

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
18: 15-20

Moses said to the people: ‘Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. “Do not let me hear again” you said “the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die”; and the Lord said to me, “All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
1 Cor 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord’s affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world’s affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord’s affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world’s affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
*A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.*
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
1: 21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, ‘What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus said sharply, ‘Be quiet! Come out of him!’ And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. ‘Here is a teaching that is new’ they said ‘and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.’ And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.



The people were amazed because Jesus taught them as one who had _____.

Mark 1:22 (NIV)

SJSEU [] [] [] [] []
AETCH [] [] [] [] []
TSRIPI [] [] [] [] [] [] []
YEBO [] [] [] [] []
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

“Be quiet! Come out of him!”
He taught them as one who had authority.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Knox Deanery
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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B
27th / 28th January 2024
Year of Prayer.

Heavenly Father,
Through the healing presence of Jesus,
Drive far from us all that is unholy,
So that by word and deed
We may proclaim Him Messiah and Lord
forever and ever.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD Although this week’s gospel is a relatively short passage, there’s a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive authority. In fact, at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the ‘Holy One of God’. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to ‘Be Quiet!’ Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the **Messianic secret**.

Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. **Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus.** It is the message; the teaching of Jesus frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding His message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

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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 Mon 31st Jan St John Bosco Fri 2nd Feb The Presentation of the Lord
Sat 3rd Feb St Blaise & St Ansgar

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: Bernard Negline
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

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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B
27th /28th January 2024 - Year of Prayer

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Speranza Luciano

Those who we remember at this time:

John Van Der Staak, Joseph Semenow, Domenico Parente, Ron Prince, Geoffrey Winters, Teresa Abraham.

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 Will resume on the 6th February, 2024. At 10.15am in the Parish Hall

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: melanicedwards77@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.



YOUTH GROUP "Welcoming all students who are in Year 6 to Year 9 (11-15 years old) to our first Youth Group session for 2024!! Please join us at the **Parish Hall for fun activities and dinner!** Hoping to see you all there and bring a friend along with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of the contacts below. **Where:** Parish Hall, St John the Baptist Parish. 19 Forest Rd, Ferntree Gully VIC 3156 **When:** 2nd February 2024; 5:30-7:30 PM **Contact:** E: sjbyouth@gmail.com P: 0420450604 (Vicente); 0411841074 (Fionaa); 0431725975 (Tim)"

RCIA PRESENTATION OF INQUIRERS This weekend, at the Mass services, we will present to the parish, our RCIA inquirers who have been attending RCIA sessions throughout the past year. Daniel will be presented at the 6pm mass. Louis will be presented at the 9am mass and Sally will be presented at the 11am mass. Please make them all feel welcome and supported as they go deeper into the Catholic faith, journeying towards the final preparations of receiving the Sacraments of Initiation.

The Rite of Election will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, 18 February, you are most welcome to attend.

POPE FRANCIS ANNOUNCES YEAR OF PRAYER Pope Francis has announced the start of a **Year of Prayer** in preparation for the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year. In his Angelus address on 21st January, 2024, the Pope said that a Year of Prayer, starting yesterday, will be **"a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in one's personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world."**



"Dear brothers and sisters, the coming months will lead us to the opening of the Holy Door, with which we will begin the jubilee. I ask you to **intensify your prayer to prepare us** to live this event of grace well and to experience the power of God's hope. That is why today we begin a Year of Prayer."

The Pope said that the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelisation will publish resources to help Catholic Communities to more fully participate in the Year of Prayer. The Holy See Press Office has also announced that a press conference on the Year of Prayer will take place on Tuesday, 23rd January. The Vatican and the city of Rome are expecting an estimated 35 million people to flock to the Eternal City for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope – the first ordinary jubilee since the Great Jubilee of 2000. A jubilee is a special holy year of grace and pilgrimage in the Catholic Church.

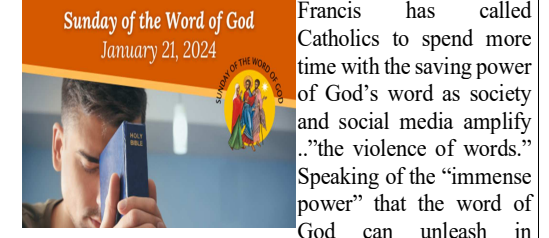
LENTEN PROGRAM 2024 it's time to order our Lenten Booklets, so we have them on time. This year we are offering a booklet called **"Living in Harmony"** published by Garratt publishing. It includes discussion questions and prayers. You can view a sample here <https://garrattpublishing.com.au/category/len-2024/> **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 or 9758 1029

FUNERAL MASS - for the late **Speranza Luciano** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Tuesday, **6th February**- Rosary 10.30am prior to the 11.00am Funeral Mass. Celebrant: Fr Bruno Carrera.

CARPARK GOOD NEWS beginning Monday, the top car park beside the church will be almost fully **reserved for Parishioners**, (excepting a few spaces reserved near the gate for the principal) **We invite all our weekday Mass goers, to make full use of this parking area.** With this in mind, **we kindly ask that you please do not park on the church driveway (semi-circle), as this should be kept clear for Emergency Access.**

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY. Sunday of the Word of God will be celebrated in St Peter's Basilica in the presence of Pope Francis on Sunday 21st January, 2024, the motto chosen is taken from the Gospel of St John: **"Remain in my Word"** (John 8:31). **For Australia, owing to the Australia Day Public Holiday, the Word of God Sunday is celebrated on 4th February, 2024.** Pope



Francis has called Catholics to spend more time with the saving power of God's word as society and social media amplify .."the violence of words." Speaking of the "immense power" that the word of God can unleash in people's lives, Pope Francis encouraged us to always "have the Gospel within easy reach." Read more about this on the Catholic News Agency webpage:

ROSTERS: Mon 29th Jan to Sun 4th Feb, 2024	
Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm Peter G, Wilma H, Matt C 9am Joanna C, Thelma B 11am Anna M, Priya H
Lectors	6pm: Gab V 9am: Terry S 11am: Peter J
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T