

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

19: 2 – 6

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp. Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain saying, ‘Say this the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, “You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagle’s wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.”’.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ We are his people:
the sheep of his flock*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

5: 6 – 11

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God’s anger?

When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near;
repent and believe the Good News!
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

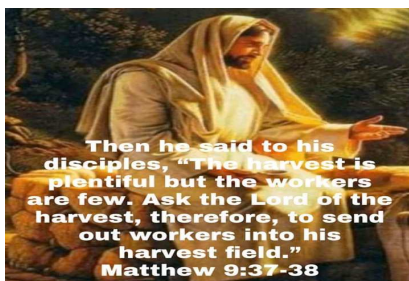
9:36 – 10:8

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.’ He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

‘Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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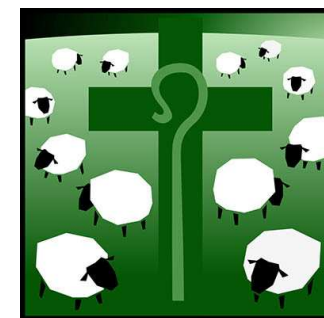
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



11th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A

17th /18th June, 2023

*God our Shepherd,
Have compassion on Your Church,
and call people into Your service
so that we may not be like sheep
without a shepherd.
May the harvest You have prepared
be gathered into your kingdom.
And may we each play our part.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: When Jesus saw the crowds ‘he felt sorry for them’. The Greek original actually says ‘his guts were in a knot’. When Jesus saw a desperate need he found it stomach-churning stuff. Our bodies often tell us what we should pray for. Another good signal is tears, not only of sadness but also of joy. Body-felt impulse and prayer go together, whether celebrating good things or confronting bad things. This is what our Lord wants and, where possible, leading to effective action...labourers in the harvest. So, when our body gives us the signal – stomach in a knot, or tremendous joy flooding into our lives – follow the body’s signals. Pray for the person or the situation concerned. You can be sure that your prayer will be authentic.

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Have you thought? – The labourers are few This passage is often used as the basis for sermons, conversations or even marketing about vocations – vocations to religious life as well as lay vocations. The image of a rich harvest with not enough labourers to reap the harvest is a powerful one. In the Western world in particular today it is very true of priestly and religious vocations. However, it is equally true of lay vocations. *Too few people are prepared to ‘own’ their faith and live the message of the gospel in their day to day work and interactions with others. In what way are you a labourer in the harvest? What are you sent to do??* © 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 Mon 19th June St Romuald Wed 21st June St Aloysius Gonzaga
Thurs 22nd June Sts John Fisher & Thomas More, St Paulinus of Nola
Sat 24th June The Nativity of St John the Baptist

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.

**11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,
17th / 18th June, 2023**

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Amparo M.Judit. Luigi Albicini, Lucia Abbatangelo, Angelo Mazzone, Salvatore Lo Giudice; Noreen Royle, William Rodgers.

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 – 12.30pm Tuesdays. All welcome.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP 9am-10am, in the Parish Office. All welcome.

WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS 6 weeks to go!

World Youth Day Commissioning Mass
Sunday 16 July - St Patrick's Cathedral
11am - 2pm Please bring your family and friends, parishioners, and benefactors as together we are commissioned by Archbishop Peter as the Archdiocese of Melbourne Pilgrimage to World Youth Day Lisbon.

Are You Retired or Seeking A Deeply Rewarding Ministry to Others? We invite you to join Heart of Life's Taster Session on **Tuesday 20 June 2023, 7pm-8.30pm, via Zoom**, where we'll share with you information on our formation programs to become a spiritual director, pastoral supervisor, spiritual leader and contemplative listener to others. Our programs develop a compassionate, listening heart. The session will include a facilitated reflection session led by formation team members at **Heart of Life Centre** for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation. Bookings via website at <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/taster-session/>

DIARY DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS...

17 June First Eucharist- School
25 June Feast of Saint John the Baptist (special Parish event) please
Remember, there will be **only one Mass at 10am** on this date.



LOOKING FOR A FIRST EUCHARIST GIFT?

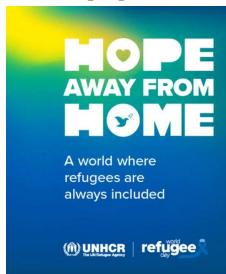
They available to buy, at all masses this weekend our Piety Stall located in the foyer of the church. Come and browse..

FUNERAL SERVICE –for the late **Patricia (Brown) McCutcheon** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Tuesday, 20th June at 10am.**

The ST VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL WINTER APPEAL 2023. A huge thank you to all parishioners who have brought non-perishable food, and/or made a donation to our winter appeal last weekend. The collection raised **\$1,449.65 your generosity will help change lives.** Thank you most sincerely.



World Refugee Day (Tues 20th June) is a time to look outside our own world and to notice people whom persecution and war force to leave their nations. It invites us to consider our own good fortune as we see the misery of people who wander at the mercy of others in their struggle for survival. It appeals to our generosity. **More than 82 million people are displaced today.** This is the highest number since the end of World War II. **World Refugee Day** shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees, helping to mobilize political will and resources so refugees can not only survive but also thrive. This year's theme is **Hope away from Home.** Learn more at: <https://www.unhcr.org/au/world-refugee-day-australia-new-zealand-and-pacific>



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM - June/July 2023

Knox City Council has a fun-filled, creative and affordable range of activities for kids during the Winter School Holidays. Including educational and exciting theatre shows plus musical theatre, craft and pottery workshops! **Bookings essential.** See what's on by clicking this [link](https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/whats-happening/events-activities-and-festivals/events-calendar?category=48) or go to <https://www.knox.vic.gov.au/whats-happening/events-activities-and-festivals/events-calendar?category=48>.

VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT is coming up on **22nd June.** Hundreds of CEO's community and government leaders sleep out to raise funds. You can sponsor one of these brave people at: www.ceosleepout.org.au/sponsor

Congratulations to all the children receiving the Eucharist for the first time this weekend. *Our Parish community wishes you every blessing for this significant step in your Christian initiation.*

CELEBRATION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
Sunday, 25 June 2023
Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
We will be celebrating the PARISH FEAST DAY on Sunday, 25 June at a 10am Mass time.
9am mass and 11am mass will be combined into **one morning mass;** this will give all parishioners the opportunity to attend.
Refreshments in the school hall after the mass.
Parishioners are welcome to bring a plate of finger food to share and assist with the hospitality.
Please attend this very special event celebrating Saint John the Baptist Parish and School

PARISH PASTORAL GROUP NEWS the PPG Brief Report for the meeting of the 7th June 2023 has been placed on the back wall for parishioners to read. Don't miss out on all the news! Check the notice board.

BULLETIN EMAIL SYSTEM CHANGES: Dear Parishioners, our Parish has now up-graded to a **new Data Package**, which ties into our new Archdiocese database called **PACEM**. you may notice a change the way the Parish Bulletin is emailed. **If you are not receiving the weekly bulletin via email, and would like to, please register**<https://www.melbatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj50AAD&req=subscribe> . We thank you all for your understanding as we work through these changes.

ROSTERS: Mon 19th June to Sun 25th June 2023	
Flowers	Genevieve & Gina P
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6pm Lia U & Kathryn C 10am Rosa, Florence Shamindri & Chamal 11am: No 11 am on 25 th June
Lectors	6pm Gab V 10am: Peter F 11am No 11am Mass on 25 th June
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T