

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water,
that I may never thirst again.*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 4:5-16.19-26.39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and He would have given you living water. "You have no bucket, sir," she answered 'and the well is deep: how could You get this living water? Are You a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life. "Sir," said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'I see You are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while You say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews.'

(Gospel continued overleaf)



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



3rd Sunday of Lent – Yr B

2nd / 3rd March, 2024

Year of Prayer.

*Heavenly Father,
You know all things.
You made us your children
in the waters of baptism.*

*Through the guidance of Your Holy Spirit,
Turn us from every rash and shallow judgement.
Grant us to drink of the well of everlasting Life.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD The woman at the well did not ask Jesus for a favour. Jesus asked her for a favour. She had the bucket. He wanted a drink. She has had five husbands and is living with a sixth man. She is a Samaritan and a woman – both characteristics a Jewish man was raised to look down on. Yet, she dares to question and argue with Jesus. As rugged as she is, she recognises what is special in Jesus and she wants that living water he is talking about. She is so convinced he is the Messiah that she leaves her bucket behind as she runs off to tell others the good news. She won Jesus so many followers that he stayed with them for two days. She is a weed, a flower and a rebel, all rolled into one. Do you know anyone like the Samaritan woman – someone who seems so unholy and so holy at the same time? someone hard to figure out? Do you feel like that sometimes? Why or why not?

Jesus came to turn weeds into flowers, and wallflowers into movers and shakers. Share about a time you were most flower-like, a time you were most weed-like, or a time you were most rebel-like. © St Mary's Press

Q. To what was Jesus alluding when he spoke of giving the woman 'living water'?

RCIA PROGRAM During our 9am Mass this Sunday, **Louis & Sally will be 'presented' with a precious 'gift', the Creed.** The word *creed* comes from the Latin word *credo* which literally translates as *I believe*. The presentation of our Profession of Faith reminds us of the central place of faith in our journey towards Easter. We congratulate Louis & Sally on this next step on their RCIA journey and continue to support them through our prayers.

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 4th March St Casimir Thurs 7th March Sts Perpetua & Felicity
Fri 8th March St John of God Sat 9th March St Frances of Rome.

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 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.

3rd Sunday of Lent – Yr B
2nd / 3rd March 2024 - Year of Prayer

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Christopher Winstone, Benariza Sason

Those who we remember at this time:

Therese Edmunds, Judy Pek, Judy Atkinson, & Raymond Studach.

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. 5.30pm-7.30pm** in Parish Hall.

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.



BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Aviv Fernando** son of Reyan & Nimasha, who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



PROJECT COMPASSION This week, Project Compassion brings us the story of **Memory who lives in Malawi** With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner Catholic Development Commission in Malawi, Memory was able to enrol at technical college where she learnt practical skills in carpentry. A new life became possible. Find out more at caritas.org.au/project-compassion or ph:1800 024 413

ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE RAISES \$150,000 FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE – The 24th February, marked the difficult 2nd year anniversary of Ukraine's invasion by Russia. As you know the Archdiocese of Melbourne launched an Appeal during Advent to raise awareness and provide some practical relief for those in need. There were over 1,000 donors, with some Parishes uniting as one singular contribution. **To date, the Archdiocese raised \$131, 549.00** – a significant amount. Archbishop Comensoli will bring this amount to a total figure of **\$150,000.00, to be offered to Bishop Mykola** via the Ukraine Future Limited with the understanding that **these monies will directly support people** who need support in re-establishing their lives and livelihoods after experiences of trauma and displacement. Archbishop Comensoli said... “Please know of my deepest gratitude for the energy and support you have brought to this Appeal through our Parishes and beyond. May we continue to hold our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in our prayers, and seek the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Queen of Peace, that her Son, the Prince of Peace, will remain close to those you need it most.”

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL OPEN DAYS 6th & 14th March
and 9th May, 9am-5pm. ENROL NOW FOR 2025.
OPEN DAY Please invite any friends, family or neighbours who have a child eligible to start school in 2025. Please contact with the School office to complete an enrolment form as soon as possible, on PH: 9758 1013



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)**. 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**.

GOSPEL – (Continued from the back page)

But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth. 'The woman said to Him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when He comes He will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am He.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in Him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done,' so, when the Samaritans came up to Him, they begged Him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when He spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard Him ourselves and we know that He really is the saviour of the world.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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 we warmly welcome you to our Mass today. We hope that you feel right at home, here at St John the Baptist Parish, you are integral members of our community.



Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives. Learn more: Join our Mission **Webinar March 5th, 2024, 6:00 - 6:30 pm** Contact: 02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au

ROSTERS: Mon 4th March to Sun 10th Mar 2024

Flowers	No flowers during Lent
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L & Myra N 9am Terry S, Neil & Loraine R, Peter C 11am Priya H & Patrick S
Lectors	6pm: Gab V 9am Terry S 11am: Vicente M
Counters	George & Genevieve, Bindu M
Gardening	Carlo E & Help needed.