

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans 8:8-11*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life,
says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45*

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me,
even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice,
'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his
feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth
round his face. Jesus said to them,
'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had
seen what he did believed in him.

The Word of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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**5th Sunday of Lent – Yr B
16th/ 17th March, 2024 - Year of Prayer.**

*Loving Jesus,
You knew the pain of human loss,
But you called out to God in prayer.
Give us that same deep faith,
Of knowing that God our Father hears us,
May we always pray in Faith, and expectation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE WORD Jesus wept' is the shortest verse in the New Testament. Just two little words carry a world of emotion and speak volumes about Jesus. Pope Leo I used this verse to highlight the two natures of Jesus, pointing out that in his humanity, Jesus wept for the death of his friend, but in his divinity Jesus raised Lazarus to life. Lazarus and his sisters were close friends of Jesus and Jesus is clearly emotional about the death and its effect on Martha and Mary. That Jesus is about to restore Lazarus to life does not deny the grief and mourning at Lazarus' death. To see a man bound up for burial suddenly come walking from his tomb must have been an unnerving experience to say the least. However, Jesus calmly commands the astonished onlookers to '**unbind him, let him go free**'. These words speak to us today as we come to the end of the Lenten season and approach the celebration of Easter. What are the things that 'bind' us? **From what do we need to be released so that we may 'go free'**? Are they bindings placed by ourselves or others? What will it take to be unbound?.

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SAVE WITH CDF COMMUNITY FUND – it's in everyone's best interest. By opening an account, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, but your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities. With competitive interest rates available across a range of accounts, including 5.55%p.a. * on 12 month term investment, it's a way to save while doing good. Find out more at www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer or email Pan-Cassin@melbcdcf.org.au *interest rates subject to change. View current on website.



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 18th St Patrick** **Tues 19th March** St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wed 20th Mar **Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne. 10.30am**

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
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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 20th Mar Communion service only 9.15am
& 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 of Lent – Yr B
16th / 17th March 2024 - Year of Prayer
PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:
Maria Antonielli Mons. Vincenzo Capozzi (Italy)

Those who we remember at this time:
Kathleen Hine, Giuseppina Russo, Pauline Bowden, Audrey Homan, Mary Brimelow, Carmella Nardone, Peter Trevena, Michael Atkinson, Mary Whelan, Maureen Hayman, Ellen Wallace.

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. 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.

MOTHERS PARYERS Take heart! Jesus urges us to bring our burdens/problems to him. Join us to pray, **Tues 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 Thurs 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.

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.

HOLY SPIRIT PILGRIMAGE (2024): Europe Pilgrimage and Tour (Medjugorje, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland) from 12/09/2024-27/09/2024
Tel: (08)93413079 Spiritual Director: Fr. Emmanuel-tv. Contact us ASAP for Details - Mob 0417999553 or Email: holyspiritp@gmail.com; fremmanuelstv@gmail.com

WALK WITH MARY 2024 Sunday 17th March, St Patrick's Cathedral. 2pm Prayers, Holy Mass, City Street Procession. **Ph Joy Hunt 95092207** or for more info go to: www.thecombinedsocietiesofmary.com

LENTEN RETREAT BY FR ROJAN 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 Rojan will speak at Masses **here on the weekend of 16th/17th March, and run our retreat on 18th /19th March. Mon 18th 6.30pm Rosary 7pm Mass followed by Talk and Adoration Tues 19th 6pm-7pm Reconciliation, 7pm Mass, Followed by Talk, Adoration**


RCIA News This weekend we switch readings again to Year A readings. This Sunday, **Louis & Sally will be 'presented' with another precious 'gift' – The Lord's Prayer.** During each of the Scrutinies, we witness the miracle of a radical encounter with Christ, who redeems in gentle love. **Christ has liberated us; we are free!**

 **MERCY MELBOURNE** mercymelbourne.org **St John the Baptist Parish will be taking part in 'Mercy Melbourne'. On Tuesday 19 March (6-7pm).** 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.

BUS TRIP the Friendship Gathering Bus Trip to **Healesville Sanctuary on Thursday April 11th** has a few places available. Group Cost \$25.00 payable in advance. Bookings essential. **Call Lorna on 9758 1870/0421 494 762 by 25th March, to lock in your spot on the Mobility Friendly Bus.**

ROSARY BEADS, THANK YOU Recently, a request was made for some rosary beads, to offer to hospital patients on care visits. I am thrilled to say that there has been a great response. **Thank you so much to the kind people who have donated such beautiful beads.** We have more than enough for the time being and offer our sincere appreciation. God bless you all.

CABRINI Movie The powerful story of **St Francesca Cabrini**, an Italian immigrant who arrives in New York City in 1889, and is greeted by disease, crime and impoverished children. Cabrini sets out on a daring mission to convince the hostile mayor to secure housing and healthcare for society's most vulnerable. Showing at the **Cameo Belgrave, Sun 17th March at 12.10pm**

 **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP**
Welcoming all students who are in Year 6 to Year 9 (11-15 years old) to our **final Youth Group session of Term 1!** Please join us at the St Parish Hall for fun activities and dinner! Hoping to see you all there and bring a friend along with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch via email. Where: Parish Hall, St John the Baptist Parish. 19 Forest Rd, Ferntree Gully VIC 3156 **When?** 15th March 2024; at 5:30-7:30. Contact E: sjtbyouth@gmail.com Insta: @sjtb.youth

MUSICIANS/SINGERS URGENTLY NEEDED
Please, join us in the singing or accompanying at Mass, as we prepare for the up-coming Holy Week/ Easter Services. All welcome. Please contact Maree in the Parish office and record your name on the Sign-up sheets on the glass wall.

FUNERAL MASS –for the late **Maria Antonielli** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Tuesday, 26th March, Viewing 10.30am, Rosary 11.00am Mass at 11.30am.

CHRISM MASS (Mass of the Oils) AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL Wednesday 20th March at 10.30am. The Mass of the Oils is a special celebration in the Church's calendar. All are welcome to attend, especially those involved in the ministering to the sick and sponsors of catechumens and candidates. Here at St John's there will be a **Communion Service only, no Mass on that day**, as Fr Thomas will be at the Chrism Mass.

 **CARITAS AUSTRALIA PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION:** The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2024.** Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, **for all future generations.** **Donate through** Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by Ph: 1800 024 413.

ROSTERS: Mon 18 th March to Sun 24 th Mar 2024	
Flowers	No flowers during Lent
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Lia U & Kathryn C 9am Rosa L & Florence J 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Alvi M 9am Peter F 11am: Carolyn S
Counters	Tony B, Stephanie H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Carlo E & Help needed.