

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Proverbs  
31:20-13, 19-20, 30-31*

A perfect wife – who can find her?  
She is far beyond the price of pearls.  
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,  
from her he will derive no little profit.  
Advantage and not hurt she brings him  
all the days of her life.  
She is always busy with wool and with flax,  
she does her work with eager hands.  
She sets her hands to the distaff,  
her fingers grasp the spindle.  
She holds out her hand to the poor,  
she opens her arms to the needy.  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;  
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.  
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,  
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ Happy are those who fear the Lord.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to  
the Thessalonians 1Thess 5:1-6*

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew 25:14-30*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

*The Gospel of the Lord*



**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)**



**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A**  
**18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

*Loving Lord,*

*You have entrusted your people with many talents,  
Each different gift given to build up this world.*

*Give us the courage to use all of these gifts.*

*May each one of us do our part,*

*No shirking, no burying the talents.*

*Let us be faithful, in the small and greater things.*

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



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** Like all of Jesus' parables, this one has a sting in the tail. Although the third servant has done nothing illegal or corrupt, he is very harshly dealt with. **His crime is laziness!** He was given a great opportunity to demonstrate his abilities and yet he shied away and returned to his master exactly what had been entrusted to him, unimproved. The author of Matthew's gospel uses this parable to shock the audience out of complacency. They cannot rely solely on the promised return of the Lord, **they must continue to act on Jesus' message and work to bring about the Kingdom in their own lives.** Those who fail to act, leaving everything to the work of God, are as bad as the lazy servant who failed to grasp an extraordinary opportunity.

Q. Why do people hide their natural talents?

Q. What talent do you have that you could use to make a difference in other people's lives? ... © 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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

**NEW STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES are ready for collection in the foyer of the church.**  
**Please help us save postage, by picking up your envelopes, and letters for those digitally giving. Thank you.**

**FEAST DAYS** *Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November World Day of the Poor – Holy See*  
*Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Nov The Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov St Cecilia*  
*Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov St Clement & St Columban Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov Sts Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions*  
*Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Nov St Catherine of Alexandria*

*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: csombekkesjb@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.

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr A**  
**18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*



Juan Sanhuezi.

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Antonius & Annie Hovens, Herman Hovens, Damien Welch, Jim Maloney, Christopher Seton, Luigia Cecchin, Victor Etienne, Charles Foster, Immacolata Maio, Len Nash.

*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.



**DON BOSCO CAMP HOLIDAY PROGRAMS – SAFETY BEACH**

Three camps will run during the January School Holidays for **young people aged 9-16yrs.** In 2024 the dates are:  
**JUNIOR1:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan – Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024  
**SENIOR:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan – Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2024  
**JUNIOR2:** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan – Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2024 at 52-62 Dromana Pde Safety Beach. Ph: 5987 2692  
<https://www.donboscocamp.org.au/holiday-program>

**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.

**ORDINATION TO THE PREISTHOOD**

Rev Tom Christie: With joy and thanksgiving, Rev. Tom Christie invites: Parishioners of St John the Baptist Parish, Femtree Gully, to attend his: Ordination to the Priesthood, on **Saturday 25th 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.



**CATHOLIC DEAF APPEAL-THANK YOU.** Heartfelt thanks to everyone who was able to contribute to the Catholic Deaf Appeal. **The Amount raised \$677.05.**

**ADVENT BOOKLETS** For those who have ordered are ready to collect – Cost \$5.50 +50c postage.

**DEAR PARISHIONERS** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2023 (First Sunday of Advent) for our **Advent workshop** for all our children to attend with their families. Thank you, Mary.



**PIETY STALL** "As Christmas is fast approaching, we will have **SVPD Christmas cards, Columban Art calendars and some gifts including some for children.** These will be available for the weekends of 25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> November & 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> December at reasonable prices."



**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

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GLOBAL GIFTS.** Each gift represents a donation that will support vulnerable communities to create a brighter future. Order now to receive in time for Christmas at [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.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. 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.**

**BAPTISMS** – We offer our congratulations to **Emily Burrage & Jake Burrage, daughter & son** of Simon & Rachel who are to be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you all with great joy.



**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)

**A SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA WITH A GUEST SPEAKER—Sr Pat Fox, has been arranged by our very own Parish Singles Group.** Sr Pat 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, all Parishioners welcome. **DATE: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED NIGHT OF THE WITNESSES**



**Wednesday, 22 Nov 2023, 7.00 pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne.** 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 *Mary will be attending this even leaving from Ferntree Gully Station to catch the 5:23 train from Ferntree Gully Station, you are most welcome to join in. If you have any queries, please contact Mary: [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)* Further information: [The Night of the Witnesses 2023 - ACN Australia \(aidtochurch.org\)](http://The Night of the Witnesses 2023 - ACN Australia (aidtochurch.org))

**ROAD TO BETHLEHEM.** Bring your family friends and colleagues to experience an outdoor walk-through theatrical presentation that brings to life the true story and meaning of Christmas. 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> Dec at Edinburgh College Lilydale. Bookings: <https://roadtobethlehem.org/comingsoon/>

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Nov to Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023</b>	
Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Lia U & Help needed 9am Rosa L & Florence J 11am Shami & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Alvi M 9am: Peter F 11am: Priya H
Counters	Ruby, Guil
Gardening	Carlos E