

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

34:11-12,15-17

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

1 Cor 15:20-26,28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

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

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – Yr A

25th / 26th November 2023

Observance: Youth Sunday

Almighty God,

You have conferred upon Christ Jesus

sovereignty over every age and nation.

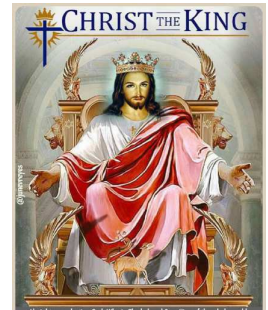
Direct us, in the love of Christ,

to care for the least of our brothers and sisters,

that we may be subject to His dominion

and receive the inheritance of Your Kingdom.

Through Christ, our King and our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD We have now come to the end of the liturgical year, the point that marks the transition from one period to another. Today we see that **the kingdom of God is inclusive**. Its embrace is as comprehensive as is the embrace of God. Criteria for membership are not based on obedience to the commandments or on conformity to ritual obligation, but on the bonds of love and concern. **What we do for others, we do for Christ**, because Christ is identified with those in need. We very seldom see the face of the glorified Christ in the faces of the needy; it is more often the face of the disfigured Christ that is turned to us. We see his fear and his shame, his brokenness and sense of loss. As difficult as it may be to look into such eyes, it is precisely the needy with whom Christ is identified. Having entered into the frailty of human nature, identified himself with the needy, and handed himself over to death, in the end Christ will have conquered all. It is a curious kingdom that he has won, a kingdom of the weak rather than the strong. He has turned the standards of the world upside down. He has shown that it does not take strength to ignore or to exploit the needy, but **it does take strength to overcome our own selfishness in order to serve them**. The kingdom that Christ hands over to God is a kingdom of love and care. © Dianne Bergant CSA

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

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 26th November *World Youth Day (Diocesan Celebration) – Holy See & 3*
International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. Thursday 30th Nov St Andrew -apostle

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 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.

Our Lord Jesus, King of the Universe – Yr A
25th / 26th November, 2023
Observance: Youth Sunday

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Barry Beavis

Those who we remember at this time:

Detto Peveira, Joseph Mirauda,, Margaret O'Rourke, Patricia Pape, Clive Royle, Ilva Tassoni, May Ferguson, Noreen Hilet, Kathleen Sage, Francesco Calligiuri.

The sick:

Eamon Smith, Fame Pelgrim, , 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 will not meet this Tuesday to enable members to attend a Funeral. We will resume next Tuesday, 5th December at the usual time of 10.15am.

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.

KOGO A huge thank you to all our knitters for the knitting. Just a note to let everyone know, that **Kogo has a break over the Christmas Period, and won't be accepting items at that time, so the collection bag will be removed from the Foyer on 3rd December.** Prior to this date, feel free to drop off completed items or collect any wool, to take and knit over the break. The collection bag will come back again in the New Year. Happy Knitting!!

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.** 4th -7th Dec at Edinburgh College Lilydale. Bookings: <https://roadtobethlehem.org/comingsoon/> or Phone: 9264 7770

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



FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR -Supporting the communities of Scoresby & Rowville – POSITION VACANT: St Simon's Parish in Rowville & St Jude Parish, Scoresby (working across two parishes) are **seeking to hire a Finance Administrator.** The Finance Administrator enhances the quality of service provided by the Parish and local community, wider stakeholder groups and the Archdiocese. The purpose of the Finance Administrator is to actively steward the Parish and take responsibility for the day to day financial and asset management tasks and the management of the payroll for the Parish. This will be a part-time role, working 3 days per week (days and times are flexible). To find our more and apply please go to: <https://melboumecatholic.org/job-vacancies/stewardship-administrator-st-simons-parish>

FIRST FRIDAY MASS (with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick) – Friday 1st December at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST - ADVENT WORKSHOP Just one more week to go, to the First Sunday of Advent .**Sunday, 3 December at 12midday** we will be holding an Advent Workshop for all our children and their families. Please bring the children to the **school hall** for some advent activities. Refreshments will be available, you are most welcome to bring a plate. See you there!

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 25th/26th November & 2nd /3rd 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 or 9758 1029

SUMMER FIESTA 2023 Come and join the young people of Melbourne on **Thursday 30th November (6:30-9:00pm)** for a night of fun, music and prayer as Archbishop Peter A Comensoli leads this special Six30 Holy Hour at St Patrick's Cathedral, followed by a summer barbecue, live music and fiesta to celebrate the year's end. More information available at <https://udisciple.melboumecatholic.org/events/summerfest>

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

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Anthe Wickramasinghe son** Anthony & Rochelle who will be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you all with great joy.

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 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.**

SEMINARIANS PREPARE FOR ORDINATION THIS SUNDAY on Saturday 25 November, three deacons—Rev Thomas Christie, Rev Peter Nguyen and Rev Tien Tran—will receive the sacrament of Holy Orders at St Patrick's Cathedral. Jean-Sébastien Géry will also be ordained to the transitional diaconate, the final step before priesthood.

FUNERAL MASS –for the late **Barry Beavis** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Tuesday, 28th November – at 11.00am, then on to Lilydale Lawn Cemetery following the Mass.

Each year the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** is celebrated on **25 November.** This year it is particularly significant because it coincides with the **National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children** (National Plan). The plan goes beyond exhortation and good intentions to offer a project to eliminate violence against women and children in a generation. It will be followed by two detailed five-year action plans, backed up by set targets and reviews. Crucially, it enjoys the support of federal and state governments. Click on the links above to find out more or see more on the United Nations Website. .

ROSTERS: Mon 27th Nov to Sun 3rd Dec 2023

Flowers	Marg H, Ange C
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6pm Peter G, Wilma H, Matt V 9am Johanna C, Thelma B 11am Anna M, Priya H
Lectors	6pm Gab V 9am: Gordon V 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Ruby, Guil
Gardening	Carlos E