

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

R/. The Lord is near to all who call him.

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians 1:20-24, 27*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether
by my life or by my death. Life to me, of
course, is Christ, but then death would bring
me something more; but then again, if living
in this body means doing work which is
having good results – I do not know what I
should choose. I am caught in this dilemma:
I want to be gone and be with Christ, which
would be very much the better, but for me to
stay alive in this body is a more urgent need
for your sake.
Avoid anything in your everyday lives that
would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.



**The First shall be last,
and the Last shall be first.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 20:1-16*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of
heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak
to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an
agreement with the workers for one denarius a
day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at
about the third hour he saw others standing idle in
the market place and said to them, ‘‘You go to my
vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.’’ So
they went. At about the sixth hour and again at
about the ninth hour, he went out and did the
same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out
and found more men standing round, and he said
to them, ‘‘Why have you been standing here idle
all day?’’ ‘‘Because no one has hired us’’ they
answered. He said to them, ‘‘You go into my
vineyard too.’’ In the evening, the owner of the
vineyard said to his bailiff, ‘‘Call the workers and
pay them their wages, starting with the last
arrivals and ending with the first.’’ So those who
were hired at about the eleventh hour came
forward and received one denarius each. When
the first came, they expected to get more, but they
too received one denarius each. They took it, but
grumbled at the landowner. ‘‘The men who came
last’’ they said, ‘‘have done only one hour, and you
have treated them the same as us, though we have
done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.’’ He
answered one of them and said, ‘‘My friend, I am
not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one
denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to
pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I
no right to do what I like with my own? Why be
envious because I am generous?’’ Thus the last
will be first, and the first, last.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
23rd / 24th September 2023
National Day for Migrants and Refugees

*Holy Father,
How generous is Your love for us.
Hear the prayer of Your people
and help us to work
unceasingly in the vineyard for
the coming of Your kingdom.
We make this prayer through
Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE WORD This parable always makes me uncomfortable since I identify with the
workers who came early in the morning and find myself saying, ‘**It’s not fair,**’ and then ‘**God’s not fair**’ –
which is exactly the point of the parable. God is not fair! God doesn’t measure things out according to what
is deserved. **God simply gives generously.** In my classes when I teach this parable I have students take the
various roles and then imagine and enact what might have happened later that night in the local tavern. The
feelings run high. Some want to work for this master again. Others aren’t sure that he will act the same way
in the future. He might have foolishly so overpaid the latecomers that he is short of money in the future. It all
seems very haphazard. Others want to form a union and negotiate set wages for set times. **Which just goes
to show once again that God is not like us, or should I say, we are not like God.** The words of Isaiah offer
an appropriate response to this parable: ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways,’
says the Lord. Jesus begins the parable with the words, ‘This is what the reign of God is like’ (Matthew avoids
the name of God and uses ‘heaven’). Taking Jesus’ words seriously he describes **a ridiculously generous
God who doesn’t give what is earned or deserved but uses some other criteria.** God’s criteria are God’s
own selfless love. This concept of God’s ridiculously gracious love humbles me. It’s beyond my
comprehension. Like most people I know, I have a suspicion that I’ve got to earn love – human or divine.
That someone could simply love me! But this is what the parable asks us to consider. The reign of God is not
something we earn or deserve through our own efforts. The ‘Kin-dom’ is God’s gift. © Mary Coloe

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	Sun 24th World Refugees & Migrants	Tue 26th Sept	Sts Cosmas & Damian
Wed 27th Sept	St Vincent de Paul	Thurs 28th Sept	St Wenceslaus & St Lawrence Ruiz
Fri 29th Sept	Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	Sat 30th Sept	St Jerome

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
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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.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
23rd / 24th September 2023
National Day for Migrants and Refugees

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:
James McDonald, Ray Loel, John Ryan, Genowefa Haeyen, Leonilda Parrella, Bill Kelly



The sick:
Eamon Smith, 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, 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 will have a break over the school holidays, and resume 3rd October, 2023.

POSITIONS VACANT: Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne


- Discipleship Specialist - Marriage and Family Accompaniment – East Melbourne
Catholic Development Fund
- Product Support, CDF pay – East Melbourne
Parish Positions
- Parish Secretary-Our Lady of Southern Cross Parish, Clifton Hill
- Administration Assistant, Richmond
- Parish Secretary, Niddrie
- Parish Secretary, Corio

MARCH FOR THE BABIES Will you join us in Melbourne's Treasury Gardens, 1pm on Saturday 7th October. To stand up for babies and their Mums?

