

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the first book of Kings*

3:5, 7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Lord, I love your commands.*

## SECOND READING

**A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans**

8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

## 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 READING

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

**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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

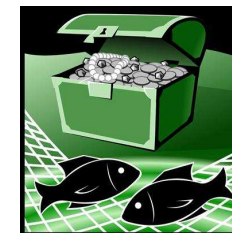
**Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**



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

**29<sup>th</sup> /30<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

*Heavenly Father,  
enfold us in Your gracious care and mercy,  
that with You as our ruler and guide,  
we may use wisely the gifts  
of this passing world,  
and fix our hearts on those things  
which last for ever.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.

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**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 31<sup>st</sup> July St Ignatius of Loyola      Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Aug St Alphonsus Liguori  
Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug Eusebius of Vercelli & St Peter Julian Eymard  
Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug St Dominic      Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Aug St John Vianney

*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](mailto:thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**DEACON:**  
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029  
Email: [Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)  
**PPG CHAIR** Carolyn Sombekke  
Email: [csombekkesjb@gmail.com](mailto:csombekkesjb@gmail.com)

**SCHOOLS:**  
**St John the Baptist** 9758 1013  
Principal: Kelli Johnston  
Email: [kjohnston@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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** 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.

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A  
29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## PRAYING FOR...

*All who have died recently:*

## Those who we remember at this time:

Una Donegan, Rosa Sebastian, Shaun Chapman, Theresa Campion, Maria Teofilo.

**The sick:** 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**. This week we begin our **Wild Goose Series**. A wonderful journey to discover a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. All Welcome.

**MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP** a great way to pray for your children, join us in the Parish Office, **Tues 9am-10am**.

**ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE**

**ENROL NOW**

**Year 7 2025**  
Round 1 Applications  
Close Friday 18 August

**ENROL ON LINE**  
[www.stjosephs.com.au](http://www.stjosephs.com.au)

**REGISTER FOR TOURS ON LINE**



**THE MIRACLE CLUB MOVIE** Ballyfermot, Ireland, 1960. There's just one tantalising dream for the women of Ballyfermot to taste freedom and escape the gauntlet of domestic life: **to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes**. And with a little benevolent interference from their cheeky and rebellious priest, close friends Lily, Eileen, Dolly and Sheila are the 'lucky' few to win this ticket of a lifetime at their riotous local raffle night. **Starring Maggie Smith**.  
**Showing at the Cameo, Sat 29<sup>th</sup> 10.50am / Sun 30<sup>th</sup> July at 11.50am**



## WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> August 23.

Prepare for an extraordinary adventure as millions of passion youth from all around the world come together in Lisbon. You can follow the Pilgrims on Socials by going to: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicArchdioceseofMelbourne/>

Also, **Shalom World**, a Catholic TV channel will be providing **front-row access** to all the excitement and spiritual enrichment right from the comfort of your own home. Either download the free app, or Go to the website: <https://www.shalomworld.org/vyd2023>

Follow for LIVE updates, inspiring talks, transformative workshops, powerful prayer and vibrant performances.

## 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](mailto:Mary.makarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)



**PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS** Coming up on the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2023, at the 11am Mass, we will be celebrating **35yrs** of Passionist Family Groups running within our Parish. aims to build Christian community through the development of extended families. Family Groups create an extended family atmosphere within the community and are open to everyone. The ethos of the Movement is "meeting the heart needs of the people". Our motto is "A Family for all".

**Be Fierce for Fair**

**MARY MACKILLIP today**

**Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop**  
8 August 2023

This August let's walk in the footsteps of Australia's most loved Saint. Let's be fierce in the face of adversity. Let's be fair and act when we see injustice.

Discover how Mary MacKillop Today proudly continues Saint Mary's extraordinary 150-year-old legacy.

Together, let's be Fierce for Fair.

Learn more



**FERTILITY AWARENESS FOR COUPLES** During Natural Fertility Awareness Week, in August, a special, **free webinar** in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled "*Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective*" will be held on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at 7.30pm AEST**. As well as highlighting the male perspective in using the Billings Ovulation Method®, couples will reflect on how it has helped them in understanding their joint fertility, as well as benefiting their relationships and family life. Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility>

**THE WILD GOOSE** Discovering a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. Come and join us on an unforgettable journey around the world and into the very heart of God; in this professionally filmed series, the Presenter is: Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, (Franciscan Friar)

**Where: St John the Baptist Parish Hall**  
**When: Tuesday Mornings from 10.30am – 12.00pm.**  
**Beginning from 1st August 2023 for 4 weeks until 22nd August.** Stay for a Shared lunch and Fellowship afterwards.



**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 sign up sheet at the entrance/exit or contact Mary for further information on 9758 1029 or [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE STUDY OF SCRIPTURE?** If you are interested, you are invited to join the Scripture Study Group at the Divine Word Missionaries Janssen Spirituality Centre, 22 Woodvale Rd, Boronia. The Group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 10:00am to 11:30am. We are beginning a new study, the Letters of St Paul, using the New Collegeville Bible Commentary Series, starting in August. No prior experience needed! Enquiries: Peter Cowan (Group Facilitator) – 0438 662 095 or 9736 1763 Fr Sunil Nagothu SVD (Director of JSC) 9762 6625

ROSTERS: Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> July to Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 2023	
Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Carol D'S
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 9am Joanna C & Thelma B 11am: Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm Jan Roffey 9am: Gordon V 11am: Cynthia M
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R