

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.
Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.
The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. All the ends of the earth have seen the
saving power of God.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 1:1-6

At various times in the past and in various
different ways, God spoke to our ancestors
through the prophets; but in our own time,
the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son,
the Son that he has appointed to inherit
everything and through whom he made
everything there is. He is the radiant light of
God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature,
sustaining the universe by his powerful
command; and now that he has destroyed the
defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place
in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty.
So he is now as far above the angels as the title
which he has inherited is higher than their own
name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my
Son, today I have become your father, or: I will
be a father to him and he a son to me. Again,
when he brings the First-born into the world,
he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*A holy day has dawned upon us.
Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.*

Alleluia!

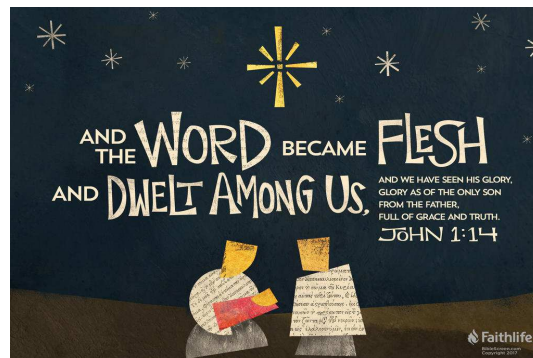
GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
1:1-5, 9-14*

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning. Through him all
things came to be, not one thing had its being but
through him. All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men, a light that shines
in the dark, a light that darkness could not
overpower. The Word was the true light that
enlightens all men; and he was coming into the
world. He was in the world that had its being through
him, and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain and his own people did
not accept him. But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God, to all who
believe in the name of him who was born not out of
human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but
of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived
among us. And we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)– Year A 24th /25th December, 2022

*Lord Jesus, “Mighty God”,
As we gather to celebrate your Birth,
Speak to your church throughout the world.
Let your people celebrate Your birth
with a new commitment.
Let us joyfully proclaim Your glory today,
so that the whole earth is filled
with the sound of praise and thanks
At the Miracle of your birth. Amen*



Message from Fr Thomas ...On behalf of all of us at St. Johns, I would like to wish you all a

Merry and a Holy Christmas. And I really mean, a Holy CHRIST MASS because we celebrate the amazing fact that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Almighty, the All-Knowing, the All-Loving God became man at a particular moment in time, at a particular place on the earth. So, we celebrate a historical event. But we celebrate much more than just an historical event. Christmas is also a time for giving gifts. God has given us the greatest Christmas present He possibly could. God sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus, to become man and dwell among us. Jesus continues that great gift to us in the Holy Eucharist. How would you like to receive a Christmas present every Sunday, and even every day, of the year? The greatest gift that you could ever receive is the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. So, we have to be good to receive God's greatest gift of Jesus in Holy Communion, and we need to be in a state of grace. Jesus is God's Christmas Present to us. We can receive this great gift every day of the year, and especially every Sunday.

Christmas is a season of memories. As Advent begins, we have been busy and preoccupied with sending greeting cards and Christmas gifts for our loved ones. As you know this is my fourth Christmas with you all. I must tell you; I am delighted to celebrate this Christmas once again here. As I said it is a season of memories of good and great things that happened to us as individuals and as a community. God was with us; he was the Immanuel for St. Johns for the past one year in many ways. Let us thank him. I am touched by your gracious ways with me. My room is filled with your chocolates and cakes, which if I eat, will reduce my life span. BUT I appreciate and know the love and care you have for your parish Priest. **Continued overleaf...**

Please note: there will be **no weekday Masses** on Tuesday 27th, Wed 28th and Thursday 29th December.

Feast of the Holy Family Fri 30th December 11am. Mass

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Sunday 1st January – New Year's Day Mass – 9am & 11am

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

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
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.

The Nativity of our Lord (Christmas) - Year A
24th /25th December, 2022.

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Rosy Harris, Joseph Semenow, Peter South, Catherine Theobald, Alyda Donegan, Patrick O'Reilly, Terrence McDermott, Judith Cherry, Rosa Saracino, Josie Jordon, Hans Hauer, Maria Fredriks, Alain Simmel-Newton.

The sick: Ann Good, Catherine Ziegfried, Ben McLae, 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.

