

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;

and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;

he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

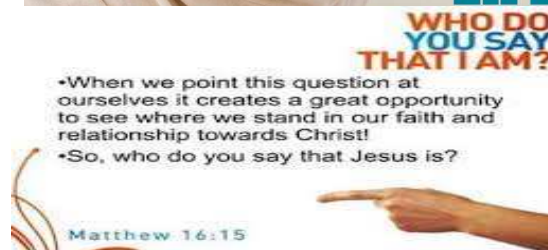
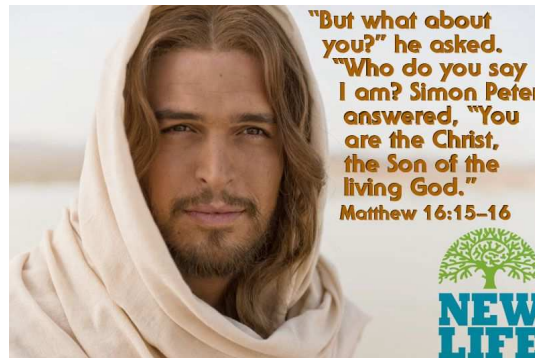
*You are Peter, the rock on which
I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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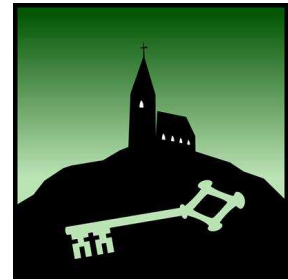
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A

26th / 27th August 2023 - Social Justice Sunday

*God of wisdom,
You have built Your Church
on a firm foundation.
Strengthen our Faith.
May we become living stones,
giving witness to Your Son Jesus Christ,
We ask this, through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD: A furore broke out in a country diocese some years ago about the retreat style of priest who was taking Catholic students in their last year of high school or who were attending university away for weekend retreats. On the Friday night of the retreat this priest would tell the young people that by the end of the weekend they should make a decision about their Christian faith. Some parents were shocked that their young people were given an ultimatum that included the possibility of rejecting their faith. The priest replied that Catholic youth have to make all sorts of decisions regarding career, lifestyle, residence, studies and relationships. Religion, he contended, often fell by the wayside, either not important enough on which to make a decision, or relegated to the personal shelf of neglect to be possibly taken down and dusted off years later for a hatching, matching or dispatching. The priest argued that this wasn't good enough. After 12 years of Catholic education or many years of catechetics **the Church had to take the risk of calling for a personal decision for faith**. Some of the young people consciously chose membership in the Church. In making such a profession of faith many reported having a deep encounter with God and an experience of their faith in Christ. Other students made decisions against belonging to the Church, **which is, of course, never irrevocable**. The entire retreat process was based on the question in today's Gospel: 'Who do you say that I am?' It is Peter who says that Jesus is the revelation of God for the world. This is the great profession of faith and the basis on which the Church comes into being. And what was true then, is true now. At some point, if we want our faith to move from being a code of law, a concept, or some excellent ideas to something we can experience, we must take the faith of the Church.. in doing so we encounter Christ.... © Richard Leonard 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 28th Aug** St Augustine **Tues 29th Aug:** The Passion of St John the Baptist
Fri 1st Sept **World day of Prayer for Creation./ Spring Ember Day (Prayer and Penance)**

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruwila 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.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
26th / 27th August 2023

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY OBSERVANCE

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Bernard Clarke

Those who we remember at this time:

Jennifer Silver, Rodney White, Stan & Kathleen McGough, Giovanni Maccanini, Luigia Colella, Dennis James, Chris Smoulders, Lucy Leatham, Caterina Mazzone, Pellegrina Rossi; Celest Lizza.

