

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the First book of Samuel  
3:3-10,19*

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'  
Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20*

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to

fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have found the Messiah:  
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
1:35-42*

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

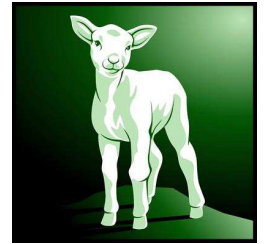


**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**  
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**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B**  
**13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

*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 with You  
For ever and ever. Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** Today we consider **the call to discipleship**. The readings outline the various stages of this call and provide a sketch of some of the characteristics of each stage: the invitation, the discerning process and the resulting transformation.

**The call is an invitation from God.** It might come to us as inner sensitivity, a kind of a dream or inspiration. Our interest might be captured by a person or an event that first attracts us and then beckons us to investigate further. It can come in the innocence and naivete of childhood, in the vigour of young adulthood, or in the wisdom of years. It comes when God calls.

The second stage involves discernment. Most of us need help recognising moments of religious importance and so we seek out women and men who are practiced in the ways of God, who can help us test the spirit. They might be recognised religious leaders or prophetic guides, or they could be friends or loved ones who know us well and who are also attuned to the workings of God in their own lives.

**Finally, when we respond to the call, we discover that we no longer belong solely to ourselves; as disciples, we belong to the body of Christ.** We belong to the reign of God; **we are now part of the mission of Christ. As disciples, we are called to proclaim to the world the justice of God. What a glorious honour this is!** © 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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

**FEAST DAYS** Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Jan St Anthony  
Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jan St Fabian and St Sebastian

*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.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B**  
**13<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

**Rev. Monsignor Gerard James Diamond**  
(served as assistant priest in FTG in 1968)

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Gary Bailey, Riccardo Garbuio, Fr Noel Mackay, Irene Barron, Lily McNeill, Thomas McCristal, Anthony (Tony) Gannan, Vito Teofilo, Maureen Meyer, Therese Mueller, Canio Daraio, Carlo Vitale, Chris Quinn, Giovanni DiDonato.

*The sick:*

Eamon Smith, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Peggy Spencer, 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** will resume on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 9am in the Parish Office.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER** We will now break until the **6<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**. For anyone interested the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is concluding their Inner Healing Prayer Ministry Training with a **Healing Mass celebrated by Fr Wahid Riad, at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 49 Nicholson St East Brunswick. 3pm Praise & Worship, 4pm Mass, Prayers for Healing after the Mass. Enquiries: Call 9486 6544 or email [centre@ccr.org.au](mailto:centre@ccr.org.au)**

**A PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE FLOODS:**

*At this time, we hold in our minds and hearts all those affected by the floods and pouring rain. Our hearts go out to those whose homes, possessions and businesses have been destroyed or damaged by floods in Queensland, New South Wales & Victoria.. We remember in prayer: Those whose lives have been devastated, those who are feeling vulnerable and weak Those who are stranded Those who are facing both long-term and short-term needs Those who are homeless in this crippling time We pray also for all those who are meeting needs at this time: Volunteers and community workers. Lord hear our Prayers.*



**FRIENDSHIP GATHERING RESUMES from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.** All welcome & invited to the Parish Hall 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. Come along and join us.



**NEW! YOUTH GROUP COMING SOON**

Inviting all Year 6s to Year 9s for our very first Youth Group session happening

on the **2<sup>nd</sup> of Feb!** Please join us at St John's from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. More info to come so please keep your eyes peeled at these bulletins.



**REST IN PEACE Rev. Monsignor Gerard James Diamond M.A.** (Oxon), D.Theol., I.S.S., PE died at Cabrini



Hospital Malvern on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, aged 81yrs. Monsignor Diamond served the Church in a very positive and pastorally enriching manner, giving fine example to both his brother priests and the community for over 56 years. After his ordination on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1967, Fr Diamond served as

**Assistant Priest** at the parishes of Eltham (1967), **Ferntree Gully (1968)**, Glen Huntly (1969, and Oakleigh (1970) . In 1970 he went to Oxford to study oriental languages and to qualify for a Licence in Scripture at the Pontifical Biblicum Institute in Rome. Upon return to Melbourne in 1974, he was appointed Assistant Priest at Jordanville Parish before taking up an appointment in 1975 as Moderator at Corpus Christi College in Clayton. You can read more of Mgr Diamond's story at <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/former-master-of-ctc-monsignor-gerard-diamond-pe-dies-at-81>

**PONTIFICAL REQUIEM MASS**

**Date:** Tuesday, 23 January 2024 **Time:** 11:00am

**Church:** St Anthony's, Glen Huntly. Cnr Grange & Neerim Roads

**SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT – QUEENSLIFFE**  
Come away for a time of rest, contemplation, prayer, and discernment, in this 6-day Ignatian Silent Directed Retreat. Your retreat includes accommodation, all meals, spiritual accompaniment, and prayer material. It is held at the beautiful **Santa Casa Retreat Centre** on the beach at Queenscliffe VIC, a couple of hours from Melbourne. Monday 26 February 2024, 2pm – Sunday 3 March 2024, 10am. Express your interest: [info@jisa.org.au](mailto:info@jisa.org.au) or **1300 392 636**

**JOURNEY WITH THE ITALIAN SAINTS** Harvest Journeys are offering a 12 day pilgrimage from Rome to Venice from Fri 8<sup>th</sup> March to Tues 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Details Call 1800 819 156 or see their webpage at: [www.harvestjourneys.com/tour](http://www.harvestjourneys.com/tour)

**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](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au) or 9758 1029

**A PRAYER FOR THE COMING YEAR**

*Holy Spirit of God  
Grant that we may meet the new year  
with spiritual tranquillity.*

*Grant that in all things we may rely on your holy will.  
In each day of the year, reveal your will to us.  
Whatever happens around us this year,  
Teach us to accept it with calm souls,  
Knowing that all is subject to your holy will.*

*Direct our thoughts and feelings in all our words and actions.*

*In all unexpected occurrences,  
do not let us forget that all is your gift.*

*Grant that we may deal firmly and wisely with every member  
of our community and with all we encounter,  
neither embarrassing nor saddening anyone.*

*Give us the strength to tackle the tasks of the new year  
In whatever it shall bring.*

*Direct our wills and teach us to pray, to believe,  
To hope, to be patient, to forgive and to love. AMEN.*



**PALMS ENCOUNTERS** are ethically run small group tours that provide curious travellers with authentic, hard to come by travel opportunities in countries such as Samoa, Timor Leste and Thailand. Comprehensive insights into daily life and culture, and sustainable approaches to development are gained by tapping into relationships of understanding, acceptance and care between local communities and the Australians Palms' are supporting on long-term assignments. **Our next Encounter is destined for Timor Leste from May 6th to 17th 2024.** For more information, call us on (02) 9560 5333.

**ROSTERS: Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Jan to Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Flowers   | Sue N & Lyn K  |
| Linen     | Carol D  |
| Welcomers | 6pm Myra N & Wilma H<br>9am Terry S, Neil & Loraine, Peter C<br>11am Priya H & Patrick S |
| Lectors   | 6pm: Louise Di B<br>9am: Pamela E<br>11am: Cynthia M                                     |
| Counters  | George, Genevieve, Bindu M   |
| Gardening | Theresa N & Help Needed  |