

## FIRST READING

**A reading from the second book of the Kings** 4:8-11, 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

**The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans** 6:3-4, 8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus. '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 are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.*

*Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew** 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.'

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.'

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.'

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**Knox Deanery**

**19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156**

**Phone: 9758 1029**

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**Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au**



**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A**

**1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023**

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday**

*O God,*

*You ask little of us.*

*Please help us give each other the*

*"cup of water" we all need.*

*Give us desire ad your knowledge and insight*

*to fix all the problems we have,*

*Let us not ignore those souls that thirst.*

*We ask this, through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



Today, on the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we join the Australian Bishops and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council in celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. As Australians, we are fortunate to share our home with the world's oldest continuing culture. On this day, we honour and acknowledge God's presence in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, who have upheld their rich and diverse cultural traditions for thousands of years. We give thanks for the deep and enduring legacy of these ancient peoples and their contributions to our Continent.

Together, let us continue to cultivate a spirit of unity and respect for all cultures and traditions within our community.

**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** Jesus says, 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water' disciple spreading the gospel, then their ultimate reward is assured. To give 'a cup of cold water' or 'a cold drink' to another person was the most basic act of hospitality or service. It is a metaphor for doing the absolute least service to another. Jesus is saying that **even the most trivial act of service** that recognises the work of the disciple will be welcomed and acknowledged. It suggests that **'practical loving kindness' is both the test and the result of discipleship.** © 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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

**FEAST DAYS Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> July St Thomas**

**Tue 4<sup>th</sup> July St Elizabeth of Portugal**

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> July St Anthony Zaccaria**

**Thur 6<sup>th</sup> July St Maria Goretti**

*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  
mail: 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 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.

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,  
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday  
1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

Beverly O'Connor

**Those who we remember at this time:**

Ann Dempsey, John Greene, Anne Daelmans, David Waters, Margaret Irving, Caterina Fratino, Antonia Pallotta, Carmine Porcaro.

**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 – 12.30pm Tuesdays. All welcome.

**MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP** is taking a break over the school holidays, and will resume on

**FUNERAL MASS**—for the late **Beverly O'Connor** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 11.30am.**

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FEAST DAY-THANK YOU ALL.** What a great celebration we had last

Sunday at the combined 10am Mass to celebrate our Patron St. John the Baptist. It was wonderful to see the church full, and the great turn out in the hall for the refreshments afterwards. A huge thank you to all who helped in so many ways, with the Mass, readings, music, welcoming, etc, as well as all who set-up the Hall, washed dishes and packed up the hall, warmed food, served tea/coffee and worked together to make the day such a success. God bless you all.



**FR THOMAS' ANNUAL LEAVE** On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, we say farewell to Fr Thomas as he heads off on his well-earned holiday. During his absence, we are blessed to welcome Fr Sebastian, (recently retired from Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater) to celebrate Masses for us. **Thankyou, and welcome Fr Sebastian; safe travels Fr Thomas!**



**WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS** There are now less than 3 weeks to go until the first group of Melbourne pilgrims fly out for World Youth Day (WYD) Lisbon. This year's delegation is one of the largest to travel from the Archdiocese of Melbourne, with more than 500 pilgrims preparing to gather with Pope Francis and a million other young people from around the world. Over the weekend, members of the Melbourne WYD leadership team gathered for their final session of the *Essentials in Christian Leadership* series. Speaking at the session, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reminded the 130 leaders gathered to continually reflect on the purpose of going on pilgrimage. **'Every pilgrimage has a purpose, an intention.** Like Mary, who as we know "arose and went with haste" to her cousin Elizabeth, this pilgrimage is an opportunity to live our lives with a sense of direction and to share God among us," he said. "We are pilgrims on the way of Jesus Christ," said the Archbishop. "This is our identity. And then from there, we are "pilgrims assisting pilgrims". He encouraged the leaders to start up their own prayer list, asking, "Who do you want to take with you as you make this pilgrimage? Who do you want to pray for?"



**CATHOLIC MISSION** propagation of the faith was held last weekend. The amount Raised was \$902.60 Below, please see the heartfelt thanks from Catholic Mission.

Thank you for your generous partnership with life-changing mission programs, like supporting Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sisters and their work through the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic in Venilale, Timor-Leste.

Your gift is helping the Sr Carolina continue to provide life-saving treatment and access to resources on health and well-being. Your gift also supports mission programs around the world that reach out and give life to those in most need.

To learn more about the impact of your support, visit [catholicmission.org.au/our-work](http://catholicmission.org.au/our-work), where you can also sign-up for our regular newsletter.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please do so at [catholicmission.org.au/timor](http://catholicmission.org.au/timor). Your action will make a real, lasting impact.

Free call: 1800 257 296  
[catholicmission.org.au/timor](http://catholicmission.org.au/timor)

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS - 7<sup>th</sup> July**  
Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10am. Mass at 11am.  
Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass

Each year, Catholics from all corners of Australia gather on **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday** to celebrate the unique gifts and contributions of Australia's First Peoples. This year's theme, "A New Life in Christ" reflects the hope and promise of a brighter future, rooted in unity and shared commitment to positive change. As we commemorate this special day on the Liturgical Calendar, we invite you to listen to our voices and walk alongside us on our journey towards progress. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday symbolizes our unity as one people in Christ.

**IMPORTANT PROJECT NEWS** on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023, Fr Thomas, Rev Peter Stringfellow, the Parish Finance Committee, the Parish Pastoral Group & Parish Secretary, met in the school staff room, together with our School Principal Kelli Johnston, Deputy, Ursula De Corrado and representatives from Crosier Scott Architects to discuss a building proposal for the school. The focus of discussion at this meeting being the Master Plan, and a grant of \$3m dollars for building works within the school. Crosier Scott have identified the problem of our Parish Hall being landlocked within the school grounds, giving poor access during school hours, and the need for a new school classroom block. After listening to several options, consensus was reached, that the Parish would agree, in principle, to swapping the Parish Hall, which is in need of significant maintenance, for the School Library, which will become the Parish Hall, and the existing Parish Hall will be demolished, to make way for a new purpose-built schoolroom complex and resource room. Doing this will allow for easy access to the Parish Hall, with better mobility access, as well as reduced financial strain related to required Hall repairs, and would create well defined school and Parish Zones, leading to better safety for children, and better access to the hall for parishioners. A letter of recommendation has been completed and we are awaiting the final decision to be made by the Vicar General. In the meantime, you will have noticed that work has commenced on a fence and gate, that will ensure the safety of students, during school hours. It will create more parking for parishioners, and those accessing the Parish Hall and Church. We will still have access to the playground for parking on the Weekends, and for Funerals.

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> July to Sun 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2023</b>	
<b>Flowers</b>	Anne P & Connie B
<b>Linen</b>	Sue N
<b>Welcomers</b>	<b>6pm</b> Peter G & Wilma H <b>9am</b> Joanna C & Thelma B <b>11am:</b> Anna M & Priya H
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>6pm</b> Louise D <b>9am:</b> Caroline Q <b>11am:</b> Bonnie H
<b>Counters</b>	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
<b>Gardening</b>	Carlos E