

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1: 29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils

The Gospel of the Lord.



Jesus heals Simon's Mother-in-law.

IMPORTANT: there will be No EVENING MASS this Tuesday night, 6th February.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Knox Deanery
19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156
Phone: 9758 1029
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B
3rd / 4th February 2024
Year of Prayer.

Loving Lord,

You sent Your Son Jesus, into our world.

You have given us faith in You, and Your living Word.

We ask You to help us grow in that faith,

as we meditate on Your Word.

Let us hear Your voice and open the doors of our

Minds and hearts to know and understand You more.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD Each year, we devote the first Sunday in February to celebrating and appreciating the **Word of God**. As we read and reflect on the Scriptures or listen to the word being proclaimed in our liturgical celebrations, **we open our hearts to let God transform us**.

Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, "Aperuit Illis" The following excerpts are from [Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" \(Luke 24:45\)](#). This was one of the final acts of the risen Lord before his Ascension. Jesus appeared to the assembled disciples, broke bread with them and opened their minds to the understanding of the sacred Scriptures. To them, amid their fear and bewilderment, he unveiled the meaning of the paschal mystery: that in accordance with the Father's eternal plan he had to suffer and rise from the dead, in order to bring repentance and the forgiveness of sins (cf. Luke 24:26,46-47). He then promised to send the Holy Spirit, who would give them strength to be witnesses of this saving mystery (cf. Luke 24:49).

The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: **"Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ"** (*Commentary on the Book of Isaiah*, Prologue: PL 24,17B)... Regular reading of [Sacred Scripture](#) and the celebration of the [Eucharist](#) make it possible for us to see ourselves as part of one another. As Christians, we are a single people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us.

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 5th Feb St Agatha Tue 6th Feb St Paul Miki & Companions
Thur 8th St Jerome Emiliani & St Josephine Bakhita 10th Feb St Scholastica

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 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.

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B
3rd /4th February 2024 - Year of Prayer

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Gino Primo Parolin, Lorraine Loel.

Those who we remember at this time:

Kathleen Joyce, Benito Discenza, John Dunlop and Jim Dale.

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.

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.

ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will resume Tuesday 6th February 10.15 - 12.15 in the parish hall. If you've ever wondered what we do, please come and see - you will be made most welcome! Stay for a shared lunch. **Enquiries:** Tineke Ph 9763-1096, or Maree in the Parish Office.
MOTHERS PARYERS, Do you sometimes feel as a mother that you don't quite manage to pray as much as you would like? Take heart! Jesus urges us to bring our burdens/problems to him. Join us at **9am-10am, in the Parish Office from 6th February. All welcome.**

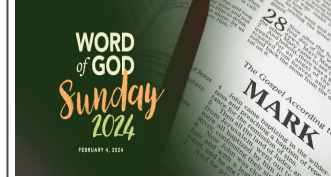
LENT 2024 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. **Be refreshed. Be renewed!** For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent> Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

DO YOU HAVE a Working With Children Check (WWCC)? *Is it still valid? if not please renew it. If you do not have a WWCC please apply using the following link :- <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children/landing>*



IMPORTANT: there will be No **EVENING MASS** this Tuesday night, 6th February.

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY the motto chosen is taken from the Gospel of St John: **“Remain in my Word”** (John 8:31). The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – February 4 in 2024 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B). Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. Visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/three-ways-to-experience-the-word-of-god-anew-in-2024> to help commemorate the day and suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.”



WE REMEMBER, THE LATE MARY DITCHFIELD

I have the sad task of informing you that Mary Ditchfield recently passed. Some of our older parishioners may remember Mary Ditchfield, who was a teacher at St John the Baptist School, as well as a religious education coordinator. Mary also worked as a Pastoral Worker at the Parish during Fr Bill's time. She is remembered for her work in starting the Nell's Cottage Community Group which ran in our parish for about 18-20 years. There is to be a Private Memorial Ceremony on Saturday 3rd February, at her son's property in Sassafra. Please keep Mary in your prayers. Well done, good and faithful servant. Rest In Peace.

Sr MARIE THERESE TURNS 100yrs. Last week, a **FORMER PRINCIPAL**(in the 1980's) OF St John the Baptist school, Sr Marie Therese turned 100years old. Surrounded by friends in the town of Rutherglen when she resides. Congratulations to a woman of Faith!



"SIGNS OF THE TIMES" ROUNDTABLE MEETING the Cardijn Community is proposing to convene a meeting on Tues 20th 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

LENTEN PROGRAM 2024 With Ash Wednesday rapidly approaching on 14th February the advent are now ready for collection. A big thank you to Wayne for collecting them for us.

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 PH 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.

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Gino Primo Parolin** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Thursday 8th February-** at 11.00am. Celebrant: Fr Bruno Carrera.

FUNERAL MASS for **Lorraine Loel** here at St Johns on Wed 14th February, at 11.30am. Celebrant: Fr Thomas.

FOR YOUR DIARY:

Fri 9th February – School Mass 11am, with Staff Commissioning
Tues 13th February – Shrove (**Pancake**) Tuesday
Wed 14th February- **ASH WEDNESDAY** Mass 9.15am & 7pm
Thur 15th February – **First Reconciliation Family Meeting** 7pm
18th -14th March Hamony Week



CARPARK GOOD NEWS the top car park beside the church will be almost fully **reserved for Parishioners. 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. Thank you.**



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PLANNING MEETING Hi Friends in Christ, It is time to plan and prepare the WDOP service for this year. The Salvation Army are the host church and the country is Palestine. I would like to invite you to the **planning meeting on Friday the 16th Feb** at 10am at The Salvation Army Church on 37 Wattletree Road. Ferntree Gully. Enquiries: Rosie Massey (Major) Ph: 9752 2682



ROSTERS: Mon 5th Feb to Sun 11th Feb, 2024

Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L, Myra N 9am Lia U & Help needed 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Alvi M 9am: Peter F 11am: Joan R
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T