILLINGS LIFE Billings Life are presenting a **free webinar** entitled "Fertility Literacy in the Digital World ~ the best use of fertility tracking apps" on **Mon 22nd August at 7.30pm AEST** Website: <https://www.billings.life/en/>

| ROSTERS: Mon 8th Aug to Sun 14th Aug, 2022 | |
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| Flowers | Genevieve W & Gina P |
| Linen | Jean B |
| Welcomers | 6pm Rosina L & Myra N 9am: Lia U & Marg & Adrian D 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A |
| Lectors | 6pm: Tess D 9am: Peter F 11am: Joan Ryan |
| Counters | Steph H, Connie B & Peter F |
| Gardening | Patrick S & Harry R |