

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20*

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 22:1-14*

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Knox Deanery
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28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
14th /15th October 2023

*Father God,
You have prepared a banquet for us,
And invited us to come.
Clothe us in Your garment of love,
Let us put on Your mind and heart,
And use us to nourish those we meet,
So that many more can enjoy the feast.
We make this prayer through
Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE WORD Commentary by Augustine (354-430): Believers are familiar with the story of the wedding of the king's son and the banquet that followed it, and of how the Lord's table was thrown open to all comers. When everyone was seated "the master of the house came in to see his guests, and among them he noticed one without a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'My friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?'" Now what precisely does this mean? Let us try to find out what it is that some believers have, but which the wicked lack, for that will be what the wedding garment is. Can it be one of the sacraments? Hardly, for these, as we know, are common to good and bad alike. Take baptism for example. It is true that no one comes to God except through baptism, but not every baptized person comes to him. We cannot take this sacrament as the wedding garment, then, for it is a robe worn not only by good people but also by wicked people. Perhaps, then, it is our altar that is meant, or at least what we receive from it. But we know that many who approach the altar eat and drink to their own damnation. Well, then, maybe it is fasting? The wicked can fast too. What about going to church? Some bad people also go to church. *Whatever can this wedding garment be, then? For an answer we must go to the Apostle, who says: "The aim of this instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith." (1 Tim 1:5) There is your wedding garment. It is not love of just any kind. Many people of bad conscience appear to love one another, but you will not find in them "the love that springs from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and a genuine faith." Only that kind of love is the wedding garment. Examine yourselves to see whether you possess it. If you do, your place at the Lord's table is secure.* Sermon 90, l. 5-6: PL 38, 559. 561-563.

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 9th Oct St Hedwig, St Margaret Mary Alacoque **Tues 17th** St Ignatius of Antioch
Wed 18th Oct St Luke **Thur 19th Oct** Sts John de Brebuf, Isaac Jogues, priest & Companions &
St Paul of the Cross.

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
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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.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
14th / 15th October 2023

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Sr. Alice Gleeson pvbm (101yrs)

Those who we remember at this time:

Brian Walker, Joseph Tran, Norma Platt, Kay Daraio Margaret Corrin, Vincenzo Catalano, Rosemary Power.

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 This week we have a special guest speaker coming on 17th October, Brother Johnson. Our meeting may go a little later, til 2pm.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP. Please come and join us to pray in the Parish Office, 9am, Tuesdays.

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.

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.

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



LAUNCH OF OUR PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM

This weekend is the **LAUNCH** of our Parish Renewal Program, and we would love you to be involved! The Program is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a member of our St John the Baptist Parish community. Over the next three weeks we will consider themes central to parish life. You will hear from speakers at Mass, and you can follow on our parish website and through regular updates via the school newsletters, email and SMS. Stephen Littleton from Parish First is coordinating the Program and we are appreciative of his assistance. This weekend members of the Program Leadership Team will speak with us at all Masses and don't forget to pick up a copy of the special Program brochure before you leave Mass – you may also have received a copy by email or seen it on the parish website this week.



PARISH FIRST
BUILDING BETTER PARISHES

THOUGHTS FROM OUR PROGRAM LEADERSHIP TEAM

Q: Why is celebrating our faith as a parish community important to you?

“Celebrating as a faith community enables me to become one in heart and mind with others at Mass. We listen to the words of Scripture, celebrate Eucharist and together, renewed and revitalised, go out to live and share our faith.”

“Showing my children how to follow Jesus is important to me – how to come together at Mass as part of our faith community on a regular basis.”

“It is a gift to be shared in the good and bad times as a community of faith.”

POPE FRANCIS SAYS

“The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel” Evangelii Gaudium 114



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.

THANKYOU KNITTERS a bag of a variety of colourful knitted and crocheted items has gone off to KOGO. To replenish our wool supply, donations of balls of 8ply wool would be appreciated – please place them in the K.O.G.O bag in the church foyer. Many thanks! 😊

FUNERAL MASS –for the late Sr. Alice Gleeson pvbm, who was in her 72 year as a Presentation Sister, will be at the **Star of the Sea College Chapel, Presentation Place Brighton** on Tuesday 17th October at 11am. More info Contact: [Frances Tobin Funerals by Women](mailto:Frances.TobinFuneralsbyWomen@outlook.com) Ph 9596 8144

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.



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 26th October, at 7pm-9pm**, at St Joseph's College Chapel, Ferntree Gully. RSVP to Bronwyn Dean, Head of Music & Ministry, bdcan@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://jcilmglobal.info/> is leading a spiritual retreat **here at St John the Baptist Prayer Group on Tues 17th 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**

ROSTERS: Mon16th Oct to Sun 22nd Oct, 2023	
Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Carole D
Welcomers	6pm Sue & Anna M 9am Terry & Laurel S & Rosa L 11am: Gina M & Pat O'B
Lectors	6pm Rosina L 9am: Peter F 11am: Cynthia M
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J & Joan R
Gardening	Roger & Henner