

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 11:2-11*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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Phone: 9758 1029

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



3rd Sunday of Advent– Year A

10th /11th December, 2022

Jesus,

We want Your coming

To make a difference,

in how we Live and Love.

Open our Hearts to Hear your telling us

How we can bring peace and Joy to others.

Come, Lord Jesus!



*3rd Sunday
Advent - Joy*

FOCUS ON THE WORD: From his cell in prison John the Baptist had heard stories about Jesus, and he sent some of his followers to find out if Jesus is the messiah. Are you 'He who is to come' or do we look for another? they asked Jesus. Jesus had to reply in such a way that John would have no doubt about the genuineness of his messianic activity, and the message he sent back to John was about the blind receiving their sight, the lame walking, the lepers being cleansed, the deaf hearing, the dead being raised, and the poor having good news brought to them. He did not say a word about people praying more or going to the synagogue or making God the center of their lives: the age of the messiah, as expressed in this report, does not concern "religion" in the traditional sense of the word. One knows that the messiah has come because a real change has taken place in society, a change that involves the liberation of those who have always been cut off from the "main branch" of society. Jesus is the messiah because those who are blind, crippled, diseased, and poor have been liberated from the things which make them the victims of injustice. We can turn the statement around to say that if the dregs of society do not experience liberation, then Jesus is not the messiah. But Jesus is the messiah, and so the dead have come to life: those who have been unable to 'live' in a society that has written them off, are now alive with hope. The Gospel has truly been a leaven of liberty and progress in human history, even in its temporal sphere, and always proves itself a leaven of brotherhood, of unity, and of peace. Therefore, not without cause is Christ hailed by the faithful as 'the expected of the nations, and their Savior' (*Antiphon O* for Dec. 23). © Gerald Darring

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 12th Dec Our Lady of Guadalupe Tues 13th Dec St Lucy
Wed 14th Dec St John of the Cross

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
And Wednesday 21st December, after the 7pm Mass

GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS 1st Friday 2pm
WILLOWBROOK MASS 3rd Thursday 11am

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 Advent - Year A
10th /11th December, 2022.

Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

John Masterson, Jacques Walter, Pasquale Parente, Jaunita Morillo, Max Cartledge, Wally Johnson, Anthony Goldsmith, Maureen Hawkins, Giuseppe Rizio, Peter Windebank, Bob Baker, Maureen Bicker.

The sick: Catherine Ziegfried, Ben McLacy, 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: will take a break, Dec 15th to mid -January. Best wishes to everyone for a Happy Holy Safe Christmas, and New Year.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP is having their **Christmas break-up this Tuesday. 10.30am in the Hall.** Carols, a quiz and shared lunch. All welcome.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP, will take a break from Tuesday 13th December. A Merry Christmas to all.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 21st December, 7.00pm Extended Penitential Rite within Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual) following Mass.

ELECTRONIC THANKSGIVING is available through CDFPay. Should you wish to use this method All gifts are gratefully received Please, [click here](#) for the link. Thank you.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL A volunteer based missionary organisation to provide assistance to developing countries as an outreach of the Catholic Church community in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Donations can be made via the special collection or through CDFpay via this [link](#). <https://www.mom.org.au/> Thank you for your support.

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 will be delivering the hampers during the week of Monday 19th December.- **SVDP- Ferntree Gully Conference.**



THE 2022 AUSTRALIAN NATIVITY SCENE (ANS) 5 December, 2022 - 13 January, 2023

St Elizabeth's Parish - Dandenong North. Australian Nativity Scene (ANS) welcomes you to celebrate viewing the traditional and stunning nativity scene in its nineteenth year. Wilson Fernandez has been creating wonderful display and is regarded as one of Australia's best and largest traditional nativity scene. It has steadily grown into the largest of its kind in Australia. Each week the nativity scene conveys the story of Christmas. Event display*: **Monday, 5 December, 2022 to Friday, 13 January, 2023. Times: 10.30AM to 8.00PM**

