

## FIRST READING

### *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

*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 first letter of St Peter*

2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the way, the truth, and the life,  
says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father,  
except through me.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

### *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 14:1-12*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

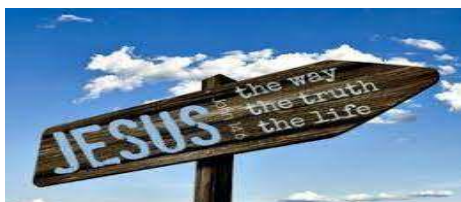
You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*



*I am the way, the truth and the life John 14:6*



## **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)**



## **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter –Year A**

**6<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**

**We have beheld your glory, O God,  
in the face of Christ Jesus, your Son.  
Enliven our faith, that through Him  
we may put our trust in You.**

**Complete our faith,  
that one day we may live with You  
in that place which Christ has prepared for us. Amen.**



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** 1. The disciples didn't know where Jesus was going and certainly did not want him to leave. Can you relate to this desire to be with the people you love? How is human love either a reflection of divine love or else actually a participation in it?

2. "Do not let your hearts be troubled." What did Jesus tell his disciples (and us) in this reading to ensure that our hearts are not troubled, according to Pope Francis?

**Jesus is risen and lives precisely to be always by our side.** We can thus say to him, "Jesus, I believe that you rose again and are beside me. I believe that you listen to me. I bring to you what upsets me, my troubles. ... "My Father's house has many rooms ... I am going there to prepare a place for you." ... **he reserved a place in Heaven for us.** He took our humanity upon himself to carry it beyond death, to a new place, to Heaven, **so that we might also be where he is.**

... God is in love with us; we are his children. ... **We are in transit here. We are made for Heaven, for eternal life, to live forever. ...**

But how can we reach heaven? ... He says to us today: "I am the Way" ... **to have a living relationship with him, to imitate him in love, to follow in his footsteps of service to others.**

Pope Francis [Angelus, 5th Sunday of Easter](#) May 2020

**I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE**, that's what Jesus said, without the way there is no going, without the truth, there is no knowing, without the life, there is no growing. **I AM the way, the truth and the life, that's what Jesus said.** – You can hear this song by clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D406Meo3Op4>

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

**FEAST DAYS** Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May St John de Avila  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> May -Sts Nereus & Acilleus; St Pancras Sat 13<sup>th</sup> May Our Lady of Fatima

*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** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2pm  
**WILLOWBROOK MASS** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 11am

**BAPTISMS:** Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Year A 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

### PRAYING FOR...

*All who have died recently:*  
Magdalene Puxty

### Those who we remember at this time:

Leo Ladds, Hans Roleff, Annie McCann, Sinforoso Oracion, Anna Bogner, Ada Moretti, Henry Brohier, Luigi De Cristo, Josef Knur, Ernest Royle, John Fumo, Agnes Russell.

**The sick:** Barry Beavis, 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.



**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 to borrow a book from our library, or perhaps a have 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. **Mother's Pray Meetings will resume on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023**



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

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO GREEN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE?

IM23: I AM A TREE OF LIFE - a Jesuit & Ignatian Retreat.  
Online in May Sun 21, Mon 22, Tue 23, Wed 24  
Two hours daily - Two choices of time  
Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing. Ezek.47:12  
[International and Australian Laudato Si' Week Event](#)  
[Hope for the Earth - Hope for Humanity](#)



### DIARY DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS...

<b>14 May</b>	<b>Mother's Day</b>	
<b>WYD – 28 May</b>	<b>Bunnings Sausage Sizzle</b>	
	<b>Pentecost Sunday – Volunteer and Liturgy and Social Group Expo</b>	
<b>WYD – 11 June</b>	<b>Cake Stall and raffle</b>	
<b>17 June</b>	<b>First Eucharist</b>	
<b>25 June</b>	<b>Feast of Saint John the Baptist (special Parish event)</b>	

**CARD SALE – URGENT MESSAGE** due to an innocent oversight, some people were charged more than the promised \$3 per card last weekend. If you wish, please see our volunteer at the table this week and we will happily refund the difference. Thanks for your understanding. Peter & Dawn.

**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. Last chance, **please forward your photo** to [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto: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.

**SEMINARY ENQUIRY DAY at CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE – Sat 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.** This annual enquiry day is an opportunity for men to visit the seminary, and hear from students. Enquiries welcomed. Ph 9926 5733 to speak with the Vocations director – Rev Jerome Santamaria or visit the website: <https://vocations.melbournecatholic.org/> or Email: [vocations@cam.org.au](mailto:vocations@cam.org.au) **DO YOU FEEL LIKE BEING CALLED TO SERVE?** The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. **COME & SEE!** An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on **Sat 3 June 2023, 10:00-11.45 am** at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victorian Parade, East Melbourne. More information: on the Vocations website click this [link](#).

**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.** See the flyer. **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.**

**NEW MAUSOLEUM AT LILYDALE MEMORIAL PARK.** There is an opportunity to register your interest to purchase a crypt(s). Call 1300 022 298. Flyers at the back of the church.

### WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS

**WYD Volunteers Needed Mother's Day Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May: Bunning Bayswater Sausage Sizzle 9 am-4 pm**

If you have spare time on the day, we need volunteers to cook and serve sausages. If you can help, please sign up on the volunteer's sheet of the glass doors.

**WYD Cake Stall May 28<sup>th</sup> Pentecost WYD Cake Stall May 28<sup>th</sup> Pentecost**

Calling all bakers! We need your help to make cakes, muffins, and cookies. We need volunteers to bake and make the sweets, wrap and label the ingredients. There will be a packing and tagging session after the 9 am mass on Sunday 28th. If you can assist, ingredient slips are available in the foyer or contact 0414264116 for more information.

### WYD Prayer Request

If you would like for Elyssa and Vicente to bring your prayers with them to WYD in Lisbon, please fill in a prayer slip and place it in the box and your prayers will journey with them.

**FUNERAL PRAYERS** for the late **Terrence Merry** will be offered here at St John's Church on **Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May at 1.30pm**

**FUNERAL MASS** for the late **John Burgess** will be offered here at St John's Church on **Fri 12<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00pm**

### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY OPEN DAY.

St John's final **School Open Day** for this year is coming up. Open days are a great way to see our school in action. Please invite your neighbours/family/friends. The Open Day will be held on: **May 11<sup>th</sup> 2023** Bookings can be made by calling **9758 1013**.

**ENGAGING YOUR FAITH** Engaging Your Faith (EYF) is a series of short, online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world. Experienced lecturers from **Catholic Theological College** present on a variety of topics including: theology, spirituality, biblical studies, moral theology, and Interfaith relations.

**Accreditation** These sessions are eligible for maintaining accreditation for teaching in Catholic schools in all Victorian and Queensland dioceses. In other dioceses, teachers should check with their education office. **Cost: \$25 per session, or \$40 per session for teachers seeking accreditation. Book online**  
**All sessions are booked directly through Try Booking.**

ROSTERS: Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> May to Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	
Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N, Wilma H 9am: Terry S, Neil & Loraine, Peter C 11am: Priya H, Patrick S
Lectors	6pm: Alvi M 9am: Pamela E 11am: Peter J
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J, Joan R
Gardening	Theresa N