

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ Be merciful, O Lord,
for we have sinned*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 5:12,17-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign

in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!*

*No one lives on bread alone, but on every word
that comes from the mouth of God.*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



*You must worship
the Lord your God,
and serve him
alone.'*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



1st Sunday of Lent Year A

25th /26th February, 2023

Caritas – Project Compassion Week 1

*Lord God,
Renew us in these Lenten days:
washed clean of sin,
sealed with the Spirit,
and sustained by Your living bread,
may we remain true to our calling
and, with the elect, serve You alone.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: *Have you thought? – An invitation*

Lent is a season of invitation. It is an invitation to step into the desert with Jesus; to confront our own purpose and ministry and to renew our trust in God's vision for the world and for us individually. Seen in this light, Lent is so much more than fasting from meat and giving up ice cream for a few weeks. The whole idea of fasting and sacrifice is an attempt to simplify our lives. Through simplifying our life and removing some of the daily distractions, we can share in the desert experience of Jesus and then truly celebrate the hope reborn in the Easter season.

PRAYER:

We pray for all who are trying to rise from the ashes in their lives. May our support for Project Compassion remind us that now is the time to turn to the Lord with all our hearts and embrace the needs of God's whole family.

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 THIS WEEK: Fri 3rd Mar Autumn Ember Day – Special day of Prayer and Penance.

*I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)*

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
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DEACON:
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
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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@siferntreegully.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.

1st Sunday of Lent - Year A
25th / 26th February, 2023
Project Compassion – Week 1

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Pellegrino Di Brino



Those who we remember at this time:

Patmerino Capozzi, Giuseppina Zarro, Angelo, Andy, Federico & Silvia Zarro, Margherita, Damiano Luigi, Cosimo & Jilda Coviello, Mary D'Silva, Reginald D'Silva, Robert Winspear, Ron Neville, Elaine Haire.

The sick: Peggy Spencer, Alan Alcock, Lourdes Oracion, Ann Good, Ben McLaey, 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.

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.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS We will be reciting the Stations of the Cross on Friday at 10.30 am during lent followed by mass at 11.00 am At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete.. **All are invited to join.**

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING The group meets informally every Thursday, at 10am in the Parish Hall. Please drop in for a cuppa, a chat, or perhaps a game of cards. All welcome

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP IS held in the Parish Hall from 10.15am for Prayer, Praise and Worship, followed by a shared lunch. All welcome.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP 9am-10am, in the Parish Office. Come and join us!

18th, -21st March PARISH RETREAT
Sat 25th March, TRIVIA NIGHT, Cost: \$10 Adults, ST JOHN'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP ☺ Come and join the fun.☺ ☺ Don't need to be an expert.☺
Venue: School Hall starting at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

LENT BEGINS The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year until the beginning of their 60th year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year. Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and a time for lending a hand to others e.g. **attending to the sick, the lonely or the overburdened.**

Lent is also an appropriate time to prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter.



LENTEN PROGRAM: TRIUMPH, Thank-you all who have collected, and paid for their booklets. The program is offered on **Wednesday 10am in the Parish Office and Monday evenings 6.30pm in the Parish Hall.** All welcome

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Pellegrino Di Brino** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Tuesday, 28th Feb 10am Please note: the Rosary will be at Le Pine on the 27th Feb,2023.

FUNERAL PRAYERS for the late **Rosemary Tilson** will be celebrated here at St John's on Wednesday 1st March, at 11am.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY OPEN DAY.

OPEN DAY Please, let your neighbours, friends and relatives know St John's **School Open Days** are coming up. They are a great way to see our school in action. The Open Day dates are set for March, and will be held on: **Wednesday 8th March and Thursday 16th March** Bookings can be made by calling **9758 1013** or via the school website, <https://www.sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au/book-a-tour/>

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH—GARDENING WORKING BEE SATURDAY 18TH MARCH 2023

We are planning a working bee, to trim, weed, tidy, clean and shape our garden beds, around the church, presbytery, and Nell's Cottage. **Can you please help??** Please write this date into your diary, and let us know if you will be able to join us by contacting the Parish Office. All assistance is greatly appreciated. **Teamwork makes the dream work!! Please come and join us!**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER This year the focus is on **Taiwan.** The event is to be Hosted by the **Uniting Church,** at 2pm on **FRIDAY 3RD MARCH – AT FERN TREE GULLY UNITING CHURCH,** 6 The Avenue, FTG followed by refreshments. All welcome.

NEW STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-Can you please help? Please contact the Parish office, if you can assist. RSVP by the 15th March, 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS INQUIRY The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) current Inquiry into the Framework of Religious Exemptions in Anti-Discrimination Legislation has produced a Consultation Paper which proposes severe limits on the ability for religious schools to appoint staff who support their mission other than roles in which 'the teaching, observance or practice of the religion is a genuine requirement of the role.' For every other role it would become unlawful for the school to give preference to teachers who share, or who are willing, to support the religious beliefs of the institution. This would effectively remove the right of faith-based schools to express their religious identity and culture. **Archbishop Comensoli, along with other faith leaders, encourages you, as well as parents and other members of the Catholic community, to complete the following survey** with an expression of hope to protect faith-based schools from further obstacles that will impede their ability to express our Catholic faith: <https://www.alrc.gov.au/inquiry/anti-discrimination-laws/submission/survey/>

PROJECT COMPASSION WEEK 1 LAXMI: We begin our annual Lenten Project Compassion journey by learning about Laxmi, a 16-year-old girl living in a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was ten and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and, after losing him, Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. With the support of Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school. She developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school. 🙏 Support Project Compassion today: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion
📺 Watch Laxmi's story here: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/laxmi-story-video

ROSTERS: Mon 27th Feb to Sun 5th March 2023	
Flowers	LENT no flowers
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm: Kathryn C, Myra N 9am: Terry S, Joanna C, Thelma B 11am: Patrick S & Anna M
Lectors	6pm Louise D 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Eduardo M
Counters	Byron M, Ruby S, Guil Walter
Gardening	Carlos E