

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God,
Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

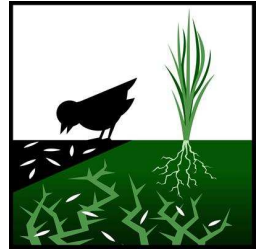


ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Knox Deanery
19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156
Phone: 9758 1029
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
15th /16th July 2023

**God of Creation,
Help us to Listen, and understand.
Tend to our souls.
Render them fertile and fruitful.
And please, send us out
to plant your Word
within the entire world.
We ask this, through Christ our Lord, Amen.**



FOCUS ON THE WORD: The teaching of Jesus is grounded firmly in the Jewish world of the 1st Century. For most of his listeners, that world was an agricultural one and so the stories Jesus told were about the everyday realities of peoples' lives. He told stories about vineyards, wheat fields, building houses, planting seeds and reaping harvests. The imagery he used was drawn from the lived experience of those he taught. Jesus used a style of storytelling that was popular at the time: parable. A parable is a story with a moral or a lesson. A parable usually involves an extended metaphor and, at its heart, is teaching the listener about how to live or how to behave. Another feature of parables is that they can be understood at different levels. At one level, there is the **literal meaning** of a parable – what it says is what it is about. In today's gospel, the parable of the sower can be read or heard as a literal story about sowing seed and the lesson one might take from it is to be careful where you throw the seed when sowing. At another level, parables have a **metaphoric meaning**. The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that **the 'good soil' can't always be predicted**. Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, **he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere** and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest. © 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 Thurs 20th July St Apollinaris Fri 21st July St Lawrence of Brindisi
Sat 22nd July St Mary Magdalene

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@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.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
15th /16th July 2023

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Annette Drew

Those who we remember at this time:

Amy M. Judit, Giulio Rech, Margaret Haines, John Bekkers, Jim Feeney, Adrianna Bekkers, Robert Whittle, Elena Sgarbossa, Jack Turner, Thomas Barrons

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 a great way to pray for your children, join us in the Parish Office, 9am-10am.

BULLETIN EMAIL Dear Parishioners, **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.**

 **EMMAUS COLLEGE** **EMMAUS COLLEGE INFORMATION evening. For Parents of Children in Years 3-5. School Tours – 6.30pm followed by a Presentation at 7.15pm. For Tour Bookings or more information, visit the college website at: www.emmaus.vic.edu.au**

LOOKING TO INVEST SOME MONEY? CDF is offering **5.55%pa, on a 12-month term** investment. Visit <https://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer> to open an account.



WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS This coming Sunday, 16th July, at 11am is the **Commissioning Mass** for Melbourne's World Youth Day pilgrims at **St Patrick's Cathedral**. Gathering in full force, **our young people will be blessed and sent forth by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli**, ready to begin their pilgrimage to Portugal. As the days count down, we hear about how some of our local parish and school communities have also been blessing their pilgrims and preparing to send them on their way, and about their hopes for World Youth Day 2023. 61 parishes, 57 schools and 16 communities and movements will be represented in the Melbourne pilgrimage group of close to 600 people **Prior to this, here at FTG, Vicente will be presented with a special candle** and given a special blessing at the **6pm Mass, Saturday 15th**.

FORUM ON THE "VOICE TO PARLIAMENT"

REFERENDUM Do you feel you know enough about the upcoming Voice to Parliament Referendum? **Would you like the chance to explore its implications and ask questions?**

If you are seeking more information or understanding this is the forum for you. It will be presented by **Dr Heather Wearne** who is a volunteer educator with the "Yes 23' national campaign. **Heather is a retired academic who worked in tertiary and secondary education and she has much experience with Indigenous issues.** She will provide background information about the "Uluru Statement From the Heart" and the "Voice to Parliament". She will share her understanding and knowledge about Constitutional recognition and the reasons why it matters so much to many First Nations Peoples. She will speak to the role and function of the Voice to Parliament and discuss what is at stake with the Referendum. Heather will make sure that there will be time to answer your questions and uncertainties about the Voice. **Date and Time: The Forum will be held at St John's Church, 494 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham on Sunday 6th August from 12:00 noon (after the 11:15am Mass) until about 2:30pm. Light lunch provided.**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING Catholic or Learning more about the Catholic Faith? RCIA 2023

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

St John the Baptist RCIA program 2023 will begin in August. It is a formation program open to those considering becoming a Catholic, those who have been baptised in other traditions but who would like to know about the Catholic faith, as well as Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. Please contact the Parish Office to register your interest PH 9758 1029 or email: Mary.makarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au



YOUTH CHOIR – AGES 12-25yrs. We are delighted that **Vicente & Fiona** are arranging a meeting in the Parish Hall after the 6pm Mass This 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!**

AUSTRALIAN TOUR OF THE RELIC STATUE OF ST JOHN BOSCO - Invitation:

Fr Shane Reade, from the Don Bosco Retreat Centre would like to warmly invite all parishioners to spend some time in personal prayer and a celebration of the Eucharist in honour of St John Bosco's relics being at the Don Bosco Retreat Centre on **Tuesday 18th July 2023.** (465 Lysterfield Rd, Lysterfield). Personal prayer is welcome from 6pm and mass will be celebrated at 7pm. **And/Or**

St Joseph's College Ferntree Gully warmly invites you to visit the Don Bosco Relic on **Thursday 20 July, 2023.** We are offering a mass at **6:30pm** in the College chapel followed by light refreshments. The visit of the Relic of Don Bosco is an experience that the Salesians of Don Bosco, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, the Salesian Co-operators, and all Salesian youth ministries and educational establishments wish to share with whoever would like to participate. The visit of Don Bosco's relic provides an opportunity for all to renew their dedication to following Christ, to learn more about this charismatic saint and to pray in the presence of his relic. We look forward to welcoming you to the College to experience this very special event.

Bronwyn Dean - Head of Music and Ministry St Joseph's College.

ARE YOU THINKING OF HAVING YOUR CHILD BAPTISED?

Baptism is the first of 3 Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church. This sacrament of baptism should be celebrated at least 6 months before any of the other sacraments. Would you like to know more?

Do you have any questions? Please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029, or email: marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

ROSTERS: Mon 17th July to Sun 23rd July, 2023	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Kathryn C, Help needed 9am Rosa L, Florence J 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Tess D 9am: Pamela E 11am: Peter J
Counters	George & Genevieve, Bindu M
Gardening	Carlos E