

## FIRST READING

### *A reading from the prophet Isaiah 5:1-7*

Let me sing to my friend  
the song of his love for his vineyard.  
My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.  
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,  
and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built  
a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to  
yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah, I ask you to judge  
between my vineyard and me.  
What could I have done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?  
I expected it to yield grapes.  
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?  
Very well, I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,  
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.  
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;  
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.  
I will command the clouds  
to rain no rain on it.  
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the House of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
that chosen plant.  
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,  
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ The vineyard of the Lord is the House  
of Israel.*

## SECOND READING

### *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians* 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is  
anything you need, pray for it, asking God for  
it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace  
of God, which is so much greater than we can

understand, will guard your hearts and your  
thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill  
your minds with everything that is true,  
everything that is noble, everything that is good  
and pure, everything that we love and honour, and  
everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy  
of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt  
from me and have been taught by me and have  
heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will  
be with you.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

### *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew* 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people,  
'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a  
landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round,  
dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it  
to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near  
he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce.  
But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed  
another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more  
servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with  
them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them.  
'They will respect my son,' he said. But when the tenants  
saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir.  
Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance.'  
So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and  
killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes,  
what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He  
will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the  
vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to  
him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have  
you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became  
the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is  
wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken  
from you and given to a people who will produce its  
fruit.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

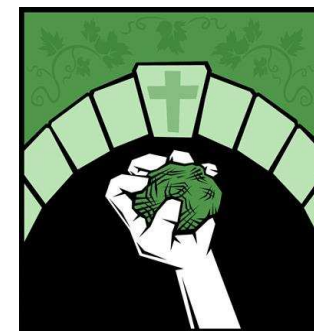


**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**  
**Knox Deanery**  
**19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156**  
**Phone: 9758 1029**  
**Email: [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**  
**Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**



**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A**  
**7<sup>th</sup> /8<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

*Master of the vineyard,  
You have given us  
a fertile garden to care for.  
Send us to sow and nurture,  
Help us find ways to repair our vineyard,  
our common home, and our  
relationship with all who share it.  
We make this prayer through  
Christ our Lord. Amen*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** This week's gospel must be read in conjunction with the first reading (Isaiah 5:1-7) and the responsorial psalm, because the message of these passages is implicit in the parable told by Jesus. As soon as Jesus began to describe the vineyard – fenced around, a winepress dug and tower built – his audience would have immediately known that he was reflecting the Isaiah description of Israel as the vineyard of the Lord. Isaiah's condemnation of Israel in that passage is so strong that one can almost imagine Jesus' audience cringing in anticipation of where this story was leading. The imagery Jesus used would have been so familiar to his audience that it was almost mundane, and yet **Jesus, as usual, gives the image a twist.** He describes a vineyard owner whose tenant farmers rebel, beat and murder his servants. Any one of these acts was punishable by death and the audience may well have expected the story to end there. And yet **the landowner sends further messengers – hopeful of a change of heart from the tenants and allowing them the opportunity to do what is right.** After these messengers are also murdered, the landowner sends his own son to collect the harvest from the tenants. Jesus, of course, is drawing on the familiar image of Israel as the vineyard of the Lord. God, the landowner, has entrusted this beautifully prepared land to the people of Israel and yet they have taken ownership for themselves and forgotten their Lord. Messengers, in the form of prophets, have been sent to call the people back to God but they were ignored and even murdered. Now, the Son has been sent to the people and received much the same response. **When Jesus asks his audience of chief priests and elders what the landowner should do, they are acutely aware that he is asking them how God should deal with them.**

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**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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

**FEAST DAYS** **Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Oct** St Denis & Companions, martyrs, St John Leonardi  
**Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Oct** St John XXIII, pope. **Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Oct** St Callistus

*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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2pm**  
**WILLOWBROOK MASS 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 11am**

**BAPTISMS:** Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

**WEDDINGS:**  
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A**  
**7<sup>th</sup> /8<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*



**Those who we remember at this time:**

Beryl Turner, Antonietta Rech, Rosario Tudisca, Nicola Mazzei, Angelina Furno

**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 **17<sup>th</sup> October, Brother Johnson.**

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

**ADVENT BOOKS -ORDER NOW** Discover the profound spiritual journey of Advent and Christmas with **The Sign: Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2023**—a captivating 80-page book containing spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 December 2023) through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January 2024). Cost: \$5.50 plus postage.

