

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
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DEACON:
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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR:
Mary Makarucha 9758 1029
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PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday 9.45am -3.45pm
Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne, Maree Wilson
Accountant: Sara Luk
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal Kelly Johnston
Deputy Principal Ursula DeCorrado

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 7.00 pm
Wednesday & Thursday 9.15 am
Friday 11.00 am

GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS is celebrated 1st Friday 2pm
WILLOWBROOK MASS is celebrated 3rd Thursday 11am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays at 5.15 pm

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.

CHURCH GROUPS:
CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP
The Prayer Group will take a break during January 2023 and resume their meeting on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 10.15 am in the Parish Hall for praise and worship, inspiring teaching and prayer ministry. All are warmly welcome.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING will take a break from Thursday 15th December 2023 **resuming in the New Year.** We look forward to meeting old friends and new then. But for now, we wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Sundays 31st December 2023 – 28th January, 2024
(inclusive)

PRAYING FOR...

All those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur around this time.



ANNIVERSARIES: Mon 25 Dec to Sun 31 Dec 2023
Rosy Harris, Joseph Semenow, Catherine Theobald, Josie Jordan, Patrice Owens, Maria Daraio, Peter South, Maria Frederiks, Flora De Cristo.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mon 1 Jan to Sun 7 Jan 2024
Francis Breen, Roger Berriman, Anne Van Prooyen, Domenico Nicosia, Andrea Samtoye, Hans Hauer, Pauline Witt, John Lourens, Eunice Birmingham,

ANNIVERSARIES: Mon 8 Jan to Sun 14 Jan 2024
Jonathan (Jon) Abraham, Riccardo Garbuio; Fr Peter Rankin SDB, Nicholas Donnelly (UK); Carmel Dow, Linda Hughes, Gary Bailey, Frances Fenton, Peter Blackham, Pasquale Pipicelli

ANNIVERSARIES: Mon 15 Jan to Sun 21 Jan 2024
Fr. N Mackay, Gary Bailey; Irene Barron, Lily (Elizabeth) McNeill, Thomas McCristal, Anthony (Tony) Gannan, Vito Teofilo, Maureen Meyer, Therese Mueller, Canio Daraio, Carlo Vitale, Chris Quinn, Giovanni DiDonato.

ANNIVERSARIES: Mon 22 Jan to Sun 28 Jan 2024
Jadwiga Godsmark, Giovanni (John) Cecchin, Nath McDermott; Patrick Masterson; Mary Williams, Elizabeth (Lily) McNeill, Kenneth Lowden, Hazel Maybus, Giuseppe Pilotto
And all those who are sick: Eamon Smith, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Peggy Spencer, Ann Good, Ben Mc Lacey, 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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS / JANUARY HOLIDAYS

Closes Friday 22nd December 2023
Normal offices hours resume Tues 9th January.
Please note that as Friday 26th January is a public holiday, the office will be closed.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP: will take a break in January 2024 and resume their meeting on Tuesday, 6th February 2024 from 9 am to 10 am at the Parish Centre. We would love to welcome any new mother's or grandmothers to join us in prayer. Would you like to know more? Please contact Maree 9758 1029



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Dear God, Thankyou that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said 'no,' 'not yet,' or 'wait.' We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts."

— Debbie McDanie

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – FERNTREE GULLY CONFERENCE UPDATE AND THANK YOU 2023.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul – Ferntree Gully Conference, would like to thank all of our parishioners for your tremendous support for our ongoing work in assisting the disadvantaged in our parish area. Thank you for the donation of giftcards and Christmas items of non-perishable food for distribution to our families.

Our appeal continued to raise the awareness of our varied work for those who are experiencing hardship. We are pleased to inform you that all non-perishable food and cash that you donated has been used directly to support the needy this Christmas. Once again we thank Parishioners for their generous donations over the Christmas period. Cash donations and gift cards from:

our Primary School totaled: \$1615.00,
Parish donations of gift cards totaled \$2,715.00
Parish donations of cash totaled \$1,105.00
Grand Total: \$5,435.00

Our members packed and delivered: 93 hampers with a total cost of \$16,600.00. Each hamper contained Christmas non-perishable food, plus two \$50 Woolworths cards; one \$20 Woolworths card; as well as your gift cards for the children in that family.