Dear Parishioners,
We gather to celebrate Christmas and all that it means – Christ with us and with us always.
The year has flown by, it seems ages ago when I was talking to you all, about liturgy and social groups and the Lector formation program. This year we have had numerous baptisms (over 50), a confirmation celebration, children's liturgy has resumed and currently we have two RCIA candidates. It has been an abundant year; we can thank God for all His blessings and grace. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your assistance, time and talents. It is you who make this parish what it is, a faith filled community. May God's blessings be upon you all this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year 2023. Mary

ELECTRONIC THANKSGIVING If you would like to make a contribution to our Parish online, you can go to CDFPay site by clicking on this link [click here](#)
All gifts are gratefully received, thank you so much for your financial support.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION program for children in Gr 3 & 4 will be offered **early term 1** 2023. To register, please email marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or Phone: 9758 1029.

Message from Fr Thomas ...continued... Let me share with you a story of Christmas.

Mary Claire is a great preacher and she speaks about her vocation. As a teenager, she was working in an ice cream parlor. One day she was left to work alone as her companions were on leave. Mary was busy serving all the tables all alone. One small boy of 6, was at table and Mary went up to him to take orders. The boy asked for the price of the best ice cream. It is ten dollars, said Mary. The boy seemed to count his money, and all the time Mary was waiting impatiently. Then the boy asked for the price of the next size. Irritably she answered, 7 dollars. The boy again began to count his money. all the while Mary had to wait for the boy's order. Again, he asked for the third time the price of the still lower size. Impatiently Mary said, 5-dollar size ice cream and he ordered for the same. Mary served him the ice cream and went away to take care of the other customers in the shop. After the boy left, Mary was surprised to see a 2-dollar coin at his table as her tip and Mary realized with deep emotion, how the boy was caring towards her, as he could have easily ordered for the 7-dollar ice cream. But the boy, still left the 2 dollars as a gift or tip for MARY and she ran outside the shop to meet him and express her joy and gratitude but he was nowhere to be found. Mary then and there resigned the job and began her ministry as a Gospel preacher with these stirring words, yes, I saw God in the ice-cream parlor, in that small boy". My dear friends, the Babe in the manger, is a sign of God with us like Mary felt... It is a sign of God's care towards us and humanity as a whole. Let us be caring for others in this Christmas so that they too feel that God is with them...

For the four weeks of Advent, our hopeful voices sing, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", and at last, at the glorious birth of our Lord and Saviour, we joyfully proclaim, "Emmanuel, God is With Us! We have all been surrounded with the joy and light which the birth of Jesus brings into the world!

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to our parish this past year. The giving of your time, talent and treasure to the Lord continues to reflect God's presence in our community. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the volunteers. Additionally, a special thank you to our staff who have worked so hard and the devoted members of the various ministries in our parish and especially to those few who work quietly, behind the scenes all the time to make our parish vibrant.

May Jesus be reborn in your heart and life during Christmas 2022 and every day of the New Year 2023. May He radiate His Presence from within you as sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, humble service, a compassionate heart, and overflowing generosity. May the Holy Babe of Bethlehem bless you with health in body and soul and grant you a peaceful and blessed New Year. I assure you of my special prayers during my Christmas Holy Masses and every day in the New Year.

THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL



Conference would like to thank all of our Parishioners for your tremendous support toward our ongoing work in assisting the disadvantaged in our parish area. Thank you for the donations of gift cards and Christmas items of non-perishable food for the distribution to our families. Our appeal continued to raise the awareness of our varied work for those who are experiencing hardship. We are pleased to inform you that all non-perishable food and cash that you donated has been used directly to support those most in need this Christmas. Once again, we thank you, our parishioners for your generous donations over the Christmas period. Cash donations and gift cards from the Primary School totaled: **\$1025.70**. Parishioner donations totaled **\$3,373** cash, and in gift cards as well as some non-perishable food. We had also earlier received a Knox Council Pandemic recovery grant, which went toward the purchase of food for our hampers. Our members packed and delivered 70 hampers with a total cost of **\$4,398**.

Each hamper contained Christmas non-perishable food, plus two \$50 Woolworth cards as well as your gift cards for the children in that family. We sincerely thank Fr Thomas and everyone who supported us in so many ways. We are always delighted to welcome people to join us as we continue to support those in need. May god's blessing be upon you and may you be blessed for who you are.

- SVDP – Ferntree Gully Conference.



...from Fr Thomas & the Parish Staff

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS/JANUARY HOLIDAY PERIOD:

**Friday 23rd December- Fri 6th Jan 2023 – Closed.
Re-open - Mon 9th January, 2023**

FRIENDSHIP GROUP RESUMES IN THE PARISH HALL Thursday 12th January, 2023, All welcome! 😊