

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Malachi
1:14-2:8-10

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration. Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians
2:7-9, 13

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you. Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father,
your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher:
the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
23 1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord



FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Featuring:
FR DAVID LEMEWU MGL

St Joseph's Church, Chelsea, VIC
Saturday 4th, November
7:15 PM

Join us for a night of entertainment, inspiration, joy, good food, and socializing.

For more info & booking
<https://www.trybooking.com/CMJVF>
cogtheatregrout@gmail.com



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Knox Deanery
19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156
Phone: 9758 1029
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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
4th / 5th November, 2023

God, our Maker,
all people are important to You,
and You despise no one.

Do not let us think we are more important
than others, but make us more like Jesus,
who loved especially those who were rejected.
May we too humbly serve others,
whatever differences we may have.
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD This week's gospel is a lesson on leadership. The gospel writer has Jesus offering a very strong criticism of the religious leadership of his day as exemplified by the scribes and Pharisees. He accuses them of not practising what they preach – a rather familiar criticism often levelled at politicians, teachers and church leaders in our own society today. When the criticism is used today it often implies that if the person fails to practise what they preach then what they have to say carries little weight. But rather than totally rejecting the scribes and Pharisees, **Jesus cautions his listeners to take notice of what they have to say – as their teachings were always grounded in scripture and tradition – but not to follow their example of behaviour.**

Throughout Matthew's gospel we encounter criticisms of the scribes and Pharisees. This example is of the same nature: **they were too caught up with rules and obligations and did not approach life with compassion and concern for the individual.** The community for whom Matthew's gospel was intended was struggling with being both Jewish and Christian. They were coming to realise that to be followers of Jesus' way they needed to cast aside some of the attitudes and behaviours of their Jewish tradition. That applied particularly to the model of leadership that they had inherited from Jesus: **a model of leadership through service, not power and authority.** This gospel passage makes it very clear for that original community as well as ourselves that **true leadership is provided through service to others and through humble action.** Unlike the Pharisees of Jesus' time, Christian leaders are called to do away with the trappings of power and prestige and, instead, be of service to those whom they would lead. © 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 Thurs 9th Nov The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Fri 10th Nov St Leo the Great Sat 11th Nov St Martin of Tours

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
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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.

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A
4th/5th November, 2023

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Fr Bill Bainbridge, Michael Johnson, Margaret Cecchin, Louis Theodore, Agnese Paternoster, Paul Savanah, Gerry Daelmans, Vincenzo Caruso, Eleana Catalano, Pat McCann, Cameron Coney, Pauline Wite, Emily Morrison.

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.

PARISH WORKING BEE All parishioners are invited to join us on **Saturday 18th November from 8am onwards**, for a Christmas Tidy up of our grounds. Please bring your own tools, trimmers/wheelbarrow etc., Morning tea will be provided.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP & CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will have a break this week due to the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.

PROCLAIM: INAUGURAL ARCHDIOCESAN GATHERING.

From 16th-18th 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.melbournecatholic.org/> Register Now: [Proclaim 2023 Tickets](https://proclaim2023.tickets), Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne; [TryBooking Australia](https://trybooking.australia)

SVDP Ferntree Gully Conference You are invited to join members/ volunteers who will be having their end of year meal: **Friday 1st Dec ,23 at: Wantirna Hill Club, 6.30p.m** Please reply: Jenny Keating – 0400 210 727(to indicate numbers) By: Friday 11th November 2023 (at your own cost)



OUR 2023 PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM

THANK YOU for your response to our Parish Commitment Weekend – the final weekend of our Parish Renewal Program. A special THANK YOU to all the parishioners who have already returned their completed pledge commitments and Groups & Ministries responses – either at Mass last week or by return to the Parish Office. Your support is very much appreciated!

If you have not yet done so, additional pledge cards will be available at all Masses this weekend, or you can use by downloading the card and returning to the Parish Office. **Please do so no later than next Wednesday 8 November.** Stephen from Parish First, our Program Coordinator, will be following up by email and phone to confirm intentions from parishioners who have not yet responded – so to minimise that follow-up please ensure you complete and return your commitments this weekend. Please note that your **new pledges will take effect on Sunday 26 November.** Confirmation letters, and where appropriate, new sets of envelopes, will be available at all Masses on the weekend of Sunday 19 November.

We thank you once again for your generous response.

- Fr Thomas & the Program Leadership Team

POPE FRANCIS SAYS

"It's not enough to say we are Christians, we must live the faith, Not only with our words, but with our actions"



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.



VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY Most Rev Paul

Gallagher Secretary for the Relations with States and International Organisations, Secretariat of State, Holy See On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Vatican, Archbishop Comensoli is pleased to welcome His Excellency Most Rev Paul Gallagher and the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia – His Excellency Most Rev Charles Balvo to Melbourne. Archbishops Comensoli, Gallagher and Balvo, together with clergy of the Archdiocese, will celebrate **Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – Thursday 9 November, 5.30pm. All are welcome to attend.**

Next week: Catholic Deaf Appeal. Please bring a little extra if you can.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES Please be patient with us, we are aware that your envelopes are coming to an end, however, because some givers are transferring to various payment methods, **we cannot order new sets until all the final data relating to our Parish Renewal Program is tallied**, and we know how many we will need. **In the interim, please feel free to use a normal envelope**, please write your envelope number, and amount written for Church/ Presbytery and that will suffice until the new envelopes arrive, or, if you are able to pop into the Parish Office, we do have some old envelope sets we could alter for your use. Thank you to everyone for your generous support and understanding.

PARISH OFFICE will be closed Melbourne Cup Day Tuesday 7th November.

ADVENT WORKSHOP – MITCHAM *Using Art to Explore the Advent and Nativity Gospels*
with .Do you struggle to read scripture? Using art, **Fr Elio Capra** will lead us to discover a fresh perspective on the familiar Advent and Nativity Gospel stories. When: **Monday November 20th, 7pm** Coghlan Centre at St John the Evangelist Parish, 494 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham. **Bookings Online:** <https://www.trybooking.com/CMODP> Parish office: 9401 6366 or mitcham@cam.org.au **You are invited!**

REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

November is the month of the Holy Souls where we pray for parishioners, friends and members of our families who have died. We pray that they will live forever with the Lord. As is our custom at St John's, you're invited to write the names of those you would like remembered on our Memorial Cross. For those who would like to have a Mass offered for their deceased relatives and friends, **November offering envelopes are available on the trolleys.**

THE PARISH SINGLES GROUP is organising a Sunday Afternoon tea with a guest speaker—**Sr Pat Fox**. She has dedicated her career and vocation to Social Justice and will be our guest. We will be delighted if you can attend. Refreshments will be provided by our Singles members **DATE: Sunday 3rd December 2023 PLACE: Parish Hall at St John's, FTG. TIME: 2.30P.M- 4.00P.M (break at 3.15- 3.30 for afternoon tea) followed by questions. Gold coin donation for Sr Pat's choice.**

ROSTERS: Mon 6th Nov to Sun 12th Nov 2023	
Flowers	Genevieve & Gina
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L & Myra N 9am Lia U, & Help needed please 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Rosina L 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Joan R
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Carlos E