

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:14,22-23

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through Him when He was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed Him, but God raised Him to life, freeing Him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for Him to be held in its power since, as David says of Him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with Him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that You will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow Your Holy One to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, You will fill me with gladness through Your presence.'

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: He is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, He has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Lord, you will show us the path of life.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. Peter

1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through Him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord Jesus, make Your Word plain to us;
make our hearts burn with love when You speak.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising Him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas answered Him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' He asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved He was a great prophet by the things He said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and had Him crucified.

(...Gospel continued overleaf)



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

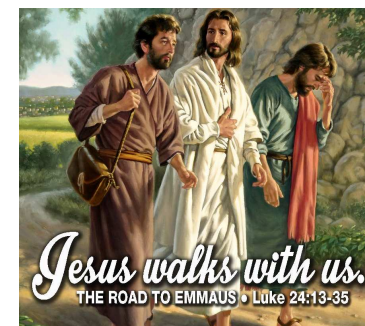
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



3rd Sunday of Easter – Year A

22nd / 23rd April, 2023

*Oh risen Jesus,
Find us in the places we hide.
Come walk with us and be with us now.
Show us the new life that You are.
Open our eyes and our minds
and as you did on the road to Emmaus,
Set our hearts on fire for You.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD

One of the remarkable things about the Risen Jesus is that his friends and followers almost always fail to recognise him at first. In the instance on the road to Emmaus, two of the disciples are walking the road feeling sorry for themselves when Jesus joins them. It is, perhaps, an experience that is not unfamiliar in our own lives: so absorbed by what is happening to us that we fail to recognise the presence of Christ walking the journey with us – in spirit or in the guise of someone around us. Jesus allows the disciples to share their woes and their grief and then he slowly but surely relates all of what had happened to the scriptures and demonstrates to the disciples that the events of the previous few days were all part of God's plan. The disciples felt that their hopes and beliefs had been misplaced in Jesus; he hadn't delivered all that they had dreamed. But the Risen Jesus makes them realise that their hopes were not misplaced; they were right to trust and hope in Jesus and **that belief will still bear fruit**. It is not until Jesus re-enacts the Last Supper breaking of bread that the disciples suddenly recognise him, but at that moment of recognition, Jesus vanishes from their midst. It must have been tantalising and frustrating for the two disciples – when they finally realised who they had been talking with and they could celebrate his presence Jesus disappeared. But the truth of what they had realised didn't abandon them. They reminded one another of the passion they had felt: 'Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road?' They are saying to each other, how stupid must we have been not to recognise Jesus? Only he could make us feel like that! **Jesus continues to set hearts on fire, inspiring everyday people to do extraordinary things.** © 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

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.

3rd Sunday of Easter - Year A
22nd /23rd April, 2023

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Bevin Vertigan, Fr Bob Maguire

Those who we remember at this time:

Matteo Parente, Catherine Lizza, Shirley Smith, John Nash, Felice Lizza,

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

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. Owing to the Anzac Day Public Holiday, our next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd May, 2023.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP 9am-10am, in the Parish Office. **Mother's Pray Meetings will resume on Tuesday 2nd May, 2023**

NEXT SUNDAY, IS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. There will be a **Special Collection** to help support our Seminarians. **Please, if you can bring a little extra to contribute to our Special Collection.** You can find out more: vocations@cam.org.au

SEMINARY ENQUIRY DAY at CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE – Sat 27th May, 2023. Enquiries welcomed. Ph 9926 5733 or visit the website: <https://vocations.melbournecatholic.org/>

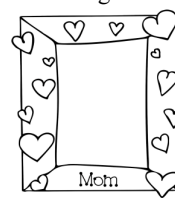


DIARY DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS...



25 April 2023 ANZAC (parish office is closed)
29/30 April Children's Liturgy resumes
14 May Mother's Day
WYD – 18 May Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
Pentecost Sunday – Volunteer and Liturgy and Social Group Expo
Cake Stall and raffle
WYD – 11 June First Eucharist
17 June First Eucharist
25 June Feast of Saint John the Baptist (special Parish event)

MOTHER'S DAY – 14 MAY 2023 As usual we will be celebrating all our mothers on Mother's Day. I would like



to make a PowerPoint which includes a photo of your mother, or a photo of you and your mother, you can be any age and the picture of your mum can be of any age. The PowerPoint will be displayed after all masses on the 13/ 14 May. Please

forward your photo to marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or bring a hardcopy into the office and we will scan it for you. The PowerPoint will be strictly for the parish only and not used in any other way except for Mother's Day.

INVITATION TO ALL PARISHIONERS: PENTECOST SUNDAY EVENT – 28 MAY 2023 – SAVE THE DATE We invite all parishioners to attend the school hall after the 11am mass on Pentecost Sunday to *celebrate our parish community and all its gifts and services.* We would like to have a display of all our liturgy and social groups.
OUR WYD CANDIDATES, Vicente and Elyssa, will host the sausage sizzle and have a cake stall and a raffle.
Please save Sunday 28 May 12pm for this special event

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, are having a special card sale in the Piety Stall next weekend 29th & 30th April, also on 6th & 7th May.
Beautiful cards priced at \$3.00 each.
"First in best dressed" - just ahead of Mother's Day!

The ANZAC DAY DAWN WATCH the Ferntree Gully Rotary Club invites our Parishioners and Friends, to join the ANZAC DAY Dawn Service, which will be held on **Tuesday 25th April, 2023 at Quarry Park**, Quarry Road, Ferntree Gully. Arrive at 5.45am, for a **6.00am start.** Bring a torch and chair if needed.



(Gospel Reading continued...)

Our own hope had been that He would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared He was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of Him they saw nothing.' Then He said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into His glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, He explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about Himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, He made as if to go on; but they pressed Him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So He went in to stay with them. Now while He was with them at the table, He took the bread and said the blessing; then He broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised Him; but He had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as He talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord

| ROSTERS: Mon 24 th April to Sun 30 th April 2023 | |
|--|---|
| Flowers | Marg H & Judy G |
| Linen | Jean B |
| Welcomers | 6pm: Lia U & Help needed 9am Rosa L & Florence J 11am: Shamindri A & Chamal A |
| Lectors | 6pm Tess D 9am: Pamela E 11am: Bonnie H |
| Counters | Bryon, M, Ruby S, Guil W |
| Gardening | Patrick S & Harry R |