We sincerely thank Fr Thomas and everyone who supported us in so many ways. We are always delighted to welcome people to join us as we continue to support those in need. May God's Blessings
Be upon you and may you be blessed for who you are. – SVDP.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVITY SCENE The annual Australian Nativity Scene (ANS) celebrates 20 years and a big thank you to Fr Tad, at St Elizabeth's Parish Dandenong North, and all who have supported this year after year. The public display opens on 4th December, 2023 and concludes on 12th January, 2024. Family, friends and groups are invited to view this display before and after the Mass, or other times by prior appointment only. Contact the Parish Office on 9795 6217 or Wilson on 0428 927 110 for a personalized tour. More details: www.australiannativityscene.org

RESTORE Inner Healing Prayer Ministry Training - Jesus wants to reveal and heal the root of your struggles and transform your life!

When: Thurs 11th Jan – Sun 14th Jan 2024
Venue: Hall at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 49 Nicholson Street, East Brunswick
Presented by Catholic Charismatic Renewal
Bookings: REGISTER AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CLYNM](https://www.trybooking.com/CLYNM) Details
Ph: 9486 5644 or Email centre@ccr.org.au

DON BOSCO SUMMER CAMPS 2024 The Don Bosco Holiday Camps are conducted for young people the summer and winter school holidays, making full use of our facilities and surrounding locations. The four to five-day camps (the length changes based on the season and ages) consist of a wide range of icebreaker and team building activities to ensure that every camper feels welcomed and included. All activities are planned and facilitated by the volunteer leaders to provide the campers the traditional, authentic camp experience away from life's everyday distractions – these are the times where the young people have a chance to simply enjoy their childhood, irrespective of where they've come from or what issues they may have elsewhere..

Three camps run during the January School Holidays for young people 9-16 years old.

- **In 2024 they will be:**
- **Junior 1 Monday January 8 - Thursday January 11th**
- **Senior Monday January 15th - Thursday January 18th**
- **Junior 2 Monday January 22nd - Thursday January 25th**
Bookings: <http://www.donboscocamp.org.au>
Tel: 5987 2692 or Email: dbc@donboscocamp.org.au

Download flyer at this link: <https://dbcc.org.au/holiday-program/bookings>

ROSTERS...

Mon 25 th Dec to Sun 31 st Dec 2023	
Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Alvie
Welcomers	6pm: Kathryn C, Myra N 9am: Terry S, Johanna C, Thelma B 11am: Patrick S & Anna M
Lectors	6pm: As per Christmas Volunteers 9am: As per Christmas Volunteers 11am: As per Christmas Volunteers
Gardening	Patrick, Harry

Mon 1 st Jan to Sun 7 th Jan 2024	
Flowers	Ann & Connie
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm: Peter G & Wilma H 9am: Joanna C, Thelma B 11am: Anna M & Priya
Lectors	6pm: Alvi M 9am: Peter F 11am: Shami A
Gardening	Theresa N & Help needed

Mon 8 th Jan to Sun 14 th Jan 2024	
Flowers	Marg & Ange
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm: Rosina L & Myra N 9am: Lia U & Help Needed Pls 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Jan R 9am: Gordon 11am: Bonnie H
Counters	George, Genevieve, Bindu M
Gardening	Theresa N & Help needed

Mon 15 th Jan to Sun 21 st Jan 2024	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6pm: Myra N, Wilma H 9am: Terry S, Neil & Loraine, Peter C 11am: Priya H, Patrick S
Lectors	6pm: Louise Di B 9am: Pamela E 11am: Cynthia M
Counters	George, Genevieve, Bindu M
Gardening	Theresa N & Help needed

Mon 22 nd Jan to Sun 28 th Jan 2024	
Flowers	Genevieve & Gina
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm: Lia U, Kathryn C 9am: Rosa L, Florence J 11am: Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Rosina L 9am: Caroline Q 11am: Eduardo M
Counters	Tony, Stephanie, Peter F & Rosina
Gardening	Theresa N & Help needed