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

**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 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023.

**CANCELLED CAKE STALL.** The Parish/School Hall will be used as a venue for the Referendum Voting on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023. **DUE to the lack of responses, it has been decided to cancel the planned cake stall.** Thank you to the few who had offered to help.

**PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM 2023**



**LAUNCHED NEXT WEEKEND**

Next weekend is the launch of our special Parish Renewal Program. The Program is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a member of our St John the Baptist Parish community. As individuals and as a community, we will be challenged to make a new commitment to our role in parish life – to ensure we provide the human and financial resources for mission, for vibrant liturgy, quality pastoral care and outreach to the needy, as well as maintaining our parish facilities. We encourage you to be actively involved – read the materials, listen to the speakers, and follow the Program with weekly updates through parish website, email, and SMS. We encourage you to reflect, pray and discuss the themes and topics with your family, friends, and fellow parishioners. To launch the Program next weekend, at all Masses we will hear from parishioners on the impact of our parish on them and the importance of being actively engaged in parish life. We will also welcome Stephen Littleton from Parish First who will be assisting the parish with the Program.

PARISH FIRST  
BUILDING BETTER PARISHES

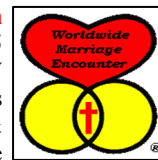
**ENROL NOW! ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

is now accepting inquiries and or enrolment information for the 2025 school year. Limited places are still available for the 2024 year. Please **contact the school on 9758 1013** for further information.



**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** –we will celebrate across Australia and the world on the weekend of **21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> October.** Walk with Sr Carolina as she guides the community of Veniale to good health. <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/see-our-work-in-action>

**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: [www.me.org.au](http://www.me.org.au)



**BAPTISMS** – We offer our congratulations to **Billy Nolan** Son of Brendan & Kirsty; **Evelyn Gee**, daughter of Matthew & Sarah; & **Kayla Hillier**, daughter of Kane & Claire, who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of 0God welcomes you with great joy.



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

**ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE: MASS FOR THE DECEASED LOVED ONES** each year St Joseph's College holds a memorial Mass praying for their deceased loved ones. We warmly invite all members of the St Joseph's College & wider community to please join us on this day: Date: **Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> October, at 7pm-9pm, at St Joseph's College Chapel, Ferntree Gully. RSVP to Bronwyn Dean, Head of Music & Ministry, [bdean@stjosephs.com.au](mailto:bdean@stjosephs.com.au)**

**MELBOURNE DAYTIME RETREAT LEAD BY Br JOHNSON.** Come one, come all and receive the blessing, healing and the love of our faithful God. Br Johnson is a Catholic lay preacher and founder of the JCLM Ministry – Jesus Christ is Lord Ministry, web: <https://jclmglobal.info/> is leading a spiritual retreat **here at St John the Baptist Prayer Group on Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Oct, from 10.30am - 1.30pm.** He is blessed with the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit. We invite you to attend and bring along with you the sick, broken, lonely, depressed, poor & hopeless to hear the preaching and teaching of the word of God, and to receive healing. **Faith Moves Mountains. Matt 17**

**A "Big Thank You"** to everyone for your best wishes after my recent fall, and for your care and comforting words at the time. A special thank you to those who assisted me in my distressed state. I shall always remember your kindness. May God bless you all. **Dawn G**

**MARCH FOR THE BABIES** Will you join us in Melbourne's Treasury Gardens, 1pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October. To stand up for babies and their Mums? **Check out our website for more information at <https://www.marchforthebabies.com/>**

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Oct to Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2023</b>	
Flowers	Marg H& Judy G
Linen	Sue O
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L & Myra N 9am Lia U & Help needed 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Louise D 9am: Terry S 11am: Shami A
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Roger & Henner