

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom
12:13,16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ *Lord, you are good and forgiving.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

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
13:24-43

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.' He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables, and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Knox Deanery
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16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A

22nd / 23th July 2023

World day for Grandparents & the Elderly

**Loving God,
by Jesus' example, you teach us
that justice is kind and You are Merciful.
Give us Grace, and
a heart of forgiveness.
Let us care deeply for one another,
And let go of anger and injury.
We ask this, through Christ our Lord, Amen.**



FOCUS ON THE WORD: The subject, forgiveness, is hefty enough for Jesus to devote a well-known parable to it. In it, servants ask the master whether they should pull out weeds that have grown up within the wheat-field. **Forgiveness is letting go of an angering injury and giving God a chance to love.** "No," he replies. "If you pull up the weeds you might pull up the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest" (Gospel). So, if you or I have sinned, then we have weeds growing up along with the good that is in us. Would we like that failed part of us to be uprooted? *No*. Instead, **God lets us develop, without destruction, steadily forgiving our weeds.** So, what kind of reality is forgiveness? For one thing, it reverses an attitude at the bottom of entire ancient cultures and still perhaps at the root of modern entertainment. ..If someone harms me or my family (or ...), then I have the right and duty to destroy them. They are bad persons, not good, and no punishment is too severe. Do not get me wrong, this kind of "justice" does in fact work. Take a look at the heroes in movies fighting person to person (in Movies etc..) Justice is established. Everyone is relieved and happy. Except, of course, the bad guy. **Just for fun, pretend that you are that bad guy.** Is there a reason you are committing crimes, ones that merit such punishment? When someone hurts us with their wrongs (or vice versa), maybe we can avoid rushing up to them to rip out weeds. Mixed with all the crab grass there are lovely flowers, and God loves very much all that they are. **Forgiveness is letting go of an angering injury and giving God a chance to love. Wouldn't you like to be loved and forgiven this way?** © John Foley, SJ

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 24th July St Sharbel Makhluף Tues 25th July St James (apostle)
Wed 26th July St Joachim & Anne (parents of Blessed Virgin Mary)
Sat 29th July Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus

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
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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.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
22nd / 23rd July 2023

World day for Grandparents & the Elderly

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Patrick Stewart

Those who we remember at this time:

Concetta Elena Porcaro, Mabel Ming, Eleanor Phillips, Beryl Holsinger, Ettore Luciano, Martin Pelgrim, John Addicot.

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, **Tues 9am-10am**.

BULLETIN EMAIL Dear Parishioners, **If you would like to receive the bulletin via email**, 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 – **Mon 24th July, 2023**, at 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.

FUNERAL MASS –for the late **Patrick Stewart** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Tuesday, 25th July at 11am.**
FUNERAL MASS –for the late **Annette Drew** will be celebrated at **St Joseph's Boronia, Monday 24th July. Rosary 10.30, Funeral 11.00am**

WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS St Patrick's Cathedral.



World Youth Day. In welcoming the pilgrims and their families, Archbishop Peter Comensoli said it was an opportunity for the local Church of Melbourne to gather in the 'mother church' before traveling to Lisbon, Portugal for the 16th International World Youth Day. Melbourne pilgrims will represent some 134 parishes, schools and movements from across the Archdiocese, including almost 100 students and 60 teachers from 57 Catholic secondary schools at this World Youth Day gathering. The first group to depart head off on Wednesday 19th July.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
30th June- 2nd July Inner Healing through Meditation on Jesus – Fr Gilbert Carlo – at the Janssen Spirituality Centre Boronia – Ph 9762 6625

Sunday 30th July
National Tree Day. Knox Council has arranged a community event to help plant 3,000 trees, shrubs and ground cover 10am-12pm Mountain Hwy between Cobbitty Crt and Baldwin Ave Boronia. More info and to register go to. biodiversity@knox.vic.gov.au

Friday 4th August Together we walk – Opening the Doors Foundation **Walk-a-thon** find out more at: [Opening The Doors Foundation #Together We Walk \(raisely.com\)](http://OpeningTheDoorsFoundation.com)

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



WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY: Restoring dignity to those who are cast aside. His mercy is from age to age" is the theme of the third edition of the worldwide event, desired by Pope Francis, which will be celebrated on July 23 with a Mass by the Pope in St. Peter's Square. The Day is a time to reflect with and for the elderly, not only as a Church: grandparents also need political support."

COME JOIN THE NEW ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH CHOIR! We had a wonderful first rehearsal session last Saturday 15th of July, and it was great to welcome all our new singers. Everyone had an enjoyable time as we started learning our first new songs and then had a pizza dinner. We plan to have our **next rehearsal this Saturday 22nd** after Mass in the Parish Hall. Feel free to come along and bring some friends! – Vicente.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS Thank you to all who have donated lovely hand-crafted items. Staff at KOGO have contacted us to let you know – "that the people who receive them will be absolutely thrilled!" In response to this, the Friendship Gathering will have a **table of wool, patterns, and information available** at the back of the church **free** to anyone who would like to make some items to donate, to continue to **SPREAD THE WARMTH to the most vulnerable.**

BAPTISM Preparation Team. I am looking to start a group of volunteers to join in taking the Baptism Preparation Program. The preparation program provides instruction, support, and greeting to the families of baptismal candidates in preparation and on the day of the Welcome Rite. Ideally, I am looking for *contemporaries of the parents* that come here to St John the Baptist to have their child baptised. If this is a ministry you could consider or would like more information, please place your name on the signup sheet at the entrance/exit or contact Mary for further information on 9758 1029 or marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

HEART OF LIFE, RETREAT IN EVERYDAY LIFE – Moments of Grace – over five weeks, beginning **Monday, 31 July** and concluding **28 August** (at Heart of Life, Malvern, or via Zoom) Register your interest info@heartoflife.melbourne and we will be in touch to have a conversation. **Cost:** Donation

ROSTERS: Mon 24th July to Sun 6th Aug, 2023	
Flowers	Genevieve & Gina
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Kathryn C, Myra N 9am Terry S, Joanna C, Thelma B 11am: Patrick S & Anna M
Lectors	6pm Alvi M 9am: Peter F 11am: Priya F
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F
Gardening	Carlos E