FEAST DAYS:

Mon 25th Dec to Sat 31st Dec 2023

Mon 25th The Nativity of the Lord
Tue 26th St Stephen, the first martyr
Wed 27th St John, apostle, evangelist
Thu 28th The Holy Innocents, martyrs
Fri 29th St Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr

Mon 1st Jan to Sun 7th Jan 2024

Mon 1st Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Tue 2nd St Basil the Great, bishop, doctor
St Gregory Nazianzen, bishop, doctor
Wed 3rd Holy Name of Jesus
Sun 7th Epiphany

Mon 8th Jan to Sun 14th Jan 2024

Mon 8th The Baptism of the Lord
Sat 13th St Hilary, bishop, doctor

Mon 15th Jan to Sun 21st Jan 2024

Wed 17th St Anthony, abbot
Sat 20th St Fabian, pope martyr
St Sebastian, martyr

Mon 22nd Jan to Sun 28th Jan 2024

Mon 22nd St Vincent
Wed 24th St Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor
Thu 25th The conversion of St Paul, apostle
Fri 26th Australia Day
Sat 27th St Angela Merici, virgin
Sts Timothy and Titus

May we live this New Year with:

Compassion of heart,
Clear in word,
Gracious in awareness,
Courageous in thought,
Generous in love,
With Jesus at our side.

(Adapted from John O'Donohue, Benedictus, p.26)



POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

30th / 31st December, 2023 – Feast of the Holy Family

God, our Father,
You care for us and look out for us
as a parent attends to their child's needs.
Teach us to be kind and patient, honest and gentle,
and, most of all, at peace with those with whom we live.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

7th / 8th January, 2024 – The Epiphany of the Lord

God, our Father,
You love all and want people of every
nation to know Jesus Christ, Your Son.
Help us know Him more profoundly,
and that through our faithful discipleship,
others will come to know Your redeeming grace.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

12th / 13th January, 2024 – The Baptism of the Lord

Lord God,
You call us by name.
Make our ears ever attentive to Your voice,
our spirits eager to respond,
and that, having heard You in Jesus,
Your Anointed One,
we may help others follow in His way.
Who lives and reigns forever, and ever. Amen.

19th / 20th January, 2024 – 2nd Sunday in Ord Time

God our Father,
in the person of Jesus, Your Son,
Your Word summons us to faithfulness and love.
Empower us to hear His call
and resolutely follow in His way.
Who lives and reigns forever, and ever.
Amen.

26th / 27th January, 2024 – 3rd Sunday in Ord Time

Loving Father,
Through the healing presence of Your Son,
drive far from us all that is unholy,
so that through our words and our deeds
we may proclaim Him Messiah and Lord.
Who lives and reigns forever, and ever. Amen.

27th / 28th January, 2024 – 4th Sunday in Ord Time

Loving Father,
Through the healing presence of Your Son,
Drive far from us all that is unholy!
So that through our words and our deeds
We may proclaim Him Messiah and Lord.
Who lives and reigns forever, and ever. Amen.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Weekends of 30th/31st December, 2023 – 27th/28th January, 2024 (inclusive)



Readings for this year are from Year B

Should you wish to view the Scripture Readings for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) please visit:

<http://www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass.htm>

Navigate the texts of the week ahead via the right-hand column index.

30th / 31st December, 2023 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph.

Readings: -Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Col 3:12-21, Luke 2:22-40

Monday, 1st January, 2024 Solemnity of Mary Mother of God (11 am Mass)

Readings: -Num 6:22-27, Gal 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21

Sunday 7th Jan, 2024 - The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Matt 2:1-12

13th/14th Jan, 2024- 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

Readings: 1 Sam 3:3-10, 19; 1Qr 6:13-15, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

20th / 21st January, 2024 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20.

27th / 28th January, 2024 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Deut 18:15-20; 1st Cor 7:32-35, 5-6; Mark 1:21-28

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

(John 10:10)