

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse

anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is
heard: this is My Beloved Son, hear Him.
Glory and praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

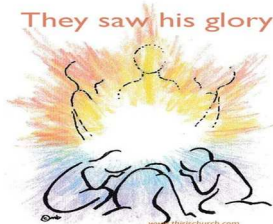
9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them anymore but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

They saw his glory



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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Phone: 9758 1029

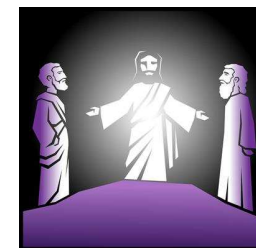
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



**2nd Sunday of Lent – Yr B
24th / 25th February 2024
Year of Prayer.**

*Ever-faithful God,
You were well pleased with Abraham's obedience
and You accepted the sacrifice of Your Son,
who gave Himself up for us all.
Form us by Christ's teachings and obedience
to walk His way of sacrifice,
and thus, come to share in Your glory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE WORD Jesus took the three apostles up to the mountain for **three reasons**: first, to show them the glory of his divinity, then to declare himself Israel's redeemer as he had already foretold by the prophets, and thirdly to prevent the apostles' being scandalized at seeing him soon afterward enduring those human sufferings which he had freely accepted for our sake.

The apostles knew that Jesus was a man; they did not know that he was God. To their knowledge he was the son of Mary, a man who shared their daily life in this world. On the mountain he revealed to them that he was the Son of God, that he was in fact God himself. Peter, James, and John were familiar with the sight of their master eating and drinking, working and taking rest, growing tired and falling asleep, experiencing fear and breaking out in sweat. All these things were natural to his humanity, not to his divinity. He therefore took them up onto the mountain so that they could hear his Father's voice calling him Son, and he could show them that he was truly the Son of God and was himself divine. He took them up onto the mountain in order to show them his kingship before they witnessed his passion, to let them see his mighty power before they watched his death, to reveal his glory to them before they beheld his humiliation. Then when they took him captive and condemned him to the cross, the apostles would understand that **it was not for any lack of power on his part that Jesus allowed himself to be crucified by his enemies, but because he had freely chosen to suffer in that way for the world's salvation.** He took them up onto the mountain before his resurrection and showed them the glory of his divinity, so that when he rose from the dead in that same divine glory they would realize that this was not something given him as a reward for his labor, as if he were previously without it. That glory had been his with the Father from all eternity, as is clear from his words on approaching his freely chosen passion: "Father, glorify me now with the glory I had with you before the world was made." – *Sermon 16 - Ephrem (c306-73) Doctor of the Church.*

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 TUES 27th Feb St Gregory of Narek Fri 1st March Autumn Ember Day
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@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.

2nd Sunday of Lent – Yr B
24th / 25th February 2024 - Year of Prayer

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:
Ruth Vail, Michela Pauli (Italy)

Those who we remember at this time:
Lourdes Oracion, Aniceto Judit, Robert Winspear, Palmeriono Capozzi, Pietro Cursaro, Frank Johnson, Ron Neville, Terry McCluskey, Eileen Haire, Giuseppina Angelo, Andy , Federico & Silvia Zarro, Margherita, Damiano, Luigi, Cosimo & Jilda Coviello.
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 1st March!**

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.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS, 1st MARCH Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10am. Mass at 11am. Please stay for a cuppa after Mass.

PROJECT COMPASSION For 60 years the Project Compassion appeals have been an important means by which the Australian church has shown its solidarity with those in need around the world, providing funds for development and emergency aid. Find out more at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion or ph:1800 024 413

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.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL OPEN DAYS 6th & 14th March and 9th May, 9am-5pm. ENROL NOW FOR 2025.

RCIA News – Dear Parishioners, Louis, our catechumen, and Sally our candidate attended the **Rite of Election** at St Patrick's Cathedral last Sunday, 18th Feb, with their sponsors. This is a significant event for our catechumen and candidate. They will now 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

LOOKING FOR HELP – ARE THEIR ANY PARISHIONERS ABLE TO COMMUNICATE IN AUSLAN ?? If you are able to communicate in Australian Sign language, would you please make contact with Mary in the Parish Office? Tues/Wed between 10am-2pm. Thankyou.

All are invited to the WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 2024 focus is on PALESTINE
"I beg you ... bear with one another in love"
Our host this year for the World day of Prayer is THE SALVATION ARMY
Venue: Ferntree Gully Corps
37 Wattletree Rd, FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156
Date: FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 10.00A.M

Mercy Aged and Community Seeking a compassionate Pastoral Carer for our aged care home on 991 Mount Dandenong Tourist Rd Montrose. Provide spiritual support, companionship, and comfort to residents. **Apply Now** careers@mercy.com.au

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

LENTEN RETREAT BY FR ROGAN GEORGE VC
Vincentian retreats are formed to help the people of God to grow in their faith as to receive the salvation given by Jesus. Our preaching's and teachings are based on the Word of God and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Fr Rogan will speak at Masses **here on the weekend of 16th/17th March, and run our retreat on 18th /19th March from 6pm-8pm.** Please save the dates. <https://www.vrcm.org.au/>

PREP STUDENTS & FAMILIES WELCOME MASS
Prep families will receive an invitation in the coming days inviting Prep families to join the parish at Mass on **Sunday 3rd March at 11:00am.** The Prep Family Mass is a lovely way for the parish to welcome our newest members of the school and parish community.

MERCY MELBOURNE This Lent, Archbishop Comensoli invites and encourages all parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to participate in 'Mercy Melbourne' on **Tuesday 19 March (6-9pm).** Co-ordinated by Fr Dean Mathieson, this evening is an opportunity for all to experience the love that flows from the merciful heart of the Father. Mercy Melbourne is an initiative that invites parishes to open their doors in welcome for a special evening of prayer and Confessions. The purpose of this focused event is to highlight the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and make it as easy as possible for all Catholics to experience the grace of the Sacrament as we prepare for the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord. The simple format asks participating parishes to open their churches from 6pm-9pm on Tuesday 19 March and be available to hear Confessions.

ROSTERS: Mon 26 th Feb to Sun 3 rd Mar 2024	
Flowers	No flowers during Lent
Linen	Carol D
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 9am Joanna C & Thelma B 11am Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm: Rosina L 9am Caroline Q 11am: Bonnie H
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J, Joan R
Gardening	Carlo E & Help needed.