

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34, 37-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ *This is the day the Lord has made  
let us rejoice and be glad.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The Word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;  
let us feast with joy in the Lord.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.



"Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed."

John 20:1

*Alleluia!*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)



Sunday of the RESURRECTION – Year B

30<sup>th</sup> /31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – Year of Prayer

*Risen Jesus,  
Our Blessed and triumphant Lord  
On this happy, joyful feast,  
We rejoice that You are alive and with us.  
Make us messengers of Easter joy and hope  
for all the world to see, and  
Give us courage, to tell your good news to the world.  
By the power of your Holy Name ,Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD Happy Easter! Alleluia! He is Risen!** Today we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus - from the grave. Jesus tells us that the restoration of our physical bodies is not simply a distant dream. No, Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life." Then he adds, "No one comes to the Father except through me." **By a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer and sacraments, we already participate in the Resurrection.** St. Paul speaks about that relationship when he tells us, "If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above." St. Paul says that we have already been raised with Christ. Unfortunately, even on Easter day, **many people can feel like they are still in the tomb.** They feel discouraged. Especially this past year, with so many economic problems, it sometimes seems like our society is unraveling. When you add family problems and personal failings, it is easy to feel discouraged. **If you feel burdened today,** I ask you to think about these words of Pope John Paul the Great: **"We are not the sum of our failures. We are the sum of the Father's love for us - and our real capacity is to become the image of his Son Jesus."** What a difference it would make if we defined ourselves by God's love - not by our failures! No matter where you are right now, God has a plan for you. \*From :*Amazing Grace for Survivors* (50 Stories of Faith, Hope & Perseverance) by Jeff Cavins, Matthew Pinto, Patti Armstrong & Luke Armstrong.

**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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

*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  
**Wednesday** 9.15am  
**& Thurs** 9.15 am  
**Friday** 11.00 am  
**RECONCILIATION:** Saturdays 5.15 pm

**GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2pm  
**WILLOWBROOK MASS** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 11am

**BAPTISMS:** Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays).  
**Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.**

Sunday of the Resurrection – Yr B  
30<sup>th</sup> /31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 - Year of Prayer

**PRAYING FOR...**


*All who have died recently:*

Sue Woodward

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Bob Lisle, Shela McDonald, Peter Reed, Luigi Macario, Maisie (Gina) Gallenti, Domenic Lizza, Chris Nguyen.

**The sick:** Janet Roffey, 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.

**ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**  
**Will not be a meeting on Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> April for the Easter Break.**

**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.

**The ANZAC DAY DAWN WATCH the Ferntree Gully Rotary Club invites our Parishioners and Friends, to join the ANZAC DAY Dawn Service, which will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Quarry Park, Quarry Road, Ferntree Gully. Arrive at 5.45am, for a 6.00am start. Bring a torch and chair if needed. Lest we Forget.**

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> April , 2024**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater**  
1pm Reconciliation, 3pm Procession, Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet, and Mass.  
**Celebrant:** Archbishop Peter Comensoli

**Fr Thomas' EASTER MESSAGE 2024**

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the joyous celebration of Easter, I am filled with gratitude for the blessings of our faith community. This holy season invites us to reflect deeply on the profound significance of Christ's resurrection and the hope it brings to all humanity.

Easter is a time of renewal, both spiritually and personally. Just as Christ emerged from the tomb, conquering death and bringing forth new life, we too are called to embrace the opportunity for spiritual rebirth and transformation in our own lives. Let us take this moment to renew our commitment to living as disciples of Christ, guided by love, compassion, and service to others.

In the midst of the challenges and uncertainties we may face, Easter reminds us of the power of hope and the promise of redemption. It is a time to rejoice in the victory of light over darkness, and to reaffirm our belief in the triumph of good over evil.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ reminds us of the power of redemption and the promise of new life. It is a beacon of light in times of darkness, a source of strength in moments of weakness, and a testament to the boundless mercy and grace of our Lord.

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Easter, let us also remember those who are struggling, lonely, or in need. May our hearts be open to extending the love and kindness of Christ to all those around us, especially to those who may feel forgotten or marginalized.

I encourage each of you to take time for prayer and reflection during this sacred season, drawing closer to God and allowing His grace to fill your hearts with peace and joy. Let us embrace the message of Easter with renewed faith and hope, knowing that Christ's resurrection is a source of endless grace and mercy for all who believe. I invite you to join us in our Easter celebrations as we come together to rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Easter filled with the love of Christ.

- Fr Thomas, Parish Priest.



**THANKYOU PROJECT COMPASSION**  
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

**DONATE NOW**

**PROJECT COMPASSION**

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia! Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2024 Lenten appeal. Please remember to bring your Project Compassion boxes and envelopes for collection or


Donate through [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by Ph: 1800 024 413.

**FUNERAL MASS** for the late **Sue Woodward** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Tuesday, 9th April, at 11.00am.

*Congratulations...*

We offer our sincere congratulations to **Louis & Sally** who were formally received into the Church this weekend, though the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy! **Please join us in congratulating our newly confirmed members.**

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

 **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: live your best married life.** Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. Presented by Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME), this live-in weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Apr 2024, 10.00am – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Apr 2024, 5.00pm** At St Paul's Missionary College Wantirna

ROSTERS: Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> April to Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	
Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Peter G, Wilma H 9am Joanna C, Thelma B 11am Anna M, Priya H
Lectors	6pm: Jan R ??? Help needed 9am Caroline Q 11am: Peter Joiner
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Carlo E & Help needed.