

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the Prophet Jonah 3:1-5,10*

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Teach me your ways, O Lord.*

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
1 Cor 7:29-31*

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
The kingdom of God is near:  
believe the Good News!  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
1:14-20*

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



**Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.'**

### AUSTRALIA DAY PRAYER

*O God, powerful and gentle,  
you love this southern land  
and all its peoples, old and new.  
As the Cross shines in our heavens  
so may Christ bring light to our nation.  
As the waves encircle our shores  
so may your mercy enfold us all.  
May God who formed our southern land  
be for us a rock of strength.  
May God who rules our southern seas  
keep us safe in every storm.  
May God who made our southern skies  
turn our darkness into light. Amen.*



**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)**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B  
20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

*Loving Father,*

*Jesus called Simon and Andrew, who  
dropped their nets to follow Him.*

*Help us Lord, to detach ourselves, from distractions.*

*So that we too may hear Your call to us,*

*And turn to You, the source of all Love.*

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



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** It is a common misunderstanding, it seems to me, to expect that the experience of a call from God is somehow laced with peace, charged with happiness, and that it results in victory. Most instances in the scriptures suggest otherwise. **Many prophets, even Moses, were reluctant and hesitant. They often felt not up to the test at all.** Sometimes they regretted that the call had ever been placed. Jonah's problem was even more confounding. He was invested with a momentous message for the sprawling city of Nineveh. The entire place was going to be demolished by God in forty days' time. And yet, before Jonah could go through the city announcing its doom, **the whole lot of them, including the king, repented. Moved by their change of heart, their sackcloth and ashes, God relented** and did not execute the threat. What's interesting—only if you read beyond the ten lines used for this Sunday's readings—is that Jonah gets very upset. In fact, he's enraged and embarrassed. "I might as well be dead as go on living." Jonah admits that he should have known better, even at the moment of the call. The message was clear and he gave it, but his worst suspicions concerning God's tenderness were confirmed. His predictions of doom would not come true. **Thank God the heart of God is not like the egos of those he calls.** This much can be said of the apostles whom Jesus called to himself. By all rational accounts, they were a chancy lot. And their subsequent doubts would seem to number as many as their confirmations. You would think that, after being invited by one such as Christ, all would be smooth sailing. Things would be free and clear. They would have one confirmation after another. And yet, we know their call must surely have been experienced as a journey into frustration and failure. How many setbacks can one experience and yet not question the call in the first place? Perhaps the words of St. Paul are responsive to such questions. He advises radical detachment from every cherished good. We are all, in effect, pilgrims, prophets, apostles, and sojourners in this passing bright circus of the world. We all have our message to give and our own act to perform. Such is the nature of our call into existence. In the end, the final word is Good News from this strangely wonderful God who wants to capture us all in a net of eternal love. - John Kavanaugh, SJ

**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** Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan St Vincent Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Jan St Francis de Sales 25<sup>th</sup> Jan The Conversion of St Paul 26<sup>th</sup> Jan Australia Day 27<sup>th</sup> Jan St Angela Merici & Timothy & Titus

*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@siferntreegully.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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

**WEDDINGS:**  
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B**  
**20th /21st January 2024**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*



**Those who we remember at this time:**

Jadwiga Godsmark, Giovanni Cecchin, Nath McDermott; Patrick Masterson, Mary Williams, Lily McNeill, Kenneth Lowden, Hazel Maybus & Giuseppe Pilotto.

**The sick:**

Celia Ellis, 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.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER** We will now break until the **6th February, 2024.** Happy Holidays everyone!

**FRIENDSHIP GATHERING** meet 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.



**THE MGL SISTERS**, are having a Lenten Nights series, at 6 Dunstan Street, Nth Balwyn. To find out more, all enquiries contact Sr Mel, on Email: [melanieedwards77@gmail.com](mailto:melanieedwards77@gmail.com)

**MAJI PILGRIMAGE** Fr Maria Raju would like to invite you for an 18-day pilgrimage, departing on 23rd September 2024. This pilgrimage features Fatima, Lourdes, Turin, Milan, Padua, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Rotondo and Rome for an all-inclusive price of \$8790. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. For enquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561

**JOURNEY WITH THE ITALIAN SAINTS** Harvest Journeys are offering 12 trip Rome to Venice from Fri 8th March to Tues 19th March 2024. Details Call 1800 819 156.

**MASSON AUSTRALIA DAY**, Friday 26th Jan is at 11 am.



**NEW! YOUTH GROUP COMING SOON**

Inviting all **Year 6s to Year 9s** for our very first Youth Group session happening on the **2nd 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.



