

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall settle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life,
says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said: ‘I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’ Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: ‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’ Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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5th Sunday of Lent Year A

25th /26th March, 2023

Caritas – Project Compassion Week 5

*Saving God,
Look upon those who call to you,
and sustain the weak;
give life by your unfailing light
to those who walk in the shadow of death,
and bring those rescued by your mercy from
every evil to reach the highest good.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: The gospel writer paints the picture that Jesus is fully conscious of the implications of his return to Judea. As the events of the Passion unfold through this gospel, the reader has a very clear impression in their mind that if Jesus had not come to Judea; had not raised Lazarus; then he would not have been arrested and crucified. The reader is also drawn into the revelation that **the sacrifice of Jesus was not solely for Lazarus but rather for all humanity.** This realisation leads the reader to the ultimate humbling conclusion that if the sacrifice of Jesus was for people then the reader themselves is also the recipient of that sacrifice. ‘Jesus wept’ is the shortest verse in the New Testament. Just two little words carry a world of emotion and speak volumes about Jesus. highlighting the two natures of Jesus, pointing out that in his humanity, Jesus wept for the death of his friend, but in his divinity Jesus raised Lazarus to life To see a man bound up for burial suddenly come walking from his tomb must have been an unnerving experience to say the least. However, Jesus calmly commands the astonished onlookers to ‘unbind him, let him go free’. These words speak to us today as we come to the end of the Lenten season and approach the celebration of Easter. **What are the things that ‘bind’ us? From what do we need to be released so that we may ‘go free’?** Are they bindings placed by ourselves or others? What will it take to be unbound? © 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 THIS WEEK: No Feast Days this week.

DO YOU HAVE a Working With Children Check (WWCC)? Is it still valid? if not please renew it. If you do not have a WWCC please apply using the following link :- <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children/landing>. Because **Safeguarding is Everyone’s Responsibility!** Thank you 😊

*I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)*

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruwila 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.

**5th Sunday of Lent - Year A-
25th / 26th March, 2023- Project Compassion**

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

Bob Lisle, Adam Brown, Giovanni Cavarra, Pat(Pasqualina) Smith,

The sick: Elsie Johnson, Peggy Spencer, Alan Alcock,, Ann Good, Ben McLaey, Don Roberts, Maureen Wilson, Lucy Denzin, Gabby Sundstrom, Kathryn Kircos, Ruby Samtoy, 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.

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.

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 to pray for your children!

LECTORS ROSTER: A new roster is being prepared for lectors for the months of May to September 2023. Could those who are currently on the roster please notify me if they are unavailable during that period or if there are any other changes required. Please contact the parish office before Tuesday, 4th April. Details: 9758 1029 or email marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au. Thank you to all our volunteers.- Mary Makarucha.



WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023

PILGRIMS - We would like to introduce you to our two young parishioners who will be going on a pilgrimage to WYD in Portugal in August this year. **Elyssa Breish** has been a parishioner her whole life, born at the Angliss in Upper Ferntree Gully, was baptised and schooled at St John's. She is 16 years old and is currently in Year 10 at Emmaus College. **Vicente Morillo** helps run the Children's Liturgy on Sundays. He is participating in the Discipleship Internship with the Archdiocese of Melbourne and currently in his 1st year of Engineering and Commerce at Monash University. Our two pilgrims are very keen to experience the amazing faith opportunity that World Youth Day has to offer. Over the coming weeks you will see them around the Parish, doing activities to raise funds for their pilgrimage, they will really appreciate all your prayers and support.


NEXT SUNDAY, 2ND APRIL DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS. Don't forget to turn your clocks backwards, one hour. Enjoy your extra sleep!



FERNTREE GULLY VINNIES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The SVDP shop, located at: Unit 7/1821 Ferntree Gully Rd, FTG, is in **desperate need** of more helpers. Please contact Diane on 9758 8501 if you are able to help out. **BAYSWATER VINNIES, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** The Bayswater SVDP shop is in **urgent need** of volunteers to assist them in the Op Shop. If you have a few spare hours, and would like to assist, please contact the Manager on 9729 6317. All help is gratefully accepted.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY, HOT CROSS BUNS FUNDRAISER. The SJB Parents & Friends are please to offer their annual Hot Cross Bun Drive in collaboration with Glenfern Bakery. Order Forms are available in the Foyer, please submit with the money to the Parish Office before 2.30pm on Friday 31st March. **Details about the delivery are on the order forms.** **Cost:** \$9 per 1/2 doz. All funds to the SJB Parents & Friends.

PROJECT COMPASSION WEEK 5

Over the last few weeks we have shared some  of the stories presented to us by Caritas Australia to make us more aware of the inspirational work we can support through Project Compassion. There have been stories from Zimbabwe, Vietnam, Nepal and First Australians. **Through your generosity, Caritas Australia is able to support partners in 18 different countries.** These are all people who, not unlike Lazarus, are longing to be unbound and set free.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED Please contact the Parish office, if you can assist.

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Leo Davis son of James & Katrina and Maxwell Antemes, son of Jan-Paul & Helen** who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (Next Sun 2nd April)

The 11am Mass on Palm Sunday will begin outside the doors to the School Hall and will then process into the church. Both the 6pm and 9am Masses will begin inside the church. Some young people are needed to assist with the distribution of palms. Please come 15 minutes early, or see Sue this weekend, if you're able to help.

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER are on the glass wall. If you can assist with any of the tasks/ministries available, please write your name in the spaces provided.

GOOD FRIDAY 9AM ECUMENICAL WALK

Friday, 7th April The Walk begins from the car park at St John's church at approx. 9.00am, and finishing at the Ferntree Gully Uniting Church, for a 9.30am service. Following the service, tea, coffee & hot cross buns will be served.

A HUGE THANK-YOU TO OUR WORKING BEE GARDENERS We were blown away by your hard work and speed in helping our grounds to look so great. Thank you, all!

PRAYING FOR OUR RECONCILIATION CANDIDATES



In preparation for their upcoming 1st Reconciliation, our students have prepared some bookmarks, which we invite our parishioners to take home, and keep the chosen candidate in your Prayers. Please look for the poster with the open hands, and heart, and take a bookmark if you can help with prayers. Thank you all.

CALLING ALL BAKERS are you able to assist with the **SJB Election Day Cake Stall?** All funds raised to go to Caritas for Project Compassion. We need help to bake cookies, cakes, slices, fudge, or Honey Joys, Coconut Ice or Chocolate Crackles. There will be a Packing and Tagging session in the Parish Hall on Friday 31st March. Please email parentsandfriends@siferntreegully.catholic.edu.au or contact the Parish Office if you can assist.

ROSTERS: Mon 27th Mar to Sun 2nd April 2023	
Flowers	LENT no flowers
Linen	Laurel Stephens
Welcomers	6pm: Peter G, Wilma H 9am Johanna, Thelma B 11am: Anna M, Priya H
Lectors	6pm Gab V 9am: Terry S 11am: Priya H
Counters	George & Genevieve W & Bindu M
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R