

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Genesis 12:1-4*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth

Shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abraham went as the Lord told him.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to  
Timothy 1:8-10*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory and praise to You,  
Lord Jesus Christ!*

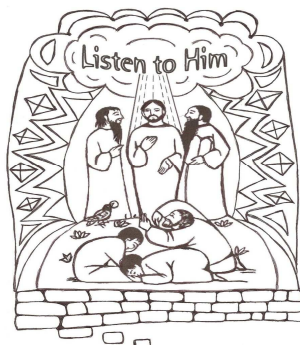
*From the shining cloud  
the Father's voice is heard:  
This is My beloved Son, hear Him.  
Glory and praise to You,  
Lord Jesus Christ!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew 17:1-9*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



*'This is my Son, the Beloved; he  
enjoys my favour. Listen to him.'*

The Parish Bulletin is Emailed out each Friday afternoon. If you would like to join the Mailing list Ring the Parish Office, or [subscribe on our website](https://stjohnthebaptist.net.au/newsletter/)



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**Knox Deanery**

**19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156**

**Phone: 9758 1029**

**Email: [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A**

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

**Caritas – Project Compassion Week 2**

*Holy God,  
give us a glimpse of your Glory,  
Let us find you in the beauty of  
Your creation all around us.  
Like Abraham,  
fill us, too, with blessings  
wherever we go, in all we do,  
So that we might lead others to You.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** The blessings upon which we meditate today are undeserved gifts from God. They were not earned. The graciousness of God transforms us in such a way as to effect new beginnings. It can be seen in the promises made to Abram. He leaves the past behind and moves into a new future. It can be seen in the psalm response. The Lord delivers us from death and inspires us to look to the future. It can be seen in the reading from 2 Timothy. **Through Christ Jesus we are called to a new life of holiness;** we escape the fetters of death and are brought into the freedom of the resurrection. We see it in the gospel, a glimpse into the future glory of Jesus which, through grace, we will be able to share. Lent is a time of new beginnings which find their origin in the abundant blessings of God. The ultimate blessing of God is Jesus himself. As Abram was called to be the source of blessing for all others, as Peter, James and John were chosen to witness the transfiguration of Jesus, so today we too are invited to look to Jesus for inspiration during this holy season. Paul speaks of the salvation that Jesus brings as having come, not because of any works of righteousness that we might have performed, but because of the grace of God. Once again the Lenten readings focus on the merciful action of God in our lives, and in the end they point to Jesus. © Dianne Bergant CSA

**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](https://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

**FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK:**

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Mar - Sts Perpetua & Felicity**

*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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

**WEDDINGS:**  
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

**2nd Sunday of Lent - Year A**  
**5th / 6th March, 2023- Project Compassion**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*  
Lourdes Oracion

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Tom Donegan, Judy Atkinson, Daniel Cahill, Bernie DeAraugo, Raymond Studach, Lorraine Moore, Barbara Smith, Esme Davidson, Mary Hilde ,

*The sick:* Peggy Spencer, Alan Alcock,, Ann Good, Ben McLae, 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.**



**ROSARY** is recited prior to Morning Weekday Mass on Wed, Thurs, Friday, in the Church. All welcome to join in the recitation. Or **Group Rosary for Peace-First Saturday of the Month 10.30am**, at 37 Lane Road FTG, all welcome. Pauline Barlow Ph 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** in the Parish Hall from 10.15am Tuesdays, followed by a shared lunch. All welcome.

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

**VOICE TO PARLIAMENT** Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) have released their statement, Relentlessly Pursuing Reconciliation, in support of a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament as articulated by the Uluru



Statement from the Heart. This year's national referendum on the constitution gives an opportunity for Australians to support the Statement from the Heart and to embrace the cries of our First Nations

Peoples for a just future, a means of recognition and a way forward for healing and learning together. **To read the full statement please scan the QR code.**



**SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP - TRIVIA NIGHT**

☺ Come and join the fun. ☺ ☺ Don't need to be an expert. ☺

**Date:** Saturday 25th March

**Venue:** School Hall

Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

**Cost:** \$10 per adult. BYO drinks and nibbles. Make up a table or come and join one.

Tickets are available after all w/e masses from the 4th March or **contact Patrick 0434072831** (call or text) or [psawyer@bigpond.net.au](mailto:psawyer@bigpond.net.au)

Proceeds in aid of "Opening the Doors Foundation" (Aboriginal students support), Thornbury and the Alfajiri Kids Art in Kenya. See

<https://www.alfajiri.org/> Donations welcome ☺



**WELCOME TO OUR PREPS, AND FAMILIES** At 11am Mass today, we welcome the children who have begun their prep year at St John's and their families for a special blessing. It's wonderful to have you all as part of the St John the Baptist Family, we look forward to seeing you often.

**LENTEN PROGRAM: TRIUMPH**, The program is offered on **Wednesday 10am in the Parish Office and Monday evenings 6.30pm in the Parish Hall.** All welcome

**NEW STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**-Can you please help? We haven't had a campaign since 2016. Stewardship is the heartbeat of our Church., it keeps our church and surrounds well maintained and helps us to budget. Please contact the Parish office, if you can assist. Please, RSVP by the 15th March, 2023.

**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.siferntreegully.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!**

**SAVE THE DATE:18th-21st March PARISH RETREAT is Rojan George Dir. Of St Vincentian Retreat centre**

**THE RITE OF ELECTION CEREMONY** took place at St Patrick's cathedral on Sunday 26 February. We saw 45 parishes with numerous catechumen and candidates from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, take part in the ceremony. The celebration of the Rite of Election "marks the beginning of the period of final, more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation, during which the elect will be encouraged to follow Christ with greater generosity" (RCIA, n. 118). **Please remember our Elect, Emily**, during this time as she journey's closer towards receiving the sacraments of Christian initiation, i.e., Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

**PROJECT COMPASSION WEEK 2 TEREESA'S STORY, AUSTRALIA** Teresa felt



disconnected from her culture. At just 16 years old, she had to leave school after falling pregnant with her first child. A single mother struggling with homelessness, Teresa's only concern was finding stability for her children. "I was homeless. I didn't have a place to call home...my kids never had a connection to the community," Teresa said. Seeking a better future for her children, Teresa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs program, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Teresa access housing for her family and psychological support. Through the program Teresa reconnected with her culture through Indigenous art. Her artistic skills flourished, and her artwork was chosen for the Vivid Festival in Sydney in 2022. Today, Teresa works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people. Support Project Compassion today: [www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion) Watch Teresa's story here: [Teresa's story | Caritas Australia](https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

**THE MELBOURNE PASSION PLAY** After a three year break because of Covid 19, the Melbourne Passion Play will again resume in 2023. The location will again be at the **Holy Cross Center** at 207 Serpells Road, Templestowe. **The play will be performed on Palm Sunday, 2nd April 2023 Starts at 1:30pm, & Good Friday 7th April 2023, Starts at 10:00am** Enquiries: Director Robert Durai on 0422 130 014 Details: [www.passionplay.info](http://www.passionplay.info)

ROSTERS: Mon 6th Mar to Sun 12th March 2023	
Flowers	LENT no flowers
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm: Peter G & Wilma H 9am: Joanna C & Thelma B 11am: Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm Rosina L 9am: Gordon V 11am: Joan R
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J
Gardening	Carlos E