

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
A blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring

you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always,
until the end of the world.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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The Ascension of the Lord, –Year A 20th/21st May, 2023

***Almighty Father,
Yours is the power that raised Christ
Your Son from death,
Yours the glory that exalted Him
to Your right hand.
By the outpouring of Your Holy Spirit,
confirm Your Church
in its mission of salvation.
Grant this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.***



FOCUS ON THE WORD The mission of the church is to evangelize. Our *Gospel* reading tells us that before Christ left his disciples physically, he commissioned them to **“go to every part of the world, and tell everyone the Good News.”** The Lord was with them, and they accomplished much good in His name. The passage from *Acts* tells us how they were able to do this. Jesus reminds the disciples of his promise to send his Spirit. Baptized in the Holy Spirit, they have the power to preach in the name of Jesus. **Like love, evangelization is not an option for the church. We are commanded in today’s readings, “Go...you will be my witnesses....”**

LAUDATO SI' WEEK REMINDS US TO CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME Are we responding in a way that is listening to the cry of the earth? Are we considering how our choices will impact the earth and its precious resources? Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si*, #92 – “Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures ” **LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN** Have a look at the Josephites Sisters Action Plan- Explore, Embrace, Embody <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6nQTFfWIZ0> Topic one – Changing Habits. <https://youtu.be/ZiUiH2IOX6Y>. The 2023 campaign focuses on the impact of Soft Plastics – raising awareness and inspiring action to reduce the use of soft plastics and advocate for better recycling at an individual, local, state and national level.

COUNTDOWN TO WORLD YOUTH DAY – 1ST – 6TH AUGUST, 2023 – 10 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 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Mon 22nd May St Rita of Cascia
Wed 24th May -Our Lady, Help of Christians
Thur 25th May St Bede, St Gregory, St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi

*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
PPG CHAIR Carolyn Sombekke
Email: csombekkesjb@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.

The Ascension of the Lord - Year A
20th / 21st May, 2023

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Christopher Walter

Those who we remember at this time:

Angela Sawyer, Luigi Albicini, Lucia Varrasso, Sasty Sastradipradja, Ada Parente, Walerian Koroluk, Lorna Feeney, Antonio Franchi, Karen Stephens, John Bogнар.

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. All welcome.

LAUDATO SI' WEEK REMINDS US TO CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME. In Australia, the Catholic Church will celebrate Laudato si' Week this year from 16 to 24 May with the theme 'Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity'. Inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical Laudato si': On Care for our Common Home—published eight years ago this year—the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has established the **Laudato si' Action Platform**, an online space offering the Church 'tools and resources for the journey towards total sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology'. <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/our-journey-together/> Every successful journey begins with a concrete plan. **1. Enroll** for immediate access to tools including guidance on actions you can take. **2. Plan** what you'll do. **3. Measure** how your actions are making a difference.



DIARY DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS...

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



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 – **Vicente and Elyssa** preparing for the pilgrimage. Today, we are asking for your support of a **special collection to help with the funding of their trip**. Thank you in anticipation of your support in this endeavour. All donations gratefully received.



VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT, 22ND JUNE 2023 Every

night, **122,000+ people are experiencing homelessness in Australia.** St Vincent de Paul Society holds the annual Vinnies CEO Sleepout to raise awareness of the growing issue of homelessness and the care of people who are homeless. Go to <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/> to show your support and check out the Leaderboard.



SEMINARY ENQUIRY DAY at CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE – Sat 27th May, 2023 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? 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. Information: on the Vocations website

'PASSION ON THE BIG SCREEN – A Day @ the Movies with Peter Malone msc' (in-person event), Saturday 17 June 2023, 10 am – 3.30 pm (AEST) We often refer to Jesus as the Word made Flesh. But Colossians I proclaim Jesus as the Image of the Invisible God. Religious images have always been part of spirituality, The 20th century saw moving images emerging on screens, cinemas, television and new modes of streaming. How can we relate to these images as vision for our spiritual lives? Images, symbols, visual metaphors, Christ-figures? We appreciate Lectio Divina. Here we respond to Visio Divina, movie clips, their challenge. Facilitated by Peter Malone msc ~ author, lecturer, founding member of The Film Critics Association and priest. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Cost: \$60 (BYO lunch). Book and pay via website www.heartoflife.melbourne, email info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel 03 9890 1101.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS - 2nd June

Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Mass at 11 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

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.**

WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS WYD Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser Success

Thank you to everyone who got involved in the sausage sizzle fundraiser at Bunnings Bayswater on Sunday May 14. The help from all the volunteers was essential, and we sold 550 sausages **raising over \$1550**. **It was amazing to see our Parish community pitch in on Mothers Day to support Elyssa and Vicente** - our two World Youth Day pilgrims. We are also grateful to the PPG members and the St Vincent de Paul society for their collaboration. Looking forward to more delicious sausages, baked goods and also the raffle on Pentecost Sunday!

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.

DON BOSCO CAMP, SAFETY BEACH – A Catholic winter holiday program for young people,

9-13yo (Junior) Mon June 26th-Thurs 29th and 13-16yo (Senior), Mon 3rd July-Thurs 6th July, 2023 during upcoming school holidays. A fun, exciting holiday for all, regardless of financial circumstances, in a safe and supportive environment. For more information visit www.dbcc.org.au/holiday-camp-bookings or call 03 5987 2692.

ROSTERS: Mon 22nd May to Sun 28th May 2023	
Flowers	Genevieve W & Gina P
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm: Lia U , Kathryn C 9am Rosa L & Florence J 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Louise D 9am: Tery S 11am: Phung B
Counters	George & Genevieve W, Bindu M
Gardening	Theresa N