

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

2:3, 3:12-13

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge
in the name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
1 Cor 1:26-31

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
5: 1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:
'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

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

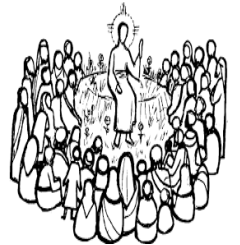
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year A

28th /29th January, 2023

***O God,
Teach us the wisdom of the gospel,
so that we may strive for holiness,
work tirelessly for peace,
and be counted among those
who seek first the blessedness
of Your Kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.***



FOCUS ON THE WORD: The Sermon on the Mount that begins with the Beatitudes comes out of this historical context. Jesus is trying to present a new interpretation of the right way to be in relationship with God; one that is not dominated by rules and regulations. The text is so familiar to us today that it is almost bland. However, at the time it must have been incredibly confronting. The attitudes and states of being that Jesus blesses were not the characteristics that were valued in the society of his time. Poverty, gentleness and mourning were not considered strong, desirable qualities. So, the picture Jesus paints of how to be in right relationship with God and others was confronting the standards and expectations of the time. Purity and impurity was a major issue in 1st Century Jewish society. The Priests and Pharisees maintained that only pure adherence to the Law could make a person acceptable in God's eyes. Impurity came to be associated with physical disease and injury. Those with severe disease or disability were regarded as sinful and punished by God. Jesus' statement, 'Happy are the pure of heart', would have scandalised those who maintained that purity came through strict observance of Law. Jesus suggests that purity (and impurity) comes from within a person rather than from the outside – regardless of their observance of the Law

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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 Tue 31st Jan St John Bosco Thurs 2nd Feb The Presentation of the Lord
Fri 3rd Feb St Blaise & St Ansgar

***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
Principal: Kelli Johnston
Email: kjohnston@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au
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 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.

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
28th / 29th January, 2023.

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Br Silvio Quaranta SDB



Those who we remember at this time:

John Van Der Staak, John Cecchin, Ron Prince, Geoffrey Winters, Kenneth Lowden, Teresa Abraham, Giuseppe Pilotto

The sick: Sr Rosalie, Peter Collyer, Lourdes Oracion, Ann Good, 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 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 will resume in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 2nd February 2023, at 10.15am for Prayer, Praise and Worship. All welcome.

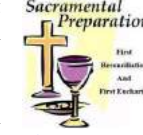
MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP resumes 9am on 7th February, in the Parish Office.

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.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2023. Register NOW!

The Sacramental program for children who do not attend a catholic school, will begin early in term 1 2023, for the grade 3 & 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 or Phone: 9758 1029 <https://stjohnthebaptist.net.au/sacraments/>



VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED Our **SVDP VINNIES OP SHOP in Ferntree Gully Road** urgently requires volunteers. **NO experience required.** If you can offer a few hours per week to assist with the storage and sale of donated goods, **please contact the store Manager on 9758 8501.** Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Working in a team environment is very rewarding.

PRAYERS FOR SR PHILOMENA, now known as Sr Rosalie. We have had word, that Sr Rosalie who taught here at St John the Baptist in the 1950's, and is now in the Mornington area is very unwell. Please keep Sr Rosalie in your prayers.

FERNTREE GULLY LIBRARY Do you have a young child 0-12months? Perhaps try joining this local library run, **FREE group** for simple stories, songs, and rhymes to support your baby's development. Storytime introduces language and literacy, and is a special time to bond with your baby. Sessions will run for 20 minutes, **2pm-2.30pm on Tuesday 31st January** and include simple stories, song, and rhymes. Families and caregivers are welcome to stay afterwards to socialise in the children's area. **And for the Older ones, 0-6yrs, Family Storytime from 11am-11.30am.** Find out more at: <https://events.yourlibrary.com.au/> Or, Contact Ferntree Gully Library, 1010 Burwood Hwy Ferntree Gully VIC, phone: 9800 6455.

KNOX SENIORS EXERCISE PARK - The Seniors

Exercise Park is free to use. It has specially designed equipment for senior residents to regain, maintain and improve their physical abilities. It also provides a means to have social connections in a welcoming outdoor space. **Carrington Park Leisure Centre Located at: 20 O'Connor Road Knoxfield,** invites seniors to REGISTER NOW, and **Find your new way to move across Knox** 13th Feb, - 12th March, 2023. SENIORS EXERCISE PARK is outdoor exercise equipment designed to help improve balance, strength, functional movement, joint range of motion and mobility **Come try this fun park** with support of trained Senior Champions and enjoy having a laugh in a group! Register Now, by clicking [here](#).



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, KELLI JOHNSTON. Below is a little about Kelli, so we can all get to know her, and welcome her to the St John the Baptist Community..

"I enjoy spending time with my husband, Ron & two children Kaelan

& Paige. As a family we enjoy caravanning and water skiing in the warmer months. Together we have had many adventures to different parts of Australia.

Kaelan & Paige have now finished secondary school & are finding their way in the work force & at university. This opens a new chapter for us as a family. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with family & friends, as well as, walking, reading, spending time in the garden & coaching netball.

I am most excited to join the community of St John the Baptist and look forward to building relationships with both School & Parish communities."

Kelli Johnston
St John the Baptist Principal

CAMINO COMMUNITY in Melbourne offers a monthly social gathering on the last Sunday of each month to fellow pilgrims who have walked the Camino **or for others who wish to walk the Camino in the near future.** often meeting in a cafe for a meal. So come along and connect with others who know how you feel. If you would like further information please Contact: Joanne Cashman on 0417 137 369 or click [here](#) to see website:

KNOX CITY COUNCIL is looking for **Volunteers to join the Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers' team.** Do you enjoy connecting with people, and helping those in need? Are you interested in a volunteer role to be involved in the community but not able to commit to a weekly position? We are seeking casual Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drivers, to help deliver ready-made, nutritious meals to our elderly residents around Knox. Training provided and COVID-safe practices in place. Must have own car and 3 vaccinations against COVID19. Please call the Knox Council's Meals on Wheels on 9298 8728 if you can assist.

ROSTERS: Mon 30th Jan to Sun 5th Feb 2023	
Flowers	Genevieve & Gina P
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm: Peter G & Wilma H 9am: Joanna C, Thelma B 11am: Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm Tess D 9am: Gordon V 11am: Shami Apronso
Counters	George & Genevieve
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T