

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Leviticus
13:1-2, 44-46

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
1 Cor 10:31-11:1

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

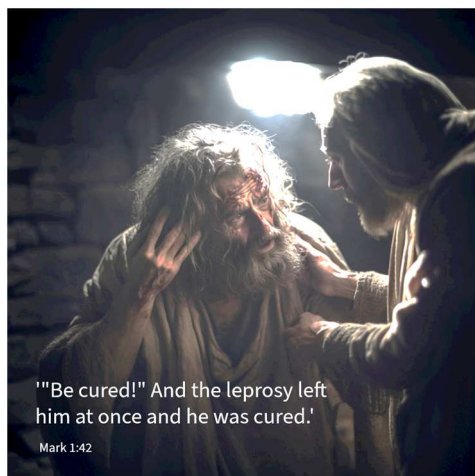
*Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
1: 40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



"Be cured!" And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured.

Mark 1:42

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES: 9.15AM & 7PM
Wednesday 14th February, 2024.
LENTEN PROGRAM MONDAY 7.15pm in the
Parish Hall. All Welcome



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



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B
10th / 11th February 2024
Year of Prayer.

*Jesus our Healer,
From your abundant pity,
We pray for Your Healing,
for us, and for our Broken world.
Reach out to us, like You did to the leper.
Please, Fix our damaged earth, and heal us,
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD Who Is a 'Leper' Today? First, a necessary note that is both linguistic and clinical: in our Bible translations "leper" has a meaning different from how we define it today. The people ministered by Fr. Damien on the island of Molokai had Hansen's disease; and that is what we commonly call leprosy. In the Bible there is a group of skin diseases called *tzaraat* characterized by scaling and peeling. The Hebrew word, which Everett Fox leaves untranslated in his English version of Leviticus, refers to that cluster of skin diseases which were thought to render a person ritually polluted. (Leviticus also includes rules for dealing with *tzaraat* of the walls and *tzaraat* of textiles and implements.) Persons beset with those skin diseases were instructed to absent themselves from the community, to set themselves apart by dress, and to warn those approaching them with cries of "unclean, unclean." That people regularly recovered from such diseases is presumed in the Levitical rules that come after those quoted in the First Reading, the very regulations that Jesus alludes to when he tells the healed man to show himself to the priest and to offer for his cleansing what Moses commanded (in Leviticus 14).. The encounter between Jesus and the "leper" in this Sunday's reading is instructive. First, though the Law commands the man to keep his distance, he dares to approach Jesus. The source of his confidence is expressed in his words: "If you wish, you can make me clean." He knows that Jesus can mediate healing. It is telling that he asks for "cleansing" – a word that refers to the removal of ritual pollution. For him, to be restored to the worshipping community is as important as to be healed from the discomfort of the skin ailment. Jesus' response, Mark tells us, springs from compassion. He stretches out his hand, touches the man, and says, "I do will it. Be made clean." Notice that this gesture technically puts Jesus in violation of the Torah, for coming in contact with the ritually unclean would render him ritually unclean.

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 Wed 14th Feb St Ash Wednesday Project Compassion begins.
Lenten Program – Living in Harmony – Monday Nights in the Parish Hall – 7.15pm

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
ASH WEDNESDAY 14.2.24 9.15am & 7pm
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.

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr B
10th / 11th February 2024 - Year of Prayer

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Keith Scutt, Joseph Edmunds, Michael Hanrahan, Joan Rashleigh, Joyce Howell, Coral Pearce.

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 from 6th February. 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 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 BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY
MASS on Wednesday, 14th February, 2024 Mass will



be celebrated at 9.15am and 7.00pm Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of

fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year until the beginning of their 60th year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th 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 overburdened.** Lent is also an appropriate time to prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter.

"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

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
FERNTREE GULLY CONFERENCE,



would like to thank all of our parishioners for your tremendous support for our ongoing work in assisting the disadvantaged in our parish area. Our appeal continued to raise the awareness of our varied work for those who are experiencing hardship. We are pleased to inform you that all non-perishable food and cash that you donated has been used directly to support the needy this Christmas. **Once again we thank Parishioners for their generous donations over the Christmas period.**

Cash donations and gift cards from:

our Primary School totaled: \$1,615.00,
Parish donations of gift cards totaled \$2,715.00
Parish donations of cash totaled \$1,105.00

Grand Total: \$5,435.00

Our members packed and delivered: 93 hampers with a total cost of \$ 16,600.00. We sincerely thank Fr Thomas and everyone who supported us in so many ways. **We are always delighted to welcome people to join us as we continue to support those in need.** May God's Blessings be upon you— SVDP.

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 at: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>



BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Imogen Cox** daughter of Duane & Erin, **Chloe Kai Xin Tan**, daughter of Shirley Tan, & **Archer Nevil** son of Nevil & Nimisha, who will be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

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

FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tues 13th February – Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday

Wed 14th February- **ASH WEDNESDAY** Mass 9.15am & 7pm

Thur 15th February – **First Reconciliation Family Meeting** 7pm

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PLANNING MEETING It is

time to plan and prepare the service for this year. The Salvation Army are the host church and the country is Palestine. You are invited to the **planning meeting on Friday the 16th Feb** at 10am at The Salvation Army Church on 37 Wattleree Rd. Femtree Gully. **Eng:** Rosie Massey (Major) Ph: 9752 2682



A RETREAT DAY ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, A SPACIOUS TIME TO COME AND REST.



Your retreat will begin with an introduction to the theme of the day. There will be times of silence for reflection on Scripture, art, and poetry, and group sharing of prayer experiences. Prayer materials will be provided. **You are invited to one or more "Come and Rest" Retreat Days in 2024:**

Saturday 17 Feb – Lilies of the field, Matt 6:28-30

Saturday 18 May – Seedtime and harvest, Gen 8:22

Each day begins at 9.30am and concludes at 3pm, BYO lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. **Price: \$50** including tea and coffee, prayer materials, retreat input and facilitation. **Where:** JISA Campion, 99 Studley Park Road, Kew, enter by Hodgson Street **Facilitated by:** JISA Campion Spiritual Directors: Apryl Huglin and Julie Mitchell **Email: info@jisa.org.au Phone: 1300 392 636**

EDITORS NOTE – SR Marie Terese, who recently turned 100 **lives in Brighton**, not Rutherglen. Apologies for the miscommunication.

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**

ROSTERS: Mon 12th Feb to Sun 18th Feb, 2024

Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm Myra N, Wilma H 9am Terry S, Neil & Lorraine R, Peter C 11am Priya H, Patrick S
Lectors	6pm: Jan R 9am: Gordon V 11am: Phuong B
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J, Joan R
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T