

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
15:15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
5:17-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have

come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

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



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year A

11th /12th February, 2023

Pastoral Care Chaplaincy Appeal Sunday

***Lord Jesus,
with great joy we celebrate your guiding
light and saving love
You showed us by your life,
just what it means to be holy.
Help us to grasp Your teaching of the law.
With Justice, Love and Compassion.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen***



FOCUS ON THE WORD: Today's First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. What is referred to as the 'Law' is generally used as shorthand for the Torah – the first five books of the Bible – which first of all establishes the history of relationship between God and humanity through the books of Genesis and Exodus and then provides detailed instructions about how that relationship should be honoured and observed. When Jesus speaks about the Law and the Prophets, he is deliberately including the extensive collection of prophetic writings that interpret the Law in terms of justice and right relationships with others as being a reflection of the right relationship with God. By declaring that he has come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete – or fulfil – them, Jesus is making it perfectly clear that his ministry and teaching is in alignment with and in accordance with the historical tradition and he is not setting out to overthrow the Jewish tradition. Rather, throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication. His constant complaint is against those who live by the letter of the Law and ignore what we would call the spirit or intention of the Law. This is the root of his swipe at the shallow virtue of the scribes and Pharisees in today's gospel. The criticism that Jesus levelled at these two groups was that their adherence to the Law made no room for the compassionate heart that the writings of the Prophets demanded. © 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

FEAST DAYS Tues 14th Feb Sts Cyril & Methodius / St Valentines Day
Fri 17th Feb The Seven Holy Founders of the Service Order

***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@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.

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
11th / 12th February, 2023.

Pastoral Care Chaplaincy Appeal Sunday

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Maureen Hawley Basil Lorimer, Michael Hanrahan, Joan Rashleigh, Joyce Howell, Emily Prenter, Aniceto C Judit

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 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.

For Your Diary:

Tues 21st February, **SHROVE TUESDAY**
Wed 22nd February, **ASH WEDNESDAY**
18th -21st March **PARISH RETREAT**
Sat 25th March, - **TRIVIA NIGHT**



A WARM WELCOME TO FR Jim Acreman, and some of the students /staff of St Joseph's college, who will be joining us at the 11am Mass this weekend.

THANKSGIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE VIA DIRECT TRANSFER THROUGH CDF all donations. are gratefully received Please., [click here](#) for the link.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY 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/>



ASH WEDNESDAY The Church's season of Lent is not far away. We mark the beginning of Lent on **22nd February** with our **Ash Wednesday Masses: 9.15am & 7.00pm.**

FUNERAL MASS –for the late **Domenico Parente** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Tuesday, 14th February, 2023 -10am Rosary, 10.30am Mass.

PALMS MISSION Change their lives and yours. Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. **RING: 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567. Or via the Internet: www.palms.org.au**



SACRAMENTAL CLASSES for children who **do not attend catholic schools. Last chance to register. If you miss this intake, the next opportunity will not be until 2025.** Please contact the Parish office, or fill out the registration form on our website, and return it to the Parish Office. The classes begin on **Wednesday 15th Feb**, please contact Mary: marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

VISIT MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE Applications for the 2024/25 school years are now open. **BOOK A TOUR – the next opportunity is on 7th March, and is filling fast.** We believe that a tour of the College is the best way to experience the 'can-do' energy of girls at Mater Christi. We invite families to view our virtual tour videos via our website, arrange a time for a College Tour or a Taster Morning experience for your daughter or **contact our Registrar, Michelle Ring by email or phone 9754 6611 to discuss any enrolment matters.**



VISIT ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE Enrolments are **OPEN for 2023, 2024 and beyond.** We have limited places for entry into St Joseph's College at various year levels for 2023. Our new and exciting Yr 7 Learning Space, Stem & Digital Technologies developments are about to open. **UPCOMING TOURS** will be held on **Sunday 19th February, between 10am – 11am, and are filing fast, please register via the college website, or Contact the Enrolments Office enrolments@stjosephs.com.au or 9756 3112.**



PASTORAL CARE (CHAPLAINCY) APPEAL 2023

This weekend is the Pastoral Care Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community. Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic Chaplains can continue to be the messengers of God's mercy, love and compassion. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and financial support to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing, illness, pain, loneliness, grief and death. You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9287 5513.



RCIA NEWS Our catechumen, Emily will be celebrating her **Rite of Election** at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, on **Sunday, 26 February at 3pm.** Parishioners are most welcome to attend. The catechumens and candidates do have allocated seating however there will be plenty of space in other parts of the cathedral and we will catch up with parishioners after the event. **Please remember Emily in your prayers.**

PARTY NIGHT FOR SINGLE CATHOLICS, AGED 28YRS-60YRS AT SOUTHERN STARS SOCIAL CLUB 8pm, on **Saturday 25th Feb, 2023** at St Scholastica's Parish, East Burwood. **Cost just \$13.00**, includes Supper and Lucky Door Prizes. **Enquiries:** Peter on PH:9885 2167

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is a movement that tries in an authentic way, to focus on the realities of women in distant places. It is a movement symbolized by an **annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March** – to which all people are welcome. Through World Day of Prayer, people around the world affirm their faith in Jesus Christ and are encouraged to strive for wisdom to guide the actions in our daily lives. This year the focus is on **Taiwan**. More information about this upcoming event to follow.

The Call of Guadalupe Ministry has organised a 2-day workshop on 25-26 February, St Joseph's Parish Chelsea. 10am-4pm To find out more go to: www.trybooking.com/CFPZX 0413398528

ROSTERS: Mon 13th Feb to Sun 19th Feb 2023	
Flowers	Ann P & Connie
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm: Myra Noth & Wilma H 9am: Terry S, Neil & Loraine, Peter 11am: Priya H & Patrick S
Lectors	6pm Gab V 9am: Peter F 11am: Bonnie H
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Connie B Peter F
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T