

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 11:1-10*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ

treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.

*The Gospel of the Lord*



## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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Phone: 9758 1029

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Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent– Year A

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

*Come Lord Jesus!*

*Warm our hearts with your love.*

*Help us to prepare for your coming,*

*by repenting of all that draws us*

*away from You.*

*You are the light, that overcomes the darkness.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
Advent - Peace

**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** Today's Gospel shows John the Baptist clashing with the Jewish religious authorities. **John's message was about justice, about social change. He challenged the people of Israel to get down to the root causes of problems, to uproot unfruitful trees.** The changes that are called for in Advent are fundamental and far-reaching; they are structural. In this new church year, **we are challenged to work for a better society, different from the one we now have.** John cried out in the desert, prepare! Prepare! Reshape your life! Change your mind, change your heart! **The one is coming who is the very Spirit of God!** When John the Baptist performed baptism, it was for the forgiveness of sin. The baptism he gave was **a mark of the desire to enter into a new life of right action.** John had two key words that he is recorded as preaching: **repent and prepare.** His call for repentance was a call to turn away from sin; a call to have a change of heart; a call to turn one's life around and make a fresh start. Judging by John's appearance (clothing of camel's hair, a leather belt around his waist, eating locusts and wild honey) would you guess his cry was lukewarm, or a cry from his heart that called for life-altering change? How would you respond to him? **Is the fire within you a conflagration or does it look more like the pilot light? What can you do during Advent to gather some kindling for your fire?** John the Baptist's call to 'Prepare the way of the Lord' is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. We need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present- in and through us- every day of our lives.

**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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

**FEAST DAYS** Tue 6<sup>th</sup> Dec St Nicholas Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Dec St Ambrose  
Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Dec The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
9<sup>th</sup> Dec St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoazin Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Dec Our Lady of Loreto

*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 7.00pm  
**Wed & Thurs** 9.15 am  
**Friday** 11.00 am

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturdays 5.15 pm

**GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2pm  
**WILLOWBROOK MASS** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 11am

**BAPTISMS:** Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

**WEDDINGS:**  
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Year A**  
**3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> December, 2022.**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

Joan Nash, Edward O'Brien

*Those who we remember at this time:*

John Dillon, Noel Ryan, Dominico Presti, Leopoldina Newton, Ethel Arrowsmith/Bluett, Cosimo Petracca, Daniel Hurley, Michele Fini, Syd Commons, Maria Bekkers.

*The sick:* Catherine Ziegfried, Ben McLaey, Ray Stackpole, Don Roberts, Maureen Wilson, Lucy Denzin, Gabby Sundstrom, Kathryn Kircos, Ruby Samtoy, 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.

**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** Meet in the Parish Hall at 10.15am, for a 10.30am start. Praise & Worship, prayer and teaching, followed by a shared lunch.

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

**SUMMER SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION MELBOURNE.** "Are you a young adult aged 18-35 years old? Shed the weight of the past two years and become **Alive Again** at Summer School of Evangelisation Melbourne. Join other Catholic young adults for a week of prayer, fellowship, praise & worship, catechesis and sacraments. There's no better way to start the year than on a retreat spent with the Lord. Jan 15-22, 2023. Early bird rates now available. Register @ [ssemelbourne.org.au](http://ssemelbourne.org.au) or follow us on Facebook & Instagram @ssemelbourne for more info and updates"



**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** Jesus' showed people with disabilities they were precious in God's eyes, and in doing so demonstrated the response he wanted Christians to follow. Find out more at [International Day of People with Disability \(idpwd.com.au\)](http://International Day of People with Disability (idpwd.com.au))

**ADVENT REFLECTION GROUP FOR "Heart of the Disciple"** has begun. It's Running on **Wednesday, at 10am** in the Parish administration building, with Mary, Contact 9758 1029 **Or, Monday at 7.30pm** in the Parish Hall with Phuong Breisch. Enquiries: Ph 0400 086 073. All are welcome.

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
**Friday 9th December - End of Year Thanksgiving Mass 11am.** All Welcome  
**Wednesday 14th December, Year 6 Graduation Mass & celebration 5.00pm**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 7.00pm Extended Penitential Rite within Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual) following Mass.**

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS 2022 ANGEL TREE** Each year we provide needy families we have visited throughout the year with a Christmas Food Hamper and Gift cards for each of their children. We invite you to contribute to either of these:

- Under the Angel Tree we will provide basket/ bags for your **Christmas food items** or those who might like to donate a complete hamper. Please feel free to supply your own bags if you wish.
  - The **gift cards** we will provide allows the parents to purchase a suitable gift themselves according to the age and needs of their child/ ren.
  - There will be separate SVDP envelopes to make any: **Credit Card donations; cash donations**
- You may like to take an "Angel" off the tree and purchase a gift card to the amount of either: \$10, \$20, or \$30. Please place your donation in the box near the tree. The cards can be purchased from: Kmart, Target, Coles, Myer, or any other store of your choice. On behalf of our SVDP local conference, we would like to thank you, most sincerely, for your ongoing generosity this year in supporting our work with the disadvantaged. We would like to thank Fr Thomas for his encouragement on behalf of our parish. The Society would appreciate all gift cards to be in by the close of Masses on Sunday 18th December, as deliveries of these hampers will be during the week of Monday 19th December. - **SVDP- Ferntree Gully Conference.**



**ELECTRONIC THANKSGIVING CDFPay, All gifts are gratefully received. [click here](#) for the link.**

**FUNERAL SERVICE** – The Funeral Prayers for the late **Joy Pape** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 11am.**  
**FUNERAL SERVICE** for **Edward O'Brien** will be at Alison Monkhouse Knox on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, at 2pm.

**LECTOR ROSTER** from weekend 30/12/2022 / 1/1 2023 to the end of April 2023 are being prepared. Please contact the parish, by Tuesday, 6 December, if you are unavailable at any time during that period from Jan to April 2023. Email [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au) or Phone 9758 1029. Thank you for your continued service in this ministry.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023.** The Sacramental program for children **who do not attend** a catholic school, will begin early in term 1 2023, for the grade 3 and 4 students to **celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation.** If you have children who are at these grade levels and interested in celebrating the sacraments, please contact the parish office: Phone: 9758 1029 or email [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH** You are invited to a free lunch from 12 noon on Saturday December 24th, **Christmas Eve.** Food, drinks, entertainment, presents from the Christmas Angel. Please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029 to register if you would like to attend. We will be hosting 2 sessions on **Christmas Eve**, not Christmas day.  
**Session 1:** 10.15am-12.45pm  
**Session 2:** 1.30-4pm - **FULL**



**HELP FOR CHRISTMAS LITURGIES** Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Collectors, Welcomers and computer operators are needed for the Christmas Masses. Please write your name on the sign-up sheets on the glass wall in the Church. **If you can sing or play an instrument,** we are looking for additional people to join the Choirs. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested. **All children, especially the little ones,** are invited to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds. Parents will need to do the costume, but it doesn't need to be elaborate – a fairy skirt and tinsel or a tea towel headwear will do.

**ROSTERS: Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Dec to Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2022**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Flowers   | Anne P & Connie B  |
| Linen     | Alvi M   |
| Welcomers | 6pm Rosina L & Myra N<br>9am Marg & Adrian D<br>11am: Shamindri & Chamal A |
| Lectors   | 6pm: Rosina L<br>9am: Terry S<br>11am Bonnie H                             |
| Counters  | Tony B, Steph H, Connie B, Peter F   |
| Gardening | Patrick S, Harry R   |