

## FIRST READING

### *A reading from the book of Genesis 9:8-15*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

*The Word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ Your ways, O Lord,  
are love and truth,  
to those who keep Your covenant.*

## SECOND READING

### *A reading from the first letter of St Peter 3:18-22*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water

is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels of the Dominations and Powers his subjects.

*The Word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ  
King of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word  
that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of endless glory!*

## GOSPEL

### *A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:12-15*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

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.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



## **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**Knox Deanery**

**19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156**

**Phone: 9758 1029**

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**Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**



**1st Sunday of Lent – Yr B  
17th / 18th February 2024  
Year of Prayer.**

*God of the covenant,  
We beg You, throughout these forty days,  
to unseal for us the wellspring  
of your grace,  
cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy,  
and cause Your gift of new life  
to flourish once again.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** the Lenten wilderness Have you ever noticed that Jesus begins and ends his public ministry in the wilderness? These deserts are the geographical bookends of the greatest story ever told. In today's Gospel we have Jesus in the desert for 40 days. Much later, when condemned to death, Jesus is led out of the city and crucified at Golgotha, another dry and desolate location. In both places Jesus is tempted. In Mark, we are never told what Satan's temptations in the desert were about. Luke and Matthew fill in those details. On the cross, however, Mark tells us that the crowd tempts Jesus to work a miracle, come down from the cross and save himself. In the first desert, Jesus is ministered to by the angels and emerges to proclaim that the kingdom of God is close at hand. In the later desert, Jesus is ministered to by his women disciples and is put to death as a consequence for the way he lived out the Kingdom he proclaimed. **It is clear from the Gospels that the desert and the temptations stayed with Jesus throughout his life. What a comfort this is to us.** Many of us do not need to go out and find a physical desert to know its claim on our lives. Temptations do not know geographical limitations. Indeed, the greater the number of options, the more temptations we have, to take a destructive path. **We find in Jesus's desert example, we do not have to give in to the temptation that the desert is only about loss, but we need to find a path there to negotiate a way out of it so that we can emerge recreated, the richer for the experience.** This lent, as we venture with Christ into our figurative deserts, let's do anything that helps our self-esteem, deal with our anger, attend to why we might work or drink too much. These activities could be the most helpful ways we can make sure we emerge from our desert, the better for having been there. – Richard Leonard 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** Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb The Chair of St Peter

**Lenten Program – Living in Harmony – Monday Nights in the Parish Hall – 7.15pm -All welcome.**

*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@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.**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent – Yr B  
17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - Year of Prayer

**PRAYING FOR...**  
*All who have died recently:*  
Stephanie Lozano

*Those who we remember at this time:*  
Rafaele Ozella, Mark Barbin, Pellegrino Di Brino, Antonius Weerden, Stan Hilder.  
*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.

**THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation.. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. **We will be having the Stations of the Cross on Friday at 10.30 am during lent** followed by mass at 11.00 am. All are invited to join.

**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.

**COME ALONG TO THE PARISH YOUTH GROUP!**  
Inviting all Year 6s to Year 9s for our next Youth Group session happening on **Friday 16th of Feb!** Please join us at St John's from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Please bring a donation for pizza dinner.

**MOTHERS PARYERS** Take heart! Jesus urges us to bring our burdens/problems to him. Join us to pray at **9am-10am, in the Parish Office. All welcome.**

**ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** will meet each Tuesday at 10.15 am- 12.15pm in the parish hall. Come and join us - Stay for a shared lunch. Tineke Ph 0478620226, or Maree 9758 1029

**FRIENDSHIP GATHERING** meet in 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.

**LENT** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are **days of fast and abstinence.** The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18<sup>th</sup> year until the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14<sup>th</sup> year. **Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and a time for lending a hand to others e.g. attending to the sick, the lonely or the over-burdened.** Lent is also an appropriate time to prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM.** A warm welcome to our **First reconciliation candidates, making their formal commitment to the sacramental program & their families**, joining us at Masses this weekend. **We invite parishioners to please take a prayer card for a child** to remember them in your prayers during this time of the preparation.

**WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE** occurs on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, and it is aimed to help us recognise the many barriers that still prevent millions of people from living a fair life, and the need to create opportunities for all individuals to participate fully in society. Barriers such as language, mental health problems or bad experiences with the social welfare system in the past. The Housing and Care Connections (HCC) program, run by VMCH, supports vulnerable older people who do not have family or friends to help them research, apply for and set up support services like home care and housing. Its particular focus is helping older people on low incomes, or who are at risk of homelessness to find secure and affordable housing. If you would like more info on the HCC program, and live in the city of Knox or Whitehorse, call 1300 698 624 to find out more.

**"SIGNS OF THE TIMES" ROUNDTABLE MEETING** the Cardijn Community is proposing to convene a meeting on Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2024. The purpose of the day is to re- energise our ongoing debate about a synodal church. As church we know the Good News and Jesus mission is as fresh as it was 2000 years ago and we desperately need to bring that to life in a society that needs to be renewed. You are invited to join us on: **Tuesday February 20th . 10 am to 4 pm .** Optional live in on Monday and Tuesday nights  
**Where:** 1 Osborne Drive , Mt Martha. For further Information, please contact : Wayne McGough 0408 505 356

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**   
Inviting all "Encountered Couples/Spouses/Priests" to join us in Celebrating 50 years of WWME in Australia **Saturday 16 March 2024 At St John's Parish, Mitcham** [Enter via Elizabeth St] A Formation Day "Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires; the Respect He Desperately Longs for" (A light lunch will be provided) & **An Evening of celebration starting at 6pm Catered Spit Roast Dinner BYO Drinks and a Wedding Photo.** For further details and to register please go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/COSSN> or contact Steve & Sue Hollowood Ph 0431 477 566 / 0412 130 845.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** More details soon. Focus country Palestine.  
**Host:** Salvation Army **Enquires:** Rosie Massey (Major) Ph: 9752 2682

**RCIA News –** Dear Parishioners, Louis, our catechumen, and Sally our candidate will be attending the **Rite of Election** at St Patrick's Cathedral this Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, with their sponsors. This is a significant event for our catechumen and candidate. They will move into the period of purification and enlightenment in preparation for the sacraments of initiation, which they will celebrate at the Easter Vigil. This is a time **our catechumen and candidate need your prayers, support and care.** Please remember them in your prayers. Sending you blessings, Mary.

**2024 VIRTUAL LENT SERIES** a series of Lent talks by four Australian biblical scholars from Yarra Theological Union, a College of the University of Divinity. Speaking to us from their own area of expertise will be: Prof. Mary Coloe PBVM, Dr Mary Reabum NDS, Dr Chris Monaghan CP & Dr Janina Hiebel. This is a perfect opportunity to enrich your Lenten journey.  
**When:** Mondays Feb 12, 19, 26 & March 4, 11, 18  
**Time** 7.00pm – 8.00pm AEDT **via Zoom meeting**  
**Cost:** FREE Online registration is essential. Zoom meeting details will be forwarded after registration. Register Now!

**SVDP PIETY STALL – Easter update.** Currently we have 4 beautiful **children's Easter books for sale** – 2 of these have both a **story & Lenten activity.** Beginning in March, we also hope to have some **Easter Cards & small gifts** available for purchase – these will last longer than easter eggs!! 😊 See the friendly staff in the Piety stall after Mass.

**WANTED—ACCOMMODATION.** An Independent single unit accommodation wanted for a single male who is reliable. **It is for a short-term period.** This request is supported by: ST VINCENT de PAUL Conference in Ferntree Gully. If you can help, please contact SVDP through the : Parish Office 9758 1029

**ROSARY BEADS** if you have any unwanted rosary beads and would like to donate them for distribution to the sick during hospital visits, please place them in the box in the Church foyer. They mean such a lot, to those stuck in hospital. Thank you.

**LENT 2024 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES** Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! This program is FREE and you can sign up here <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>

ROSTERS: Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb to Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 2024	
Flowers	No flowers during Lent
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Lia U, Kathryn C 9am Rosa L & Florence J 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Louise D 9am Pamela E 11am: Priya H
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J, Joan R
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T