

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 49:3, 5-6*

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

***R/ Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.***

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 1: 1-3*

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

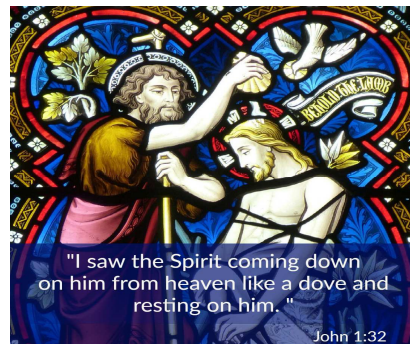
*Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Word of God became flesh  
and dwelt among us.  
He enabled those who accepted him  
to become the children of God.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:29-34*

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*



## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

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



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year A**

**14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> January, 2023**

***God of peace,  
Your Holy Spirit rests on those who look to you.  
Help us to welcome You into our hearts  
so that we may do Your will,  
and share the Good News of Jesus Christ  
with all people.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
with the Holy Spirit, Amen.***



**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** Lambs held a special place in the Jewish temple of those days. An offeror would bring one (or another animal) with them in order to sacrifice it. Sacrifice? Why sacrifice? One belief was that since the innocent creature would be released from this world by dying, and thus would go up to God's pure heaven as a gift. But because its roots were thoroughly of the earth, it became a sign of the union between God in heaven and the people down below.

Jesus, by being baptized, was offering himself like a lamb, surrendering himself at the table of sacrifice. And, like the lambs, his roots as a human being were of this earth, with death releasing him to be the complete union of God with the people that he was also. Symbolically, he was showing us that he belonged to both realities, heaven and earth. ©John Foley, SJ

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus. © Greg Sunter

**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 17<sup>th</sup> St Anthony Fri 19<sup>th</sup> St Fabian, pope, martyr, St Sebastian, martyr  
Sat 21<sup>st</sup> St Agnes, virgin, martyr

***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 21<sup>st</sup> December, after the 7pm Mass

**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 in Ordinary Time - Year A**  
**14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> January, 2023.**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

His Eminence George Cardinal Pell, Vilma Gasparroni

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Fr Noel Mackay, Moya McDonald, Elaine Brain, Riccardo Garbuio, Anthony Gannan, Tom McCristal, Irene Barron, Elizabeth (Lilly) McNeill, Maureen Meyer, Therese Mueller, Canio Daraio, Chris Quinn, Giovanni Di Donato.

**The sick:** Lourdes Oracion, Ann Good, Catherine Ziegfried, Ben McLaey, Ray Stackpole, Don Roberts, Maureen Wilson, Lucy Denzin, Gabby Sundstrom, Kathryn Kircos, Ruby Santoy, 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** has already resumed meeting in the Parish Hall. The group meets informally every Thursday, at 10am. Please drop in for a cuppa, a chat, or perhaps a game of cards. All welcome

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** Is now in recess until 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Enjoy your summer break.

**MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP** is now in recess

**POPE BENEDICT 'Month's Mind' Mass – at St Patrick's Cathedral** A memorial Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI will be celebrated by Archbishop Comensoli at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 29 January, 6.30pm -approximately one month after his death. More details will follow

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



**FUNERAL MASS** – The Funeral Mass for the late **Vilma Gasparroni** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Tuesday, 17th January**, at 11.00am

**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, followed by First Eucharist, later in the year..** If you have children who are at these grade levels and interested in celebrating the sacraments, please contact the parish office: via [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au) or Phone: 9758 1029 , or complete the online application form, under the Liturgy Tab, then Sacraments Tab on our website: <https://stjohnthebaptist.net.au/sacraments/>



**HOLY SPIRIT PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND AND/OR ITALY (28th August - 19th September, 2023):** Caesarea Maritime, Haifa; Mt Carmel; Nazareth Village; Basilica of Annunciation; Masada, Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Mensa Christi, Capernaum, Sea Of Galilee, River Jordan(Yardenit); Cana of Galilee, Local Winery, Mt Tabor, Mt of Temptation, Caesarea Philippi; Mt Olives, Pater Noster, Chapel of Ascension, Garden of Gethsemane, Blessed Virgin Mary's Tomb, Mount Zion, Bethany & Bethphage; Old City, Wailing Wall, Pool of Bethesda, Antonia Fortress, Via Dolorosa, Mount Calvary, Cenacle, St Peter in Gallicantu; Basilica of Nativity, Shepherds' Field, Ein Karem; Turin, Milan, Verona, Padua, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Loretto, Lanciano, Manoppelo, Rome. **CONTACT-US-ASAP**  
**FrEmmanueltv(SpiritualDirector): [fremmanueltv@gmail.com](mailto:fremmanueltv@gmail.com); [holvspiritp@gmail.com](mailto:holvspiritp@gmail.com);**  
**Tele:0417999553, 0893413079; Coordinators: [0420643949](tel:0420643949); and [Didith: 0473246029](tel:0473246029).**

**MADE FOR MORE: Visions of the Promised Land** creatively blends live music, media and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love and human destiny. Join Christopher West and team as they offer a vision of the Gospel through the lens of St John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. Choose from:  
**Tuesday 24 January 2023, St Francis of Assisi Parish Hall, 290 Childs Rd, Mill Park**  
**Wednesday 25 January 2023, St Mary's Community Centre, 26 New Street, Dandenong**  
Schedule: 6pm - food for purchase, 7pm start, 9.30pm finish. Open to all. *All children under 18 years must be supervised by an adult.* Tickets: \$25 general, \$10 concession/student, free for children 10 and under. Register: [www.trybooking.com/CETXQ](http://www.trybooking.com/CETXQ)



**BAPTISMS** – We offer our congratulations to **Ethan Teunissen, son of Thomas & Shenelle** who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy!

**LIFE-FAITH IDEAS FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

- Build your own Cubby or Shelter.** Have fun, use sheets blankets and cushions. Don't forget to bring some soft toys and snacks. Reflect on the many refugees who live in these circumstances. Say a prayer for people who are forced to leave their homes as refugees.
- Write a letter of Hope or Faith to a friend or neighbour.** Your words have power to lift and encourage. Have fun and get creative. Write a message from the heart that shows you care. Once finished, say a prayer for the person you are writing to. Thank God for the blessing of having them in your life.
- Go on a bushwalking adventure** – a wonderful way to celebrate nature. Choose a simple trail, and don't walk too fast. Appreciate the sights and sounds around you. After your walk, take some time to reflect on God's creation, and thank him!
- Have a Talent Night!** In your own home, showcase the gifts and talents that God has given you. Dress up! Have fun and be creative. Allow 5-8 minutes per person. Examples include, Singing, Stand-up Comedy, Dancing, Playing an instrument, Fashion Show, Art, Magic Tricks, Reading poetry- the list goes on.. Set a date and time, to give time for performers to focus and prepare their act. Be encouraging, and affirm each talent. Who knows, you might uncover some hidden talents!!

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, bless us this night as we share our gifts and talents. Give us the encouragement and courage, to give everything our best shot. May everything we do, be for your glory, and for the love of one-another. Amen.

**POSITIONS VACANT** Check the website of the **Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**  
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan to Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2023	
<b>Flowers</b>	Marg H & Ange C
<b>Linen</b>	Alvi M
<b>Welcomers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Lia U & Kathryn C <b>9am:</b> Rosa L & Florence J <b>11am:</b> Shamindri A & Chamal A
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>6pm</b> Louise D <b>9am:</b> Terry S <b>11am:</b> Phuong B
<b>Counters</b>	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J
<b>Gardening</b>	<i>We Welcome new volunteers</i> Henner C & Theresa N