

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles **8:5-8; 14-17**

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter **3:15-18**

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John **14:15-21**

Jesus said to his disciples:
'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.

On that day
you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and
keeps them will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my
Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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6th Sunday of Easter –Year A **13th /14th May, 2023**

Lord,
We pray in gratitude and with affection
for all our mothers.
We give thanks for their loving care,
attention and support.
We ask that You bless them and sustain them
in this very special vocation.
We pray too, that all mothers who have gone
before us in faith, will find eternal rest
in Your love and Your peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD The words of Jesus in this gospel passage were addressed to the disciples at the Last Supper. They had almost no inclination of what was about to befall them, nor the heart-wrenching loss that they would feel. Yet Jesus tried to prepare them and reassure them that they would not be abandoned by him. In the days after his death, the disciples struggled to remember these words and they were caught up by despair. Even once they had witnessed the Risen Lord, he told them that he would again be leaving them. They must have been so confused and afraid. The Greek word, parakletos, is translated into a number of different terms in English translations of the gospel. Its technical use was for a lawyer or attorney. However, its use in scripture is like the broader meaning of advocate that we use today: someone who stands up for another; someone who speaks up for another; someone who intercedes on behalf of another. An advocate is one who lends strength and support to someone who is disempowered. That is exactly what Jesus did for many people during his ministry and it is also what the Holy Spirit is sent to do.

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COUNTDOWN TO WORLD YOUTH DAY – 1ST – 6TH AUGUST, 2023 – 11 WEEKS TO GO!



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	Sun 14 th May	World Communications Day
	Thur 18 th May	-St John I
		Sat 20 th May
		St Bernardine of Siena

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
PPG CHAIR Carolyn Sombekke
Email: csombekesjb@gmail.com

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.

6th Sunday of Easter - Year A
13th / 14th May, 2023

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

Laurie Nicholls, Fr Jim Carroll, Eleonora Discenza, Peter Dunlop, Ivo Battaglioni, Elena Francesca, Margaret Mackie, Leon Koelmeyer, Harvey Mitchell, Margaret McCluskey, Denis Cashen.

The sick: Barry Beavis, 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.

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. All welcome.

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, "We wish to thank everyone for their generous support of our card sale. The sum of \$108 was raised for our SVPD Ferntree Gully Conference to help the needy." Dawn & Peter

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR OUR WORLD YOUTH DAY CANDIDATES World Youth Day will be in Lisbon Portugal in August 2023, and we

are blessed to have two candidates – **Vincente and Elyssa** preparing for the pilgrimage. We are asking for your support of a **special collection at Mass next weekend to help with the funding of their trip.** Thank you in anticipation of your support in this endeavour. All donations gratefully received.



DIARY DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS...

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

WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY On May 14, the Catholic Church in Australia marks the 57th World Communications Day. Pope Francis' message for the day reflects on the theme 'Speaking with the heart: "The truth in love"' from Ephesians 4:15. Pope Francis opens by reminding us that in previous World Communications Day messages, he has reflected on the verbs 'to go and see' and 'to listen', observing that these are good conditions for communication. The 2023 theme, 'Speaking with the heart', naturally flows from this. 'It is the heart that spurred us to go, to see and to listen, and it is the heart that moves us towards an open and welcoming way of communicating,' he writes. Once we have practised listening, which demands waiting and patience, as well as foregoing the assertion of our point of view in a prejudicial way, we can enter into the dynamic of dialogue and sharing, which is precisely that of communicating in a cordial way.

SEMINARY ENQUIRY DAY at CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE – Sat 27th 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
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.**



BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

Congratulations to the following children who will be baptised this weekend: **Ace Dixon** child of Joshua & Aimee, **Archie Reynette-James** child of Anthony & Aimee, **Nate Jukic**, child of Michael & Nikea. The church of God welcomes you with great joy

WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS

WYD Volunteers Needed Mother's Day Sunday 14th 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 28th Pentecost WYD Cake Stall May 28th 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.

As a vote on an **INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT** nears, Australia's bishops have encouraged Catholics to read and discuss the Uluru Statement from the Heart—the document from which the Voice proposal emerged. During their plenary meeting in Sydney this week, the bishops considered how they might assist Catholics in preparing for the referendum to enshrine the Voice to Parliament in the Constitution, with a vote due in the second half of 2023. A Voice to Parliament isn't the only way to achieve that outcome, the bishops wrote, but it 'is the way requested by those who gathered at the historic meeting at Uluru'. Read more by clicking this [link](#). **There will be a Webinar Series** is for anyone who is interested in better understanding the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Voice to Parliament and the upcoming referendum. **Time and Dates 4-5pm - 25 May, 29 June and 27 July**
Costs CSSA and CSSV Members: Free
Non-members: \$12 per session or \$30 for the full series
To book tickets for any of the three dates please visit www.trybooking.com/CHXKH

ROSTERS: Mon 15 th May to Sun 21 st May 2023	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm: Lia U, Kathryn C 9am: Rosa L & Florence J 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Jan R 9am: Peter F 11am: Joan R
Counters	George & Genevieve W, Bindu M
Gardening	Theresa N