

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Wisdom 6:12-16*

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 1Thess 4:13-18*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Be watchful and ready:  
you know not when the  
Son of Man is coming.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13*

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

### *The Gospel of the Lord*



*So stay awake, you do not know the day or the hour.*

**PARISH LUNCHEON** - a REMINDER that the Parish Luncheon is on Sun 26<sup>th</sup> November, at 12pm at the Feast, FTG Hotel. Please add your name and details to the sign-up sheet on the glass wall.



**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)



*Lest We Forget*

**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A**  
**11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 -Remembrance Day**

*Brighten Your Church O God,  
With the promise of Your kingdom  
and waken our hearts to its light.  
Let us hasten with faith undimmed  
to greet the bridegroom's return  
and to enter the wedding feast.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** As the end of the liturgical year draws to a close the Gospel message becomes one of urgency. Time is running out. Be alert. Stay awake. Are you ready for the arrival of God's reign? The parable draws on two familiar images for a first century audience. In the Old Testament, the reign of God is frequently likened to a wedding banquet with God as the bridegroom reaching out in love to Israel the bride. On the day of the wedding, all those invited would gather and then the bride would process from her father's house to the house of her fiancé. This would be an opportunity to display her beauty and the wealth of her dowry to the entire village. She would enter the house with her companions to await the arrival of the bridegroom after the festivities. The bridegroom would also arrive in a procession and then the wedding festivities began, this was usually late afternoon. The companion of the bride and groom would escort the groom into the bridal chamber. A last-minute delay could occur if there was some disagreement over the marriage contract and bridal gifts. In the parable some of the bridesmaids have come prepared for a long wait, while others were not ready. After the Resurrection, there was at first an enthusiastic expectation that God's final reign was about to dawn. Some members of that first community no doubt expected to be alive for Jesus' final coming in glory. By the time of Matthew's Gospel fifty years have passed and still people are waiting this final coming. Some are prepared for this, and they have made an effort to have the necessary resources, while others find the waiting too long and their resources dry up. **The Gospel asks me to consider my own resources and what I am doing to ensure that these do not run out, as some of the companions ran out of oil. What resources my faith?** Daily personal quiet time with God, joining with others for reflective reading and prayer, being part of a local worshipping community, reading spiritual books, taking time for a retreat day occasionally and setting aside days each year for a retreat, These are they ways I find that nourish my faith, that provide the 'oil for my lamp'. And yes, this takes some effort - the daily discipline of making time for God.... © Mary Coloe

**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** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November *St Albert the Great, bishop, doctor*  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November *St Margaret of Scotland & St Gertrude, virgin*  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November *St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious*

*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@siferntreegully.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.



**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A**  
**11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*



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

Eufronia Oracion, Camela Piro, Frances Middlebrook, Alonzo Puey, Michael Palandri, Niall Hargreaves, Patricia Danaher, Clorinda Peluso, Ivka Krujac, Judy Sharp, Elvira Macario.

**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.



**MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP** to pray together from 9am–10am each Tuesday (during school term) in the Parish Centre. For enquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** We meet *every Tuesday at 10.15 am* in the Parish Hall for praise and worship, and prayer ministry. Followed by shared lunch. All are welcome.

**FRIENDSHIP GATHERING:** All welcome on Thursdays between 10.15 am and 12.30pm drop in for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while.

**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..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**

**PREP ENROLMENT FORMS FOR 2024 ARE NOW OVERDUE** We request that all parents with Prep enrolments for the 2024 school year

submit enrolment forms in the coming days. If you are aware of friends or family members wishing to enrol at St John's please advise them that enrolment forms need to be submitted to secure a placement. Enrolment forms can be found on the school website or can be collected from the School Office.



**ORDINATION TO THE PREISTHOOD** Rev **Tom Christie:** With joy and thanksgiving, Rev. Tom Christie invites: **Parishioners of St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully,** to attend his: *Ordination to the Priesthood,* on

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, at 10am,** St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne. (No need to RSVP for this Mass. Please note: Mass will finish at approximately 12.00pm.

**COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE – RETURNS** the Raffle is coming to a close & **Sale ends this Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023.** in readiness for the Draw on Saturday 2nd December 2023 at 7:30pm at Resurrection Parish **we need all books and/ ticket stubs returned now please.** Thank you for your continued support, and Good Luck in the draw.

**CATHOLIC DEAF APPEAL- JOHN PIERCE CENTRE:** As we embark on our annual Ephpheta Appeal, we reflect on the meaning of “**ephpheta**” which is to “**be open**”. JPC has had a full year of activity and gathering in our centre where our doors are always open to support the needs of Deaf people and their families. The cost to run such an organisation is substantial and whilst we recognise that people have financial demands in their lives, **if you do have the capacity to make a tax deductible donation at this time, it would be of huge benefit to the Deaf community and our work in supporting deaf people & families.**

**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.



**LECTOR'S ROSTER – 2024** Before the Advent and Christmas rush we would like to update the Lector's roster for next year– the months are for January, February, March and April 2024. Please contact the parish administration by, Monday, 21 November, of any dates that you will not be available to go on the Lector's roster. Contact details: [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au) or 9758 1029- Thank you for your participation in this ministry.

**SACRAMENTAL CLASSES 2024** Dear Parishioners, the Sacramental classes for children who do not attend catholic schools will begin early February 2024. If you have children ready to make the sacraments or know of any children who do not attend catholic schools and are interested in celebrating their sacraments, please contact [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au) or 9758 1029

**THANK YOU FROM CARMEL & RAY** "We wish to give our heartfelt thanks to Fr Tom and, Deacon Peter as well as to our friends and acquaintances of the parish for the warm farewell and wonderful send off on our recent departure from the parish after a belonging of 46 years. May God bless you all." - Ray and Carmel Stackpole



**BAPTISMS** – We offer our congratulations to **Angus John Urrutia,** son of Mauricio & Stephanie who is to be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you all with great joy.



**PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM REMINDER** A huge thank you to everyone who has completed their Ministry Group forms, and pledge cards. For anyone who has not yet done so, it's not too late. Please fill your details and return your pledge to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Many thanks.

**PARISH WORKING BEE** All parishioners are invited to join us on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



**YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION (YTU) INFORMATION SESSION: Study with us in 2024.** Let's answer all your questions! We'll make it easy for you when you join us online for our information session. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. 5.30pm-6.30pm. Register via Try Booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CMKIL> or phone 9890 3771. Email: [admin@ytu.edu.au](mailto:admin@ytu.edu.au)

**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.** Our memorial Mass for deceased relatives & Friends will be celebrated on **Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Nov at 7pm.**

**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.**

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Nov to Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023</b>	
Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm Myra N & Wilma H 9am Terry S, Neil & Loraine, Peter C 11am Priya H & Patrick S
Lectors	6pm Tess D 9am: Terry S 11am: Phuong B
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Carlos E