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 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 Coordinator- St Jude's Parish, Scoresby**
- **Cleaner & Housekeeper, Corpus Christi College : 5-10hrs per week. Carlton.**
- **Audio Technician Radio Maria (Preston) To Find out more, and see job descriptions at:**

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

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. With many thanks to all volunteers. 😊



PARISH CENSUS A parish census will be conducted following the Homily at all Masses over 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. 😊

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, 27 AUGUST - LISTEN, LEARN, LOVE The Australian Bishop's Social Justice Statement, Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, was launched on 17 August and provides much to consider as we approach Social Justice Sunday 2023. Find information, resources and ideas for celebrating Social Justice Sunday at this link: [Social Justice Sunday - 27 August 2023 - Catholic Social Services Victoria \(css.org.au\)](https://www.catholic.org.au/social-justice)

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS Family groups help people get to know other members of their parish community. Family groups bring together people of all ages and help us involve our children in our Christian sharing We are looking for more people to join this movement. Want to know more? Watch this video. <https://youtu.be/aMAZRoBDYII>

PRIEST RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND The Priests Retirement Foundation runs an annual appeal on the first Sunday of September, Father's Day. **This vital appeal helps us to show our appreciation for our retired and sick priests** Please, bring a little extra, and look out for envelopes around the Church. Your donation supports our priests who have served actively in the Archdiocese of Melbourne but who are now retired or sick. **Caring for those who cared. Thank you so much for your support.**

Embrace the Call to Global Mission Opportunities in Global Development Webinar September 14 @ 6:00 pm 7:00 pm AEST Drawing on the support of Palms, Rofina Aifuan has led a local team to build the capacity of their Community Learning Centre in Balibo, Timor Leste. **Be inspired** by Rofina and current program participants Michele and Anjelica Rankin from Queensland as they reveal this story of life changing cooperation. **Register at <https://palms.org.au/event/discover-global-mission-webinar/>** to find out how to start your story on assignment with Palms at our September 14th Webinar.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE – 2023

Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation Permit No 10175/23
Dear Parishioners, kindly please support this fundraising raffle, by either purchasing a book, or taking one home to on-sell to your friends... **Tickets \$2.00ea, or \$20.00 for a book. Sale starts:** Sat 26th Aug ends Sun 12th Nov 2023. All unsold books **MUST** be return at the 11am mass on 12th Nov, 23. **Draw will be on Saturday 2nd December 2023 at Resurrection Keysborough Parish @ 7:30pm- Great Prizes.....**
1st Prize: New Kia Picanto S Auto Valued @ \$19,890.00 Drive away.
2nd Prize: Gift Card to the value of \$5,000.00
3rd Prize: Gift Card to the value of \$3,000.00
4th & 5th Prize: Gift Cards to the value of \$1,000.00 each **6th & 7th Prize:** Gift Cards to the value of \$500.00 each Please see our friendly ticket sellers in the foyer after Mass.

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. 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 inspired by the Prophet Amos: is **"Let Justice and Peace Flow."** [In his message](#) for the 2023 World Day of Prayer for Creation, which marks the beginning of the Season of Creation, Pope Francis said that the image offered by Amos **'speaks to us of what God desires'** 'God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God's children made in his likeness as water is essential for our physical survival,' he said. 'This justice must flow forth wherever it is needed, neither remaining hidden deep beneath the ground nor vanishing like water that evaporates before it can bring sustenance. 'To celebrate the Season of Creation, Caritas Australia **invites Catholic communities nationwide to attend an online launch on September 4th at 6:00 PM AEST,** offering participants an enriching and informative experience through its **Catholic Earthcare program. FOR MORE INFORMATION** and to register for the free launch event, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/CJUOQ>.

ROSTERS: Mon 28th Aug to Sun 3rd Sept 2023	
Flowers	Genevieve W & Gina P
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H, Matt V 9am Joanna C & Thelma B 11am: Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm Gab V 9am: Gordon V 11am: Peter J
Counters	Peter G, Peter C & Florence J
Gardening	Theresa N & Help needed please