

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 58:7-10*

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,  
and shelter the homeless poor,  
clothe the man you see to be naked  
and turn not from your own kin.  
Then will your light shine like the dawn  
and your wound be quickly healed over.  
Your integrity will go before you  
and the glory of the Lord behind you.  
Cry, and the Lord will answer;  
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'  
If you do away with the yoke,  
the clenched fist, the wicked word,  
if you give your bread to the hungry,  
and relief to the oppressed,  
your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your shadows become like noon.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R/ *A light rises in the darkness for  
the upright.***

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians 1 Cor 2:1-5*

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not

depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
the man who follows me  
will have the light of life.  
Alleluia!

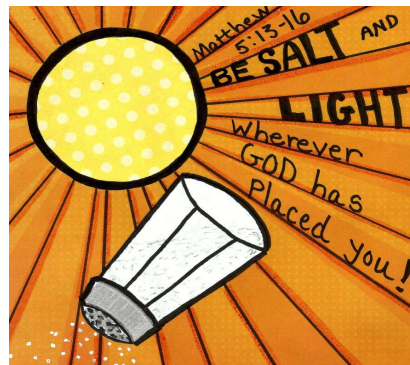
## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew 5: 13-16*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*



## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

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



**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year A**

**4<sup>th</sup> /5<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**

**Word of God Sunday**

***Loving Lord,  
We want to be Salt for the earth,  
Bringing flavour to this world.  
Teach us, to illuminate the darkness,  
Shining the light of kindness  
to all in need, and continually,  
Pointing others to You.***



***We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** Today, when we describe a person as being the 'salt of the earth' it's generally meant in a way that says the person is hard working, straight talking and pretty down to earth. It's usually meant as a compliment but sometimes can come across as a bit condescending when used inappropriately. When Jesus tells the disciples that they are salt of the earth and the light of the world he is really saying 'You are **to be** the salt of the earth; you are **to be** the light of the world.' It is more of a directive than an affirmation of them. Today's first reading from Isaiah helps to shed light on Jesus' *meaning* in the gospel passage: 'Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. **Then will your light shine like the dawn.** It's a message of justice and right relationship not only with God but with one another also. To be salt of the earth and light of the world means to be the one who puts their hand up and steps forward to speak for, work for and act for those who are the least in this world. To have the potential and resources to be a force for good in the world and not act on it, is to be like salt that's used for salting the streets or a lamp that's under a tub. © Greg Sunter

Q. Who has been light for you – who has helped bring you out of the darkness? How have you learned from this person? How did that learning take place?

**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** Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Feb St Paul Miki & Companions  
Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Feb St Jerome Emiliani, St Josephine Bakhita Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb St Scholastica  
Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Feb Our Lady of Lourdes / World Day of Prayer for the Sick (Holy See)

***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 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.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**  
**4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.**  
**Word of God Sunday.**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*  
*Sr Rosaleen (Philomena) McCaffrey,*  
*Domenico Parente*

**Those who we remember at this time:**

Keith Scutt, Kathleen Joyce, Jack McCann, Benito Discenza, John Dunlop, Jim Dale, Coral Pearce.

**The sick:** 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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**, at 10.15am for Prayer, Praise and Worship. All welcome.

**MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP resumes 9am on 7<sup>th</sup> February, in the Parish Office.**

**For Your Diary:**

Tues 21<sup>st</sup> February, **SHROVE TUESDAY** (Pancake day)  
Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> February, **ASH WEDNESDAY**  
18<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> March **PARISH RETREAT**  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> March, - **TRIVIA NIGHT**

**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.



**WORD OF GOD SUNDAY** The Church in Australia

**Word of God Sunday**  
FEBRUARY 5, 2023

celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 5 in 2023 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A). Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. Here at St John the Baptist, we would like to especially thank all our Lectors on this day, with a blessing at mass, for their involvement to this special ministry of proclaiming God’s Word to the congregation. After Holy Communion the Lectors will be asked to stand up to receive a special blessing from Fr Thomas.

