

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water,
that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 4:4-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:(Continued overleaf.....)



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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3rd Sunday of Lent Year A

11th /12th March, 2023

Caritas – Project Compassion Week 3

*Loving Lord,
We yearn for Your living water.
To worship You in Spirit and truth.
Still, often we remain dry!
Come, Lord Jesus,
quench our thirst
for life within
With Your living water.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: The woman has obviously come to the well to draw water for herself. Her encounter with Jesus is a moment of transformation for her. At first, she fails to comprehend his reference to 'living water' and never being thirsty again. However, in the end 'the woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town.' Leaving her water jar behind was a **sign of the transformation that had taken place within her**. She had indeed drunk of the living water of Jesus and no longer paid attention to the need for water that had brought her to the well. The Samaritan woman's **personal encounter with Jesus compels her to start spreading the good news** about the amazing man she has met. She meets Jesus face to face and feels compelled to act on what she has felt. **Lent is a time for each of us to again – or for the first time – seek out a face to face encounter with Jesus.** Through prayer, contemplation on scripture or reflection on encountering Jesus in the face of others, we build a one to one relationship with Jesus. When we acknowledge this relationship, like the Samaritan woman, we are compelled to act on it. © 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

Parish Office will be closed, Monday 13th March – Labour Day.

**FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK:
Fri 17th March**

**Mon 13th Mar -
St Patrick**

**Anniversary of the election of Pope Francis
18th March St Cyril of Jerusalem**

*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.

3rd Sunday of Lent - Year A
11th / 12th March, 2023- Project Compassion

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Anita Rech

Those who we remember at this time:

Ayden Tellis, Pauline Bowden, Audrey Homan, Mary Brimelow, Silvana Parolin, Peter Berthelot, Kathleen Hine, Basil Lorimer, Peter Trevena, Peter Kelly, Patricia Alexander.

The sick: Peggy Spencer, Alan Alcock, Ann Good, Ben McLae, Don Roberts, Maureen Wilson, Lucy Denzin, Gabby Sundstrom, Kathryn Kircos, Ruby Santoy, 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!

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

FUNERAL MASS –for the late **Anita Rech** will be celebrated here at St John's Church **on Friday 17th March, at 1.00pm** – (Rosary the previous evening at Le Pine)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR THOMAS!
May your birthday be filled with Joy, and blessings best wishes for the 13th March, from all of us at St Johns.



NEXT SATURDAY, PLEASE HELP! SATURDAY 18th MARCH 2023, 8.30am onwards...

Assistance is required to help trim, clean & shape the garden beds around the church, presbytery and Nells Cottage. Please bring gardening tools, trimmers etc, and a wheel barrow if possible. A skip has been organised for rubbish. **ASSISTANCE IS ALSO REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AND SERVE MORNING TEA** in the Church Foyer for our hungry workers!! Please see Fr. Thomas, Gordon or Sue at weekend Masses or contact the Parish office during the week to let us know that you can help. Your assistance will be much appreciated. Thank you in advance!



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

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 ☺



Virtual Book Launch

Please accept a warm invitation from CSSV to celebrate the virtual launch of Fr Frank Brennan's new book, *An Indigenous Voice to Parliament*, on Thursday March 16 at 7pm online.

The book explores this long debate – much of which will not be found in the mainstream media discourse. Importantly, Fr Frank proposes additional ideas for discussion and presents both the 'Yes' and 'No' cases, enabling all Australians to be better informed before casting their vote this decisive moment in the country's history.



Sign up to CSSV's event by scanning the QR code.

SAVE THE DATE: 18th-21st March PARISH RETREAT
Fr. Rojan George Dir. Of St Vincentian Retreat centre, will present our **Lenten Parish Retreat – Return to Me. Focussing on the Passion of Jesus.**

GOSPEL – (Continued from the back page)

that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Isaiah Costa** son of Costa & Sasangi, who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



PROJECT COMPASSION WEEK 3, PRISCILLA'S STORY, ZIMBABWE. Priscilla lives with her husband and

two grandchildren in the Hwange region. **With the support of Caritas Australia** Hwange, Priscilla and her

community learnt conservation farming to grow drought-resistant crops. This week, Caritas Australia shares with us an account of its response to a water shortage in Zimbabwe.

Thanks to our support for Project Compassion, Caritas Australia is involved in providing access to water in many places. It seems such a basic thing. One we mostly take for granted. But once a community has access to water, it grows in every possible way. For All Future Generations. Support Project Compassion today: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Watch Priscilla's Story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hg3pFKAsZg>

ROSTERS: Mon 13th Mar to Sun 19th March 2023

Flowers	LENT no flowers
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm: Rosina L & Myra N 9am: Lia U & Help needed please 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Tess De L 9am: Pamela E 11am: Peter J
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J
Gardening	Carlos E