

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zechariah
9:9-10

The Lord says this:
'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ *I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to
the Romans 8:911-13

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones
the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what I pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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14th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
8th /9th July 2023

**O Lord,
You know our humanity well,
and all the trouble we can get into.
So, Jesus, we come to You.
Please show us Your heavenly Father,
who loves every hair on our head.
Let us learn from You, follow You,
and find rest in You.
We ask this, through Christ our Lord, Amen.**



FOCUS ON THE WORD: When we hear the term, *yoke*, we tend to think about the yoke that is used to harness oxen together or the yoke that someone might carry on their shoulder to balance a heavy load. This yoke across the shoulder was adopted into tailoring and so the shoulder piece set into a shirt is also called a yoke. However, in the Jewish tradition there is a completely different meaning to the term. The yoke of a rabbi was his particular interpretation of Torah (the Law); his particular teaching. Disciples who followed a particular rabbi sought to take on his yoke; his particular interpretation. Jesus invites us to shoulder his yoke and learn from him for he is gentle and humble in heart. The yoke he invites us to shoulder is the deceptively simple teaching: love God and love your neighbour. To love God is to consciously make a place in our lives for God. The busy spin that tends to be characteristic of so many people's lives today does not allow room for God; does not allow room for prayer and quiet; does not allow room for compassionate response to others. To love God and love our neighbour we must first make room for them. © 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 Tues 11th July St Benedict, abbot Thurs 13th July St Henry
Fri 14th July St Bonaventure

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@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.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A,
8th /9th July, 2023

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

Maria Wirth, Lola Payne, Terry Whelan Frank Sainato, John Caulfield, Porzia Mazzei, Margaret Hudson, Luigia Ferroni, Alba Sasso, Monica Youngson.

The sick: Lia Unmack, Kellie King, Barry Beavis, Elsie Johnson, Peggy Spencer, Alan Alcock, Ann Good, Ben Mc Laey, 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, will resume in the Parish Office **from 11th July. All welcome.**

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 the Parish Website at <https://stjohnthebaptist.net.au/newsletter/> and click on the Subscribe for newsletter box. Then you will receive an email asking you to confirm your subscription. Once you have done this you should receive the bulletin each Friday afternoon.

A WARM WELCOME TO FR SEBASTIAN during Fr Thomas's leave, we are blessed to **welcome Fr Sebastian, who will be celebrating all the weekday & weekend Masses for us.** Please come and support him during his stay with us. Thank you for your service to our community... Please Enjoy your stay Fr Sebastian!



We have received a text advising that FR THOMAS has arrived safely in ROME. Safe travels!

WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS 24 days to go!



In August this year, more than 500 young people from Melbourne will arrive in Lisbon, Portugal, for World Youth Day. **Here at St John's a special candle will be presented to Vicente (Elyssa has already started her journey) on Saturday 15th July, together with a blessing**, signifying our support and prayers for their journey to Lisbon.

PILGRIMS WILL BE COMMISSIONED BY Archbishop Peter Comensoli at a Commissioning Mass on **Sunday 16th July, 2023 at 11am at St Patrick's Cathedral.**

LAST WEEKEND, AT THE BEGINNING OF NAIDOC WEEK - Catholics came together across the country to mark Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, a chance to celebrate the contributions made by First Nations people. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli marked the occasion as part of the 11am Mass on Sunday 2 July at St Patrick's Cathedral, which included the gifting of a new message stick to the Cathedral from the Aboriginal Catholic community of Victoria.

'I am honoured to be here to represent the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria and recognise that we are on the sacred land of the Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin Nations,' said Sherry Balcombe of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria.

'The Creator chose Aboriginal people to take care of this land; our lore was to sustain and nurture all that had been created. My ancestors have forever danced and sang the creation stories proclaiming the sacredness of the gift given by the Creator Spirit.' 'We are proud to gift our beautiful Cathedral this special message stick,' said Sherry. 'By accepting this message stick, you commit yourselves to respecting the ancient Dreaming, which has been part of the spirituality of Australia since the incarnation of Christ, and it is the Aboriginal way of touching the mystery of God.' The artwork on the new message stick was designed by Melissa Brickell, a long-time supporter of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria. The artwork includes an image of the Eucharist, a flame representing Christ, and dots and circles to represent Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people coming together, explained Sherry. It is envisaged that the new message stick will be displayed near the entrance of the Cathedral in the coming months.

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to *Nora & Harlen Read, children of Justin & Krystine, and Aria & William Fitzpatrick, children of Michael & Aelita*, who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



YOUTH CHOIR – AGES 12-25yrs. We are delighted that **Vicente & Fiona** are arranging a meeting in the Parish Hall after the 6pm Mass Next Saturday 15th July. **So, all you singers/musicians out there, are invited! Please come along to meet each other and enjoy some PIZZA AND SONG!** Enquiries: **Vicente 04204 450 604 or Fiona 0411 841 074. Sign up today!**



TODAY IS SEA SUNDAY, when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we rely on for daily living. Even during a pandemic, seafarers continue to bring into our ports products that sustain our population and economy. **Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea**, is the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. To assist this Catholic ministry, please send your donations to: <https://stellamarisaustralia.org/sea-sunday-appeal/>

AUSTRALIAN TOUR OF THE RELIC STATUE OF ST JOHN BOSCO, July–September 2023 The relic statue of St John Bosco, better known as Don Bosco, will be touring Australia as part of the celebrations of the **centenary of the arrival of the Salesians on Australian soil.** The Salesians first set foot in Australia at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 30 March 1923. The wax replica of the saint is contained in a glass casket and comes from the Salesian Province of Hong Kong, where it was made by Gianpiero Zoncu at the time of Don Bosco's beatification in 1929. A small piece of brain from the saint was removed and placed in this wax replica before being securely concealed in the large glass casket. To learn more and see all the dates go to the link below: [Relic statue of St John Bosco to tour Australia | Melbourne Catholic](#)

ROSTERS: Mon 10th July to Sun 16th July, 2023

Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Myra N, Wilma H 9am Terry, Neil & Lorraine, Peter C 11am: Priya H, Help needed
Lectors	6pm Rosina L 9am: Terry S 11am: Joan R
Counters	Peter G, Peter C & Florence
Gardening	Carlos E