**UPDATED: SR PHILOMENA, now known as Sr Roseleen McCaffrey** (sorry, the spelling was incorrect last weekend). who taught here at St John the Baptist in the 1950’s, now aged 97yrs and has had a wonderful life, but has **died peacefully Thursday-2<sup>nd</sup> February**, may she rest in peace.

**SACRAMENTAL CLASSES FOR CHILDREN WHO DO NOT ATTEND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.** Taking enrolments now for children to celebrate their First Reconciliation. Please contact the Parish office or Mary: [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**SAFER INTERNET DAY** The world is more digitally connected than it’s ever been, which means vigilance about online safety is more important than ever before. **Tuesday 7 February 2023** marks the 20th Safer Internet Day, an initiative that started in 2004 and is now recognised by countries around the world. The day provides an opportunity to reflect on how we might create safer online environments for the children and young people under our care. The theme for [this year’s Safer Internet Day](#) is **Connect. Reflect. Protect**. Children and young people spend approximately 7.5 hours per day online, which means half their year is spent on the internet. The potential risks of increased online usage and the severity of these risks are sometimes overlooked.

It’s difficult for parents, organisations and even the police to monitor the internet, so to assist the community, the Australian Childhood Foundation has released a new resource—*It’s Never Too Late*. Through real stories and practical advice, the resource informs parents and carers about how they can better protect their children online and shows them how to recognise signs of online abuse and manipulation. *ThinkUKnow* is another great resource and has been developed by the Australian Federal Police to educate the community about issues of online safety. To find out more, please go to: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>

**LENTE PROGRAM 2023** We are now taking orders for “**TRIUMPH**”, the Lenten Program for 2023. Triumph is an 88 page full colour book (240x170mm) containing short daily reflections from **Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, perfect for individual devotion or group gatherings**. If you would like to order a booklet, the books are \$8.00each plus postage. **PLEASE SIGN UP NOW**, on the sheet on the glass wall. As Ash Wednesday is on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, **our order must be in by 13<sup>th</sup> Feb, to ensure delivery in time, so please, don’t delay!!**

**CHAPLAINCY APPEAL 2023** will be conducted in all parishes **next week**, so the vital work of the Catholic Chaplains can continue, supporting thousands in hospitals, prisons and youth justice centres. Your gift can help people find comfort and hope. Please give generously.

**FUNERAL MASS** –for the late **Domenico Parente** will be celebrated here at St John’s Church, details still to be confirmed from Le Pine, at time of printing.

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY** Our Children’s Liturgy will resume this weekend at the Sunday at 11am Mass. We will also be having sessions starting at the 6pm mass from 10<sup>th</sup> February. The Children’s Liturgy will run during the school term. At the beginning of mass all children are invited to join our Children’s Liturgy team in the back room of the church. The Liturgy of the Word is shared with the children at their level of understanding. Parents with small children are most welcome to join us. Any parishioner who would like to be a part of this ministry either at 6pm mass or 11am mass please contact the parish office or speak to Mary: [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**WHAT DO YOU WANT? COME AND SEE (Silent) RETREAT, QUEENSLIFFE VIC** *They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are You staying?” “Come and see,” [John 1: 38-39].* Can you imagine spending time with Jesus? How would you respond if Jesus asked you: “What do you want?” “What is your deep desire?” “Come and see” at Santa Casa Retreat Centre in beautiful Queenscliff Vic: Terry Fanning, & Margaret Moore – Spiritual Directors with JISA **Friday, 24 February @ 4:00 pm - Sunday, 5 March @ 10:00 am** For enquiries, contact **1300-392-636** or [info@jisa.org.au](mailto:info@jisa.org.au)

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Feb, to Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Marg H & Judy G
<b>Linen</b>	Carole D’S
<b>Welcomers</b>	<b>6pm:</b> Rosina L & Myra Noth <b>9am:</b> Lia U, Marg & Adrian D <b>11am:</b> Shamindri & Chamal A
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>6pm</b> Alvi M <b>9am:</b> Pamela E <b>11am:</b> Vincente M
<b>Counters</b>	Tony B, Steph H, Connie B, Peter F
<b>Gardening</b>	Roger K & Henner T