

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:49:1-6

Islands, listen to me,

pay attention, remotest peoples.

The Lord called me before I was born, from my mother's womb he pronounced my name.

He made my mouth a sharp sword,

and hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me into a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, 'You are my servant Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; while I was thinking, 'I have toiled in vain, I have exhausted myself for nothing';

and all the while my cause was with the Lord, my reward with my God.

I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ I praise you for I am wonderfully made.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 13:22-26

Paul said: 'God made David the king of our ancestors, of whom he approved in these words, "I have elected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal."

'My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you who fear God, this message of salvation is meant for you.'

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 1:57-66, 80

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son; and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy.

Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother spoke up. 'No,' she said 'he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'But no one in your family has that name', and made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called. The father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And they were all astonished. At that instant his power of speech returned and he spoke and praised God. All their neighbours were filled with awe and the whole affair was talked about throughout the hill country of Judaea. All those who heard of it treasured it in their hearts. 'What will this child turn out to be?' they wondered. And indeed the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew up and his spirit matured. And he lived out in the wilderness until the day he appeared openly to Israel.

The Gospel of the Lord.



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



12th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A

Celebration of St John the Baptist Feast 24th /25th June 2023

O God, who has made this day to commemorate our Patron Saint, John the Baptist, One who went before Jesus, to Prepare the way. Grant to your people, the grace of spiritual joy, and direct path, so that we too might Prepare a way for You.

We ask this, through Christ our Lord, Amen.



John the Baptist Prepares the Way

St John the Baptist, Pray for us.

FOCUS ON THE WORD: Some scholars today suggest that before his own public ministry Jesus was a follower of John the Baptist and that it was John who nurtured the call to ministry within Jesus and encouraged him to respond to that call. Regardless of whether or not this was the case, John and Jesus were cousins and the image that we have from the infancy narratives of Luke is that their mothers – Mary and Elizabeth – were very close and we can assume that Jesus and John were equally close and spent a lot of time together growing up. John's decision to go out into the wilderness to live an ascetic lifestyle must have made a big impact on his cousin. John's ministry was a ministry to the Jewish people only. It was a **call to them to repent and return to God's ways**. The baptism that he encouraged people to undertake was a baptism of repentance – different from our Christian understanding of Baptism. For John and his followers, the call to baptism was a call to acknowledge one's wrongdoing and, through the baptism in the river Jordan, to be cleansed ready to recommit living in right relationship with God. When John announced Jesus as the one coming after him, he recognised that Jesus would take John's own ministry to a new level. Whereas John's message was for the Jews alone, the message of Jesus was for all people – Jew and Gentile alike. John's simple existence – apparently surviving on locusts and wild honey – is in stark contrast to the feast of the reign of God that Jesus heralds. Rather than John's call to prepare the way of the Lord, Jesus called all people to *live* the way of the Lord. © 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 Sat 24th June

The Nativity of St John the Baptist

Tues 27th June

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wed 28th June

St Ireaneus Thur 29th June

Sts Peter & Paul

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: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal: Kelli Johnston
Email: kjohnston@siferntreegully.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.

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,
Celebration of the Feast of St John the Baptist
24th /25th June, 2023

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Carmela Di Donato

Those who we remember at this time:

Antonietta Satori, Giuseppe Cecchin, Shar Aherne, Maria Van Den Boogaard, Anne Daelmans, John Greene, Peter Halliday, Innocenzo Abbatangelo.

The sick: Barry Beavis, Elsie Johnson, Peggy Spencer, Alan Alcock, Ann Good, Ben McLacy, 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 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 38 days to go!

In August this year, more than 500 young people from Melbourne will arrive in Lisbon, Portugal, for World Youth Day. This will be the first time the event has been held in Portugal, a country with a rich and multilayered history.

With its history of exploration and empire-building, Catholic devotion and Muslim occupation, Portugal has been shaped by both distinctively Arabic and distinctively European influences. Portugal is a predominantly Catholic country, with 80 per cent of its citizens identifying themselves as such. In Portugal, there are 21 dioceses and 4380 parishes. Tourist sites in the area include: **Sao Jorge Castle** (St George's Castle) human presence on the hill can be traced back to the 8th Century BC, and **Lisbon Cathedral**- construction of which began in 1147. Excavations in the cathedral cloisters have revealed ruins dating back to the Romans.



FUNERAL MASS–for the late **Carmela Di Donato** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Wednesday, 28th June at 11am.**

SYNOD WORKING DOCUMENT On Tuesday evening, the Secretariat of the Synod published the *Instrumentum Laboris*, or working document, for the first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops – commonly referred to as the Synod on Synodality. The first session will take place this October; the second and final session is scheduled for October 2024. Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and a member of the Synod's preparatory commission, said it had been an extraordinary process to get to this point, with Catholics across the world helping shape the working document. 'Countless people have invested their hopes, their prayer, their time and their energy in helping the entire people of God consider how we can share in the mission entrusted by God to the Church,' he said. 'This is the latest, and an enormously significant, milestone in a journey which has spanned several years. It represents both an invitation and an opportunity to remain engaged in prayer, reflection and ongoing discernment with all that has emerged so far in what has been an unprecedented worldwide consultation.' 'The three central themes for this Synod of Bishops – communion, mission and participation – remain at the heart of this document. We are being invited to adopt them as a fundamental lens through which we can evaluate all we are doing. 'You can read more at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/church-leaders-in-australia-welcome-synod-working-document>

MANY ARE FEELING THE PINCH. HOW ARE YOU COPING? During periods of high inflation and interest rate rises, sound financial management becomes more crucial than ever. Creating a strict budget, reducing non-essential expenses, and focusing on debt repayment can help families navigate these challenging times. However, these tactics can only go so far, making it imperative for broader economic solutions to these macroeconomic pressures. If you are feeling the pinch, Majellan Media have a number of podcasts on helping families manage their finances. [Listen to Derek Bowlen's episode on family finance](#) or tune in to our [Financial Series with Serina Bird](#).

TEMPORARY USE OF CAR - URGENT NEED An heroic lady who is a recent widow with significant health issues requiring ongoing medical treatment, and who is caring for 2 adult children with disabilities. is in urgent need of a reliable vehicle in good order - if possible as a loan of 2 to 3 months. Her own car has "died" and is not worth repairing. And her story, if it was told, is an extraordinary mix of courage and heartbreak. Do you know someone who might help? **Any additional insurance required will be covered. For further information, contact Fr. Kevin Dillon on 0421 777 360 or frkdillon@outlook.com.au.**

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 THIS SUNDAY 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

BULLETIN EMAIL 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 via this link.** <https://www.melbatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000L0j50AAD&req=subscribe> We thank you all for your understanding as we work through these changes.

STEPS TO the Referendum online forums Tues, June 27, 2023 to August 29, 2023 Initiatives of Change Australia is hosting 'Steps to the Referendum' online forums, which encapsulates learning and sharing in the lead up to this year's Referendum for a Voice to Parliament. More information is available at: [Steps to the Referendum online forums | IoFC Australia](#)

ROSTERS: Mon 26th June to Sun 2nd July, 2023

Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 9am Joanna C & Thelma B 11am: Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm Jan R 9am: Gordon V 11am: Cynthia M
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J
Gardening	Carlos E