Where: St Elizabeth's Parish, 107 Baker Rd, Dandenong North *Note: Closed on Christmas Day | Boxing Day | New Year's Day This event is open to everyone, children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. **Cost: Free and open to all age groups** Viewing time: By appointments only Contact Wilson on 0428 927 110 or 9795 6217 (parish office) <https://www.onlymelbourne.com.au/aus-nativity-scene-dandenong-north>

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Lucia Guinane**, daughter of Christopher &, Loredana, **Flynn Burgess**, son of Thomas & Thea-Elise, **Luca Sheedy**, son of Nicholas & Jessica, **Amelia Moran**, daughter of Craig & Estefania, and **Mackenzie Dunn**, daughter of Matthew & Sarah Dunn who will be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



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

HELP FOR CHRISTMAS LITURGIES at the 6.00pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve

1. All children, especially the little ones, are invited to come dressed as Angels or Shepherds. You 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. – All other masses we need:-

2. Help needed with: Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Collectors, Welcomers and computer operators for the Christmas season at all Masses.

Please write your name on the sign-up sheets on the glass wall in the Church.

3. If you can sing or play an instrument, you are desperately needed!!! we are looking for additional people to join the Choirs. **Please sign-up or call the Parish Office if you can help.**

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY is observed every year on **10th December** — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR). The UDHR is a milestone document, which proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin.

ROSTERS: Mon 12th Dec to Sun 18th Dec, 2022

Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Jean Bailey
Welcomers	6pm Myra N & Wilma H 9am Terry S, Neil & Loraine, Peter C 11am Priya H & Patrick s
Lectors	6pm: Tess D 9am: Caroline Q 11am Carolyn S
Counters	Byron, Ruby, Guil
Gardening	Patrick S, Harry R



Reach out. Give life.



Thank You! Your support of this year's Appeal for World Mission Sunday enables Church workers in 1047 mission dioceses to offer Good News to their local communities. Thank you for contributing to the amount of \$1,772.30 which was raised by St John the Baptist

Christmas Masses – 2022



Friday 16th December

11.00am Mass
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual) following Mass

Saturday 17th December – Vigil Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

5.15pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Mass

Sunday 18th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

9.00 & 11.00am Mass

Tuesday 20th December

7.00pm Extended Penitential Rite within Mass
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual) following Mass

Wednesday 21st December

9.15am Mass
Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual) following Mass

Thursday 22nd December

9.15am Mass

Friday 23rd December

11.00am Mass

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6.00pm Family Mass preceded by Carols at 5.30pm
9.30pm Mass of Christmas Night preceded by Carols from 9.00pm

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day Nativity of the Lord

9.00 & 11.00am Mass

(Please note that there is NO 7.00pm MASS in the evening Tuesday 27th Dec, and NO weekday Mass on Wednesday 28th or Thursday 29th December)

Friday 30th December- 11.00am Mass – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday 31st December – New Year's Eve

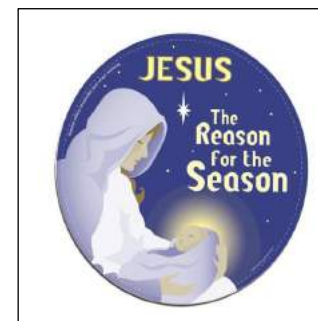
Reconciliation 5.15pm followed by Mass 6.00pm

Sunday 1st January, 2023 – Mary the Holy Mother of God

9.00am & 11.00am Mass

Tuesday 3rd January, 2023 – The Most Holy Name of Jesus

7pm Mass



DISCIPLES OF JESUS

SUMMER SCHOOL

15-22 JAN '23

Alive Again

LK 15:24

A CATHOLIC RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS (18-35) | MELBOURNE

MORE INFO SSEMELBOURNE.ORG.AU

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. start the year with a retreat spent with the Lord. Jan 15-22, 2023. Early bird rates now available. Register @ ssemelbourne.org.au or follow us on Facebook & Instagram @ssemelbourne for more info and updates"