

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Leviticus

19:1-2, 17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Year A

18th /19th February, 2023

Loving Father,

You call us to love one another.

Forgive us when the words we speak

and the life we live,

sit uncomfortably together,

Help us to exchange resentment and bitterness

for love, and Your unending grace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen



FOCUS ON THE WORD: Jesus tells us that it's easy to love those who love us – anyone can do that. The test of Christian love is to love those who seem unlovable or even seek to make themselves appear unlovable. It's easy to stop saying hello to the person who never returns your greeting. It's easy to avoid the person whose disability makes you uncomfortable. It's easy to hate the person who's nasty to you. But Jesus says that it's these people who we must love. If we are only polite, pleasant and hospitable to our friends then we are failing to follow the footsteps of Jesus.

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ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT BEGINS: "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to



shake us from our lethargy." [Pope Francis](#). During this Lenten season, the hard places in our spirits can loosen up and the Holy Spirit can flow through our days with more lightness and freedom. Every instance of spiritual growth must have at its beginning an openness to God's presence and love. When we invite that presence and say yes, the repentance and healing have already begun.

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: Wed 22nd Feb – Ash Wednesday - Mass Times: 9.15am & 7.00pm

Thur 23rd Feb - St Polycarp

*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.

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
18th / 19th February, 2023.

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Rosemary Tilson

Those who we remember at this time:

Rafaelle Ozella, Giuseppina Zarro, Mark Barbin, Terry McCluskey, Stan Hilder.

The sick: Alan Alcock, Lourdes Oracion, Ann Good, Catherine Ziegfried, 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.

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. Come and join us!

FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tues 21st February, **SHROVE TUESDAY**
Wed 22nd February, **ASH WEDNESDAY**
18th, -21st March **PARISH RETREAT**
Sat 25th March, **TRIVIA NIGHT, for 7.30 start**

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED is still supporting the Catholic Church in Ukraine in its commitment to stay on the ground and keep serving its flock in the face of material and economic war. To make an offering and learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/ukraine>

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.



LENT BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY MASS on this coming Wednesday, 22nd February, 2023. Mass will be celebrated at **9.15am and 7.00pm** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. 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 over-burdened. Lent is also an appropriate time to prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter.



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/>

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. Call **9560 5333** or **0422 472 567**. Or via the Internet: www.palms.org.au

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. 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. **We will be having the Stations of the Cross on Friday at 10.30 am during lent followed by mass at 11.00 am. All are invited to join.**

LENTEN BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED, for all who have ordered them. Please collect them after Mass, or from the Parish Office during business hours. Cost \$8

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 041339852

PASTORAL CARE (CHAPLAINCY) APPEAL 2023
THANK YOU! Last weekend, we conducted the annual Pastoral Care Appeal in our parish. The amount raised was: \$970.25. The presence of Catholic chaplains is a crucial witness to our faith, our service of love, and a vital testimony to the value of life in all its stages. Thank you to those who have supported this Appeal. If you still wish to donate, or would like to have more information about Chaplaincy Services, please call (03) 9287 5513, or visit www.catholiccarevic.org.au

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. **Please remember Emily in your prayers.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR GENERAL: The Melkite Catholic Eparchy have asked us to share with you and your parish communities, Bishop Robert Rabbat's **SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL**. For those who would like to donate, contributions can be made by donating to: **MCF DGR Account**
Ref: Syrian Appeal
BSB 062784 Account: 100011493
Donations are tax deductible and for a receipt please email : mcf@melkite.org.au or contact 02 9750 5514 for more information., OR see the Poster on the Notice Board at the back of the church. Thank you for your help.

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

ROSTERS: Mon 20th Feb to Sun 26th Feb 2023	
Flowers	LENT no flowers
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm: Lia U, Kathryn C 9am: Rosa L, Florence J 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Jan R 9am: Terry S 11am: Caroline S
Counters	Byron M, Ruby S, Guil Walter
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T