NATIONAL DAY FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES .
On **Sunday 24 September, the 2023 Migrant and Refugee Sunday Mass** will be celebrated at 3pm at St Patricks Cathedral by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and the migrant chaplains, preceded by a **Rosary at 2pm in various languages.** People will also be able to experience the richness of the **South Sudanese choir, who will be singing during Mass.**
Click here to read Pope Francis Letter about this topic.



HELP NEEDED. The Parish/School Hall will be used as a venue for the Referendum Voting on Saturday 14th Oct 2023. We would like to have a **Parish Fund-raising cake stall** on this day. If you are able to help with the baking of cakes, slices etc, or on the day, we would appreciate your support. Please contact the Parish Office this week or see Sue at Mass this weekend, and we will be able to start the preparations. Many thanks... 😊

THE SEASON OF CREATION The Season of Creation on ends on the 4th October. 'Let Justice and Peace Flow' is this year's theme, inspired by  the words of the prophet Amos: 'Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream' (5:24). In this Season of Creation, we are being called to take up our prophetic responsibility in love to spread the word and to transform the ways we are living upon Earth. We must acknowledge our failures to care for creation and embrace God's ways **In what ways can we grow in consciousness of God's gifts and presence in creation? How can we grow in an ecological spirituality, discover and deepen our sense of wonder, praise, joy, and gratitude before God in creation?** Ecological spirituality is one of the seven main goals developed in Laudato Sí and featured on the Laudato Sí Action Platform. <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

FAITHFUL INVITED TO PRAY FOR THE UPCOMING SYNOD. The Vatican is asking all baptised people, regardless of whether they will be in Rome, to participate in **October's assembly of the Synod of Bishops** with their prayers. In a letter directed to all bishops released on 15 September, Cardinal Mario Grech, synod secretary-general, asked the world's bishops **'to pray for the synod and to urge every Christian community in your particular church, especially monastic communities, toward unanimous and incessant prayer.'**

The letter read: 'The synod is first and foremost an event of prayer and listening that does not solely involve the members of the synodal assembly, **but every baptised person, every particular church.**' It continued, 'Indeed, **all are called in this moment to join ourselves to the communion of prayer** and in the insistent invocation of the Holy Spirit so it may guide us in the **discernment of what the Lord asks today of his church.**' The cardinal's letter includes a blessing to be recited at the end of Sunday Masses on 24 September and 1 October, the two Sundays before the assembly opens on 4 October, and a series of prayer intentions for the church, bishops and other participants in the assembly, theologians, young people and all Christians.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY NEWS Dear Parents the Children's Liturgy will have a break during the school holidays for three weeks from weekend 16/ 17 September to 30Sept/ 1 October. I wish you all a pleasant break with lots of blessings.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE – 2023
Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation Permit No 10175/23
Raffle Tickets are still available. **Tickets \$2.00ea, or \$20.00 for a book Sale ends** Sun 12th Nov 2023. Please support this fundraiser, see our friendly ticket sellers after Mass. Thank you. 😊

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S EMERGENCY APPEALS – Morocco / Libya Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals. **Donate at: www.caritas.org.au or call 1800 024 413**

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP An Australian Pilgrimage prepared by the Sisters of Saint Joseph to help you enter more deeply into Mary and Julian's stories and Spirituality. Starting in Melbourne. **17—28 Oct 2023** | Bookings & Enquiries: (02) 8912 4818 or Email: national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au

NEW PATH for the Parish Office We are thrilled to advise that the new and improved concrete pathway to the Parish Office is now completed and ready for use. A huge thank you to AJ Sem concrete for a job well done.

2024 STUDY TOUR JOURNEY with Paul: **Türkiye -Greece 20 Sept—6 Oct 2024** Tour Leader: Dr Rosemary Canavan
Online Information Sessions: Saturday 16, 23 September, or 7 October 2023 at 2.00 pm. Participants have the opportunity to undertake a study unit with CTC in conjunction with the tour for credit towards an award. RSVP & further information: rosemary.canavan@ctc.edu.au

Catholic Theological College An ONLINE SERIES RETURNS in October 2023 of our popular online lecture series, **Engaging Your Faith.** Fourteen stand-alone sessions on a range of themes will be presented by members of our lecturing staff. For full details Book and pay directly through our website.

ROSTERS: Mon 25th Sep to Sun 1st Oct, 2023	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Kathryn C & Myra N 9am Terry S, Joanna C & Thelma B 11am: Patrick S & Anna M
Lectors	6pm Alvi M 9am: Pamela E 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Theresa N & Help needed please