

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 56:1-6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. O God, let all the nations praise you!

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 11:13-15,29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord.

SEASON OF CREATION:



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Matt 15.27 Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.

The Season of Creation begins on September 1, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. It is a time of grace that the Church, in ecumenical dialogue, offers to humanity to renew its relationship with the Creator and with creation, through celebration, conversion and commitment together. This year's theme is "Let Justice and Peace Flow."



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A

19th /20th August 2023

*Dear Lord,
give us faith like this brave woman from Canaan.
When we bring You our war, climate,
race and immigrant problems.
Make us stubborn, bold,
Fearless and Creative.
May we too, have our requests answered,
by having great faith in You.
We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: Perseverance! This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table. **The woman's persistence and faith pay off.** Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, **Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request.** It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians, but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes. © 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 Mon 21st Aug St Pius X

22nd August: The Queenship of Mary

Wed 23rd Aug: St Rose of Lima

Thurs 24th Aug Feast St Bartholomew

Fri 25th Aug St Louis & St Joseph Calasanz.

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
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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.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
19th / 20th August 2023

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Michelle Pearson-Neale, Celine Joseph.

Those who we remember at this time:

Michael Solanga, Audrey Uber, Yvonne Petrova, Rosemary Cameron, Conrad McKeeverne, Bartolomina Marotti, Margarete Felicetti, Mary Gannan, Veronica Fox, Sebastiana Orlando, Ludmila Jancar.

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. 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.**

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**
- **Cleaner & Housekeeper, Corpus Christi College : 5-10hrs per week. Carlton.**
- **Audio Technician Radio Maria (Preston)** To Apply for this role please email your CV & Cover Letter to Rev Dr Samuel Randall - Sam.Randall@cam.org.au.

Find out more, and see job descriptions at:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS We are looking for more people to join this movement. **Want to know more?** Watch this video. <https://youtu.be/aMAZRoBDYII>



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. 😊

LECTOR'S ROSTER The Lector Roster has been updated for September to December 2023 and sent to your email. Please get back to the parish office if you missed out. office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au.

WORLD YOUTH DAY A Reflection "Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39) was the key theme for the 2023 World Youth Day that Elyssa and I were honoured to attend earlier this month. It was an amazing and deeply impactful experience which we will both remember for the rest of our lives, and it would not have been possible without your support. From Medjugorje to Fatima to Lisbon, we witnessed the inspiring faith of so many young Catholics from around the world. Listening to Pope Francis' homily and discourses has also helped us grow in our own faith as well as strive to help other young people become involved in the life of our local parish. I look forward to sharing more about our pilgrimage with you all over the next few weeks! **To all you young people: if you are getting FOMO, don't stress!** There's many awesome events coming up like the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) here in Melbourne in 2024. Get hyped! – **Vicente.**



CATHOLIC CARE APPEAL THANK YOU!
CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's Appeal. The amount raised was **\$858.40** because of the generosity of our parish community, CatholicCare can continue to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families in our community have the opportunity to live life to the full. Thank you for helping those in need! For more information, please visit: www.catholiccarevic.org.au



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.



THE WILD GOOSE Discovering a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. Catch up on **Youtube:** By clicking [here](#). 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. **This week is a special week of Prayer for those who wish to receive prayer for baptism of the Holy Spirit.**



CALLING ALL CONCRETERS – HELP NEEDED

We are asking if there might be any parishioners with concreting skills, that would be able to assist us in re-setting our concrete path leading up to the Parish Office ramp. Unfortunately, the tree roots surrounding have pushed up the concrete over time, causing an uneven surface. Please contact the Parish office, 97581029 or Fr Thomas if you would be able to assist us in the repairs.

CALLING ALL BAKERS, The St John's P&F are grateful for the chance to run a **Father's Day Cake Stall** on **Sat 2nd Sept at Scoresby Bunnings.** If you would like to help by contributing some baked goods, please pick up a form from the Foyer with all the details. **Items needed by 9am Friday 1st Sept,** in Parish Hall.

RCIA - (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Our RCIA program will begin shortly please **contact me immediately** if you are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith. Please contact: marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or phoned the Parish Office on 9758 1029

HOMELESSNESS WEEK 2023 which was recently observed between 7th-13th August, brought critical attention to Australia's housing crisis and its far-reaching implications. The week's activities also highlighted the crucial role that organisations play in offering diverse housing options and comprehensive support for the Victorian community. As the national conversation rightly intensifies around housing supply, CSSV (Catholic Social Services Vic) has released a [discussion paper](#), 'Housing as Homes', encouraging creative solutions for using existing housing stock effectively, while emphasising the importance of robust social and community support systems to meet the holistic needs of individuals. Learn more at: <https://css.org.au/publications>

ROSTERS: Mon 21 st Aug to Sun 27 th Aug, 2023	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Lia U, Kathryn C 9am Rosa L & Florence J 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Jan R 9am: Pamela A 11am: Eduardo M
Counters	Peter G, Peter C & Florence J
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R