

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Remember your mercies, O Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: 'His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the

name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



FIRST FRIDAY MASS Friday 6th October, at 11am.
Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am.
Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.



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



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
30th Sept/1st October 2023
St Vincent de Paul Observance

*Precious Jesus,
Please change our hearts,
and change our minds
to always say yes to you.
Help our feet to follow
our words.
We make this prayer through
Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE WORD This week's gospel passage is one of many within Matthew's gospel that show Jesus at odds with the religious authorities of his day. The picture of the religious leaders that comes through Matthew's gospel is one of hypocrisy. Jesus is frequently portrayed as criticising the leaders for holding too strongly to the letter of the law and ignoring the spirit of the law and the call to compassion. This week's passage has Jesus seeking the opinion of the chief priests and elders on a hypothetical situation (a common style of debating a point of law in the Jewish tradition). He describes two sons; each asked by their father to go and work in the family vineyard. The first says 'No' but later does his father's bidding. The second says 'Yes' but doesn't follow through on his commitment. Jesus is criticising the religious leaders of his time who, with their words, said 'Yes' to God but by their actions said 'No'. He most certainly would have upset the leaders by telling them that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the kingdom of God before them. Whilst these tax collectors and prostitutes were regarded by the religious authorities as 'sinners' beyond redemption, Jesus holds them up in the image of the first son of the story. Although they may have said 'No' to God through their poor choices, ultimately they are saying 'Yes' to God in their acceptance of Jesus and the message of the kingdom of God. On the other hand, the leaders have said 'Yes' to God publicly through abiding by all the religious laws and maintaining a 'religious profile' but in their hearts and actions they have not truly said 'Yes!' Q. Which character in the gospel story do you relate to? Why?
Q. In what ways have you ever said 'Yes' with your words but 'No' with your actions? © 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 2nd Oct The Holy Guardian Angels
Wed 4th Oct St Francis of Assisi Thurs 5th Oct St Faustina Kowalska
Fri 6th Oct St Bruno Sat 7th Oct Our Lady of the Rosary

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.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
30th Sept / 1st October 2023
St Vincent de Paul Obervance

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Anna Maria Bimbi

Those who we remember at this time:
Paul Fernandes, Vincenzo Sasso, Jim Healey, Leonilda Parella, Pamela Bentham.

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**. **SAVE THE DATE** We have a special guest speaker coming on 17th October, Brother Johnson.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP will resume on **3rd October** 2023. Please come and join us to pray in the Parish Office, 9am, Tuesdays.

POSITIONS VACANT: Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Please check the Melbourne Catholic Website at <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies> to see if there are any positions suitable for you!

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region - The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco. We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for **departure in January 2024** to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Australia. Applications close October 31st, 2023. **Send us an enquiry** - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au



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?



Check out our website for more information at <https://www.marchforthebabies.com/>

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 October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, marks the formal closing of the 2023 Season of Creation. St. Francis's great love of God's creation, commitment to peace, global popularity, and ecumenical and interfaith importance all combine to make him an important inspiration for the Season of Creation, one capable of keeping its focus and energy dynamic through the rest of the year. As at the beginning of the Season, **people of faith around the world are invited to participate in an online prayer service on October 4th.** It will be prepared and led by the Season of Creation Ecumenical Youth Committee. **More information and directions for joining it are available at SeasonofCreation.org.**



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY –we will celebrate across Australia and the world on the weekend of **21st/22nd October**.

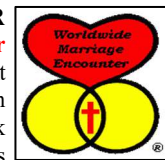
This year, Pope Francis writes in his Message for World Mission Day 2023, "...it should be remembered that breaking our



material bread in the name of Christ is already a work of Christian mission. How

much more so is the breaking of the Eucharistic bread, which is Christ himself, a work of mission par excellence, since the Eucharist is the source and summit of the life and mission of the Church." It is in this spirit that Catholic Mission invites parishioners in every diocese in Australia to join with us again and support our brothers in sisters in Timor-Leste.

A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend is for YOU. "Live Your Best Married Life in Love" The next weekend is on 3-5 November 2023 in Melbourne **BOOK NOW** Please check our website for more details Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or check the Website: wwme.org.au



BAPTISM: We offer our congratulations to **Bryce HENRY** son of Shaun & Majella, who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy!



WEDDING - Congratulations to Eden Foik and Holly Ramsay who were married on Thursday.



Children's Liturgy Team Meeting Our Children's liturgy team will have a team meeting next Saturday, 7 October at 5pm in the Parish Hall. Please come along and be prepared to give feedback and ideas for our Advent workshop.

DEAR PARISHIONERS please **save the date** Sunday 3rd of December 2023 (First Sunday of Advent) for our Advent workshop for all our children to attend with their families. Thank you, Mary.

FUNERAL PRAYERS for the late **Michael Jones** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Thursday 5th October at 11.00am**

FUNERAL MASS: for the late **Anna Maria Bimbi** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Tuesday, 10th October - Rosary 10.30am prior to the 11.00am Mass** .

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED invites all parishes, schools and families to take part in our annual "One million children praying the Rosary," on 18 October 2023. Last year 40,000 Australian children participated. Free resources can be found online including reflections for children and a prayer of consecration for children to the Mother of God. To learn more and to register visit www.aidtochurch.org/onemillionchildren.

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

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., 17-28th Oct. Email: national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au

ROSTERS: Mon 2nd Oct to Sun 8th Oct, 2023	
Flowers	Genevieve & Gina
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm Peter G, Wilma H 9am Johanna C, Thelma B 11am: Anna M, Priya H
Lectors	6pm Jan R 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Priya H
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Roger & Henner