

FIRST READING

*A reading from the first book of the Kings
1 Kings 19:9, 11-13*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Romans 9:1-5*

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

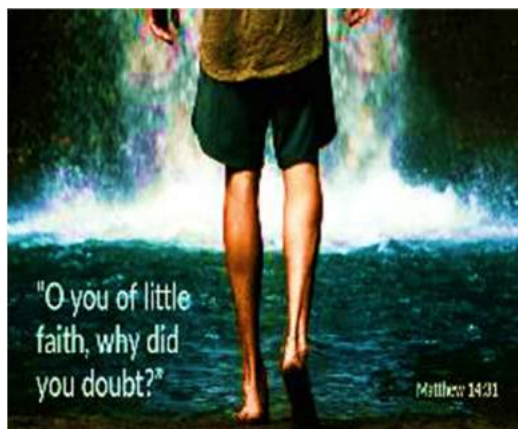
*Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
14:22-33*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

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



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A

12th /13th August, 2023

Catholic Care Appeal

*O God of all power,
Your sovereign word
comes to us in Christ.
When Your Church is in danger,
make firm our trust;
When Your people falter, steady our faith.
Show us in Jesus Your power to save, that we
may always acclaim Him as Lord, who lives and reigns with
You, forever and ever. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: Keep Rowing!

The disciples had started off from the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, familiar territory. Jesus guided them through the stormy situation to 'the other side', the pagan side, unfamiliar territory where they would not have felt at home. Buffeted by storms, the Church is in the midst of a journey from familiar to unfamiliar territory. Some of the storms include a new attitude to authority, to gender roles. There is anger and suspicion at sexual abuse and its cover up. Many of our contemporaries are openly hostile or contentedly indifferent. In all these situations and many more, Our Lord will not allow us the indulgence of nostalgic yearning for the safety of the past country inhabited by the Church. We are not to throw Tradition with a capital 'T' overboard. To jettison the spirit-led experience of the Church over two millennia will not help us. Discerning tradition from nostalgia, we must make our way to the other shore.

We could pause for a moment, resolving to row with courage because we know we are in the same boat as Peter whom our Risen Lord assures: 'Do not be afraid.' © Fr Michael Tate.

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 14th Aug St Maximilian Mary Kolbe

Remember: 15th August: Feast of Assumption – A Holy Day of Obligation. Mass 9.15 & 7pm

Wed 16th Aug St Stephen of Hungary Sat 19th Aug St John Eudes

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@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.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
12th / 13th August 2023
Catholic Care Appeal

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Bernie Read

Those who we remember at this time:

Basil Daluwatte, Maria Veltri, Waldermar Leos, Adriana Warmerdam, Mary Ryan, Nicola Petracca, Mark Grant, Len Wilson.

The sick: Fame Pelgrim, 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

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**. Week 3 of 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**.

MGL SISTERS DISCERNMENT WEEKEND **Saturday 26 August, 2023 7:00am – 5:00pm** The Missionaries of God's Love sisters are hosting a 'Consecrated Life Weekend'. This is an opportunity for young single women aged 18–30 to spend some quality time with Jesus and discover their calling in life. email the sisters at mgl sisters.melb@gmail.com or call 0478 627 056.

POSITIONS VACANT: Parish Positions

- Parish Secretary - St Dominic's Parish, Melton
- Parish Coordinator- St Jude's Parish, Scoresby
- Parish Secretary-Our Lady of Southern Cross Parish, Clifton Hill



WELCOME BACK FR THOMAS.

We hope that you have had a restful trip and return to us renewed and refreshed. We have missed you!

PARISH CENSUS A parish census will be conducted following the Homily at all Masses over the next two weekends – Sat 19/Sun 20 and Sat 26/Sun 27 August. This will enable us to update our parish records – adding new members of our community and noting changes with addresses, emails and phone numbers. **Census cards/privacy envelopes and pencils will be placed in the pews prior to each Mass, and you are requested to return your envelope in one of the collection baskets.** Your assistance with this important process is very much appreciated. Thank you. 😊

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS This weekend of **13th August, 2023, at the 11am Mass**, we are 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". Please, bring a plate, and join us for a celebration in the school hall after the 11am Mass.



LECTOR'S ROSTER We are about to update the Lector's roster for September, October, November and December 2023. Please contact the parish administration, no later than, Monday, 14 August, of any dates that you will not be available to go on the Lector's roster. Contact details: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or phone 9758 1029. Thank you for your participation in this ministry.

WORLD YOUTH DAY NEWS As of Tuesday 8th August, Melbourne's pilgrims to Lisbon for World Youth Day 2023 will begin making their way home. Pope Francis said, "Now, we can also ask an important question: What will we take back with us as we resume our daily lives? I would like to answer this question with three verbs, drawing from the Gospel we have heard: to shine, to listen, and to be unafraid. WELCOME BACK PILGRIMS!"



FATHER'S DAY - Sunday 3 September 2023 Hello Parishioners, to celebrate Father's Day, I would like to make a PowerPoint, in honour of our dad's. **Please forward a photo of you and your dad, you can be any age and the picture of your dad can be of any time.** The PowerPoint will be displayed after all masses on the 2/3 September. Please forward your photo to marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or bring a hardcopy into the office and we will scan it for you. The PowerPoint will be strictly for the parish only and not used in any other way except for Father's Day.



BAPTISMS We congratulate the following children who will be baptised this weekend: **Chiara Teofilo, Ruth Thompson, Brady Lawson and Marcellus Peters.**
The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

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.
Week 3 Baptism in the Spirit and Fire. Stay for a Shared lunch and Fellowship afterwards. All welcome.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST BOOK CLUB The book club has just completed reading: The Last Voyage of Mrs Henry Parker by Joanna Nell. This is a heartwarming story of a person who is losing her memory and seeking her husband who seems to be lost on the ocean liner. **Our next book is French Braid by Anne Tyler.** If anyone would like to join the book club please contact the parish office. You are most welcome.



MINDFULNESS & MEDITATION – Saturday, 28 August 2023, 10 am – 3.30 pm (in-person). When we are present to the 'now', centredness and relaxation become a natural part of life, and we know how to act from a heart of love. Facilitated by Paola Cheng who is a Spiritual Director, mental health social worker and meditation teacher, this is a day of prayer in the practice of Mindfulness and Meditation. We invite you to bring an open mind and heart to journey with others and within oneself. **Bookings via email info@heartoflife.melbourne or <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/mindfulness-meditation/>?. Cost: \$60 (BYO Lunch) PH 9890 1101**

RCIA - (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)
Are you interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith? Please Contact Mary, Ph 9758 1029 or via email marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

ROSTERS: Mon 14 th Aug to Sun 20 th Aug, 2023	
Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm Myra N & Wilma H 9am Terry S, Neil & Loraine R, Peter C 11am: Priya H & Patrick S
Lectors	6pm Rosina L 9am: Gordon V 11am: Bonnie H
Counters	Byron M, Ruby S & Guil W
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R