

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are Our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name.

Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any God but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are Our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Lord, make us turn to You,
let us see Your face
and we shall be saved.*

#AdventTrivia

WHAT DO WE REMEMBER EACH WEEK OF ADVENT?

<p>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HOPE</p> <p>It is sometimes called the "Prophet's Candle" in remembrance of the prophet, Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation for the coming Messiah.</p>	<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE</p> <p>The second candle, also purple, represents peace. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.</p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY</p> <p>It is called the "Shepherd's Candle" and is pink because it is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete and is marked in general with the joyful, pink "Shepherd's Candle" as the shepherds have reached the midpoint of Advent.</p>	<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE</p> <p>On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Lord. It is called the "Rose of Sharon" as the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.</p>

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ.

I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord, show us Your mercy and love,
and grant us Your salvation.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 8th December End of Year Whole School Thanksgiving Mass 11.00am - All Welcome
Thurs 14th December Year 6 Graduation Mass - 5pm.



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



First Sunday of Advent – Yr B

2nd / 3rd December, 2023

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

O God,

As light comes from this candle,

May the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,

Warming our hearts and

brightening our way.

May Christ our Saviour bring life into

the darkness of this world, and to us,

As we await his coming. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD Advent is a season best lived in a wakeful way. Pope Francis has



characterised it as 'a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history.' Every year we prepare for Christ's final return by preparing to celebrate his birth, all while reminding ourselves that he is already present. This season is therefore a time in which every Christian is called 'to listen to the Lord who knocks', as the Pope put it. Jesus is knocking already; it is we who need to wake from our slumber and spring into action. The Church isn't a waiting

room. **We need to do more than sit and wait. While a season of expectation, Advent is also an annual reminder that the Christian adventure is already underway! Which is what being 'on guard' really means.** It is not a negative sort of guardedness, closed off from the world. Rather, the gist of Jesus' message is about readiness, preparedness, awareness. As Pope Francis says, this means we should strive to avoid being 'overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality' © Nick Brodie

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 Sun 3rd Dec *Advent Begins. Liturgical - Year B* Mon 4th Dec *St John Damascene*
Wed 6th Dec *St Nicholas* Thurs 7th Dec *St Ambrose*
Fri 8th Dec *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruvila 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
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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.

1st Sunday of Advent – Yr B
2nd / 3rd December, 2023

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Rev. Gerard Patrick Dowling (91yrs)
Stephen Karl Koski



Those who we remember at this time:

John Masterson, Laura Fabrizio, Leopoldina Newton, Ethel Arrowsmith-Bluett, Albert Porcaro, Dominico Presti, Pasquale Parente, John Dillon, Daniel Hurley, Michele Fini, Syd Commons; Maria Bekkers.

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 meet in the Parish Hall at 10.15am for a cuppa and beginning the meeting at 10.30. All welcome to share in the Praise & Worship and Prayers. Some members will later see the Movie: Journey to Bethlehem, 2pm at Boronia Metro Cinema. All 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.

KOGO. 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/>

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST - ADVENT WORKSHOP 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!

POSITIONS VACANT: Parish Positions

- Parish Secretary- St Macartan's Mornington
- Finance Administrator - St Simon's Parish, Rowville
- Pastoral Worker - St Judes and St Simons Parish,
- Parish Coordinator - St Joseph's Parish, Malvern, Holy Eucharist & St Mary's Parish, Malvern East & St Roch's Parish, Glen Iris <https://melbourecatholic.org/job-vacancies/stewardship-administrator-st-simons-parish>

FUNERAL MASS for the late Stephen Karl Koski will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Wednesday 6th December – at 1pm

PIETY STALL SALE "As Christmas is fast approaching, we will have SVDP 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 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

Reverend Gerard Patrick DOWLING OAM DE passed away at Justin Villa, Balwyn, on 26 November 2023. He was aged 91 years. Announcing his death, Vicar General Joe Caddy said, 'Fr Dowling served the Church in a very positive and pastorally enriching manner, giving fine example and leadership to both his brother priests and the community for 65 years. The Archdiocese is most grateful for his untiring service to the Church of Melbourne. A gifted counsellor and "radio priest", Fr Dowling shared in many activities of the Archdiocese.' You can read more at: Melbourne Catholic: [Melbourne's 'radio priest', Fr Gerard Dowling...](https://www.melbourecatholic.org.au/news/melbourne-catholic-melbourne-s-radio-priest-fr-gerard-dowling) | Melbourne Catholic

MOVIE: JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM [See Trailer](#) A young woman carrying an unimaginable responsibility. A young man torn between love and honor. A jealous king who will stop at nothing to keep his crown. This live-action Christmas musical celebration for the entire family, weaves classic Christmas melodies into new pop songs in a music-infused retelling of the timeless story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus. Now showing at the Metro Boronia. https://metroboronia.com.au/wp-cinema/movie/JOURNEY_TO_BETHLEHEM/



A SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA 3rd December 2023 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. 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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS 2023 ANGEL TREE Each year we provide needy families who we have visited throughout the year with a Christmas Food Hamper and Gift cards for each of their children. We invite you to contribute to either of these.



Under the Angel Tree we will provide basket/ bags for your Christmas food items/ toiletries; or those who might like to donate a complete hamper. Please feel free to supply your own bags if you wish. The gift cards that you donate allow the parents to purchase a suitable gift themselves according to the age and needs of their child/ ren.

You may like to take an angel tag off the tree and purchase a gift card to the amount of either: \$10, \$20, or \$30; other. Please place your donation in the box near the tree. The cards can be purchased from: Westfield; Kmart, Target, Coles/ Myer.

On behalf of our SVDP local conference, we would like to thank you most sincerely for your ongoing generosity this year in supporting our work with the disadvantaged. We would like to thank Fr Thomas for his encouragement on behalf of our parish.

- Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society

FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS

DAY LUNCH Don't spend Christmas alone this year. You are invited to a free lunch from 10.15am- 12.45pm on Sunday 24th December.

Food, drinks, entertainment, presents from the Christmas Angel. To be held in our School Hall. Please contact the <https://www.foothillscare.org.au/> to register if you would like to attend. Phone: 8711 8677

ROSTERS: Mon 4 th Dec to Sun 10 th Dec 2023	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L & Myra N 9am Lia & Help Needed 11am Shami & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Jan R 9am: Pamela E 11am: Vicente M
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J & Joan R
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R