

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 45:1, 4-6*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Give the Lord glory and honour.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the First letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 1Thess 1:1-5*

From, Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

*The Word of the Lord.*



**We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.**

1 Thessalonians 1:2

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:15-21*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

*'The Gospel of the Lord.'*

**The HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS HAS CALLED FOR A DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR WORLD PEACE.** Vatican City

Wed, 18<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2023/13.08pm

"I have decided to call for a day of fasting and prayer on Friday, Oct. 27," the pope said. It will be "a day of penance to which I invite sisters and brothers of the various Christian denominations, those belonging to other religions, and all those who have at heart the cause of peace in the world, to join in as they see fit," the Holy Father continued. "It will be a day of penance...Read more CNA [here](#)

**So, here at St John the Baptist Parish, on Friday, October 27th, after 11 a.m. mass, we will have a**

**day of Eucharistic adoration at the church until 5 p.m.** I invite all who are able to come and spend some time in front of the Blessed Sacrament

*praying for world peace - Fr Thomas.*



## **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)**



**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A**

**21<sup>st</sup> /22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

**World Mission Day**

*O God,  
whose image we bear  
and whose name we carry,  
Yours is the world and all it contains.  
Recall us to our true allegiance,  
so that above the powers and rulers of this world  
You alone may claim our fullest loyalty and love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** Religion and politics – always a volatile brew! Today's Gospel shows that this is not a modern dilemma but one faced by Jesus and his first disciples. While we try to live out the values of God's kingdom, we are not divorced from the realities of this world, in fact it is this world that we are missioned to, and living in this world demands that we are political – that is, we are part of the society we live in. Vatican II expressed it like this, 'The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age ... are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.'

Jesus had been preaching revolutionary values about the treatment of the poor and the outcasts. He reminded people of God's way of looking; he spoke of the Kingdom of God, which was a dangerous message when preaching in the Roman Empire, where Herod was considered the puppet King. Jesus' message and his growing popularity with the ordinary Jewish crowds had the possibility of turning society upside down and so some saw him as a social revolutionary. At that time some groups within Judaism were looking for ways to throw off Roman rule and return to having their own independent religious kingdom worshipping God alone – these were the Zealots. The Pharisees in the Gospel set a devious trap. If Jesus says 'No, don't pay the tax,' then he aligns himself with the anti-Roman ideals of the Zealots. If he says 'Yes, pay the tax,' then he sides with Rome's oppression of the people. Jesus turns the tables on his opponents with his response – 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.' Since the image and inscription are about Caesar then the coin belongs to Caesar. But then Jesus adds, 'and to God what belongs to God'. This challenges both the Herodians and the Pharisees to consider what belongs to God.

**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** Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct **WORLD MISSION DAY** Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct St John of Capistrano  
Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Oct St Anthony Claret Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Oct Sts Simon & Jude.

*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: csombekesjb@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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

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

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A**  
**21st / 22nd October 2023**  
**World Mission Day**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

Wilma Neville



*Those who we remember at this time:*

Dennis Buckley, Theresa Starrs, Katy Taylor, Angelo, Giuseppina, Andy & Federico and Silvia Zarro, Damiano, Margherita, Luigi, Cosimo, & Jilda Coviello, Anthony Daluwatte & Krisantha deSilva, Joyce D'Silva, Clera Vaz, Rolla D'Souza, Alfie D'Silva, Arthur Corrin, Renato Felicetti, Brigida Mazzone, Dani Rossi, and Mary Kift.

*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 Jaywardena, 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**. Join us for praise & worship, prayers and teaching and shared lunch.

**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.



**ADVENT BOOKS -ORDER NOW** "The Sign:" **Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2023**—a 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.**

**OUR 2023 PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM**

Welcome to the **Parish Engagement Weekend** of our Renewal Program!

This week celebrates the role of our Parish as a welcoming community of faith – living the values of the Gospel – with a responsibility to use our gifts and talents for the benefit of others. So please be involved in one of our Groups and Ministries – either for the first time or in a continuing role. Your involvement will be personally rewarding and a great contribution to our vibrant parish. Copies of the Groups and Ministries form will be distributed at all Masses this weekend. We will also hear from our Program Coordinator, Stephen Littleton from Parish First, who will share with us information on our range of Groups and Ministries, as well as current parish priorities and finances, ahead of our Commitment Weekend.

**THOUGHTS FROM OUR PROGRAM LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**Q: Why is it important to be actively engaged in parish Groups & Ministries?**

"It takes a village to raise a family! When we engage, our faith becomes stronger, we help others, and we keep our community strong and vibrant. Engagement is faith in action!"

"To give back for all we have received – and by our example, encourage others to do the same. It is being community!"

"My faith has given me so much and being actively involved is my way of giving back."

**POPE FRANCIS SAYS**

**"It is not enough to say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions."**



**P & F Fundraiser:** Order your tasty juicy Kensington Pride Mangoes now. They are packed in a single layer tray and each tray will usually have between 12 and 18 Mangoes, and will weigh 4.5kg. Cost: \$26 per tray. Delivery week is 27 November, we will let you know pick up date closer to the time. <https://www.trybooking.com/CLOWK>  
-Thank you, Michelle Cann.



**THIS WEEKEND World Mission Sunday** is celebrated across Australia and the world. This year, Pope Francis writes in his Message for World Mission Day 2023, "...it should be remembered that breaking our material bread with the hungry 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.**

**FAREWELL FOR CARMEL & RAY** there will be a farewell cup tea/coffee, following the 11am Mass next weekend, 29th Oct, for Carmel & Ray Stackpole, who are leaving St Johns after many years, to move closer to family. Join us to wish them well.



**ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE MEMORIAL MASS** for Deceased Loved Ones on **Date: Thu, 26 Oct 2023. Time: 7pm - 9pm Location: St Joseph's College Ferntree Gully, Chapel** RSVP: Bronwyn Dean (Head of Music and Ministry) [bdean@stjosephs.com.au](mailto:bdean@stjosephs.com.au)

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED** SAVE THE DATE! Aid to the Church in Need ACN AUSTRALIA

**Night of the Witnesses** **Wednesday, 22 Nov 2023, 7.00 pm** at St Patrick's Cathedral. Aid to the Church in Need invites you to an evening of prayer, testimony, song, adoration and reflection to honour the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with Christians all over the world who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Archbishop Peter Comensoli will preside and His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church will be one of the international guest speakers who will share personal testimony of persecution for the faith. We hope you will join us. For more information please visit: [www.aidtochurch.org/notw](http://www.aidtochurch.org/notw)

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 23rd Oct to Sun 29th Oct, 2023</b>	
Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Kathryn C & Myra N 9am Terry S, Joanna C, Thelma B 11am: Patrick S, Anna M
Lectors	6pm Gab V 9am: Pamela E 11am: Eduardo M
Counters	George & Genevieve W, Bindu M
Gardening	Roger & Henner