**GET ON BOARD THE KNOX COMMUNITY SHOPPING BUS**

The community shopping bus offers Knox residents 65yrs and over, the opportunity to go shopping and be socially active with people living in their neighbourhood. The fortnightly service provides door to door, affordable, comfortable and accessible bus rides to Westfield Knox. The service is for residents who: Live independently, have no appropriate access to transport, and can shop without the help of a support worker.

**Days Mon-Fri** (particular day in relevant area)  
**Pick up times :** 9.30am or 10.30am.  
**Pick up location:** from the road in front of your residence (if bus friendly) or nearest point of convenience.  
**Return time:** 12.30pm or 1.30pm from the drop off point.  
**Cost:** \$3.50 one way, or \$7.00 round trip. If you are interested to participate or have questions, please call 03 9298 8518 or email [communitytransport@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitytransport@knox.vic.gov.au)

**KNOX COMMUNITY TRANSPORT OUTINGS PROGRAM** for residents over 65yrs, and or need support with transport. Our day outings provide the opportunity to visit places of interest across Victoria. **Cost: \$10 per person.**

**Upcoming Events:** Thurs 8th Feb, 2024 Ripponlea Estate  
**Tues 20th Feb** Mystery tour, a step back to the rich history of the region, immersing yourselves in the daily life of a famous family who settled in the area in the Mid 1800's. Wander through the surrounding gardens. Includes morning tea.  
**29th Feb. RAAF Museum Point Cook Airbase.** This museum offers a captivating exploration of the RAAF heritage. Encounter meticulously restored aircraft, interactive exhibits and displays. **Please call 9298 8518 or email [communitytransport@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitytransport@knox.vic.gov.au)**

**LENTEN PROGRAM 2024** With Ash Wednesday rapidly approaching on 14th February, it's time to order our Lenten Booklets, so we have them on time. This year we are offering a booklet called "**Living in Harmony**" published by Garratt publishing, and put together by a number of authors, including Sr Joan Chittister, a Benedictine nun, Br Paul Creevey, a Marist Brother, and Fr Andy Hamilton a Jesuit Priest, among others. It includes discussion questions and prayers. You can view a sample here <https://garrattpublishing.com.au/category/lent-2024/> **Please sign up now** if you would like a copy, **on the Sign up Sheet on the Glass Wall. Cost: Approx \$8** per copy (which includes postage.) Enquires: Pls contact Maree – in the Parish Office.

**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

**NEED TO DISPOSE OF A VEHICLE?** Disposal of a car from a deceased estate, or when a family member has had to relinquish their license or go into residential care, can be a challenging process. Getting a roadworthy, taking photos to advertise on the internet, cleaning and polishing, taking calls (if they come), even finding a garage until a prospective buyer turns up (if indeed they do!). If you need to dispose of a vehicle from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, could you consider gifting it to the "**Lifeboat Foundation**", a registered charity with tax deductible status, which for ten years has been providing pastoral and practical support to nearly 150 victims / survivors across Australia of church-related sexual abuse. Many of these suffer Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), have limited or no employment, and a donated vehicle could vastly improve their quality of life and / or of generate funds to assist personal, medical and accommodation needs. If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to "Lifeboat", **CONTACT: Fr. Kevin Dillon** (frkdillon@outlook.com.au | 0421 777 360) or Adam Kaali (adam-kaali@hotmail.com | 0411 486 605)

**The AMEP (Adult Migrant English Program) provides free English Language tuition for migrants.** is delivered at around 300 locations across Australia in major cities as well as regional and remote areas. There is also a [Distance learning](#) option. **To learn English or to Volunteer**, please contact AMEP at Melbourne Polytechnic, Wantima on 9210 1991 or Dandenong on 1300 517 459

**POSITION VACANT** For an experienced Pastoral Worker to undertake and contribute to the Pastoral Needs of the Supporting communities of **Scoresby & Rowville (St Judes & St Simons)**. This is a part time position, 4 days per week, days and times are flexible. For more information Email [recruitment@cam.org.au](mailto:recruitment@cam.org.au) or go to: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies/pastoral-worker-supporting-communities-of-scoresby-and-rowville-st-judes-and-st-simons>

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 22nd Jan to Sun 28th Jan 2024</b>	
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: Edwardo M
Counters	Tony, Setphanic, Peter F & Rosina
Gardening	Theresa N & Help Needed