

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Exodus 22:20-26*

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ I love You, Lord, my strength.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5-10*

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come

from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them  
and we will come to them.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:34-40*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## AS SYNOD WINDS DOWN, MEMBERS URGED TO SOW PATIENCE.



Having discussed synodality, communion, mission and participation over the previous three weeks, members of the synodal assembly began the final segment of their work with talks from Fr Radcliffe, Mother Angelini—the other spiritual guide for the synod—and Fr Rush.

They were to work on a ‘Letter to the People of God’ at the synod’s morning session on 23 October.

Fr Rush told participants that as he listened to discussions over the previous three weeks, ‘I have had the impression that some of you are struggling with the notion of tradition, in the light of your love of truth.’ As synod members continue their discernment, he said, they are urged ‘to determine what God is urging us to see—with the eyes of Jesus—in new times,’ while also being ‘attentive to the traps—where we could be being drawn into ways of thinking that are not “of God”.’

Mass for ALL SAINTS DAY- 9.15am- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Nov  
Mass for ALL SOULS DAY 9.15am & 7pm Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov



**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)**



**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A  
28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

*Loving God,*

*You have taught us that Your whole law,  
is based on Love.*

*Let Your love, be the lens that helps us see,  
And the power that enlivens our lives*

*Keep us mindful of Your deeds of mercy,  
that we may love You with all our hearts  
and love our neighbour as ourselves.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** Like last week’s gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to ‘catch Jesus out’ in his interpretation of scripture. Jesus’ answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn’t about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as ‘Love God’, what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time. There is an implicit, or understood, commandment within the command to love your neighbour as yourself. That is, we must first love ourselves. Whilst to say someone ‘loves themselves’ is used as a criticism of a person who is a bit too vain, that is not what is intended here. If we are to love others as we love ourselves we must first be content and happy with who we are.

**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 Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Nov ALL SAINTS DAY- Mass 9.15am Thur 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov ALL SOULS DAY 9.15am & 7pm Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov St Martin De Porres Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Nov St Charles Borromeo.**

*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 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.

**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A**  
**28<sup>th</sup> /29<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*



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

Daisy Sason-Lim, Danielle Nowland, Maria D'Alessio George Brown, Carmel McGough, Danny Rossi, Angela Simioni, Dean Platt, Camela Mazzeo, Umberto Paternoster.

**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 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.

**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.

**PROCLAIM: INAUGURAL ARCHDIOCESAN GATHERING.**

From 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November, the Catholic Leadership Centre will become a vibrant sojourn to inspire, engage and equip ourselves to go out and proclaim the joy of the Gospel into our local communities. Hear local and international speakers; participate in workshops. For details regarding Program, Workshops and Keynote Speakers visit <https://proclaim.melbourne.catholic.org/> **Register Now: Proclaim 2023 Tickets, Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne, TryBooking Australia**



**OUR 2023 PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM**

**Welcome to the final week of our Parish Renewal Program –the Parish Commitment Weekend.**

Last week we considered our engagement in parish life. How our involvement in parish groups & ministries is central to building parish community – and central to actively living our faith through service to others. This week we turn our attention to parish finances.

**WE ASK FOR YOUR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE PARISH**

What is the current state of our Thanksgiving income? Thanksgiving is traditionally a major source of parish income. It suffered during the COVID-19 years – so we need a significant increase to fund our priorities. This is a challenge – but can be achieved with the support of ALL parish families.

*What does my financial support pay for?*

**Thanksgiving**

- Supporting our parish mission, pastoral care and outreach programs
- Professional parish staff
- The operating costs of the parish – insurance, utilities etc.
- The maintenance of our church and parish facilities

**Presbytery**

- Support for Fr Thomas our Parish Priest
- Support for retired priests through the Priests Retirement Foundation
- Support for less advantaged priests through the Priests Remuneration Fund
- • Support for the Archbishop & Bishops

**How much should I pledge?**

It is now 7 years since we conducted a Renewal Program, so we are asking all families to review and renew their commitments. How do you use your discretionary income – after paying the essentials? Is support of your parish a priority for you? We simply ask that your financial support with a Thanksgiving pledge is a meaningful one in your own individual circumstances

We unashamedly ask those with the greatest capacity to contribute the most – reserving special thanks for those on restricted incomes whose continued support is very much appreciated

**How do I pledge?**

- Use the Commitment form from the Program brochure
- Download the Commitment form from the parish website
- Use the Commitment form available in hard copy at all Masses this weekend – Sat 28 & Sun 29 October
- **Return your completed pledge** at Mass this weekend – or to the Parish Office **no later than Wed 1 November**

**THOUGHTS FROM OUR PROGRAM LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**Q: Why do you think it is important to support our parish financially through our Thanksgiving Program?**

“Our parish cannot operate without our strong, regular financial support. This support is vital for funding our parish mission – our pastoral & outreach initiatives, our professional parish staff, maintenance of our beautiful church and general operational expenses. Remember, if we don't do it – who will?”

“Our commitment to a regular Thanksgiving pledge is not an expense or an impost. It is OUR INVESTMENT in our great parish. It is an offering of thanks to God – and a clear expression that we are committed to the parish – that it means something to us.” “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**

**“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.”**



**FUNERAL MASS** – The Funeral Mass for the late **Wilma Neville** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October**, at 10.30am

**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.



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

**MISSION APPEAL** Thank you for your support of the special collection last weekend. Amount raised was **\$1078.30**

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct to Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023</b>	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 9am Joanna C & Thelma B 11am: Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm Louise D 9am: Gordon V 11am: Peter J
Counters	George & Genevieve W, Bindu M
Gardening	Carlos E