

## THE COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

*Mark 11: 1-10*

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them,

'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" say, "The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately"'.

And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street; and they untied it. And those who stood there said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?'

And they told them what Jesus had said; and they let them go.

And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments on it; and he sat upon it. And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed cried out, 'Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming!

Hosanna in the highest!'



### FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah 50:4-7*

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes

to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ My God, my God,  
why have You abandoned me?*

### SECOND READING

*A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 2:6-11*

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, To the glory of God the Father.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!*

*Christ became obedient for us even to death,  
dying on the cross.*

*Therefore God raised him on high  
and gave him a name above all other names.*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
king of endless glory!*

### GOSPEL

Please refer to separate sheets for  
**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS  
CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK**

Please return Palm Sunday booklets to the boxes provided  
on the trolleys.



## **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)**



**Palm Sunday of Lent – Yr B  
23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 - Year of Prayer.**

*God our Father*

*Your Son Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey  
as a different kind of king.*

*You call your followers to be different too.*

*As we reflect on Jesus' Passion,  
our hearts are filled with gratitude.*

*May we continue to walk in the way of the cross,  
and honour You with our lives.*

*We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** 'Let us ask for the grace to be amazed', reflects Pope Francis. 'A Christian life without amazement', he warns, 'becomes drab and dreary'. Palm Sunday is about so much more than an annual waving of branches.

Whether our faith has become what the Pope styled 'dull from habit', or we find ourselves 'trapped in our regrets', or 'crippled by our disappointments', or easily inclined to 'take refuge in legalisms', **the Pope suggests we return our gaze to Jesus' self-sacrifice and allow ourselves to be amazed.** 'Let us be amazed by Jesus so that we can start living again,' the Pope says, 'for the grandeur of life lies not in possessions and promotions, but in realising that we are loved.' When we allow ourselves to embrace this fact our lives will be changed. As the Pope points out, many of those who welcomed Jesus' entry into Jerusalem quickly abandoned him. They were, he suggests, 'following an *idea* of the Messiah rather than *the* Messiah'. Their public demonstrations seem to have proved self-oriented and shallow.

**'To admire Jesus is not enough', the Pope declares. 'We have to follow in his footsteps,** to let ourselves be challenged by him; to pass from admiration to amazement.' This, he says, enables us to really 'know that we are not alone: God is at our side in every affliction, in every fear; no evil, no sin will ever have the final word.' 'And with the grace of amazement', the Pope adds, 'we come to realise that in welcoming the dismissed and discarded, in drawing close to those ill-treated by life, we are loving Jesus.' © Nick Brodie

**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)

**FEAST DAYS** Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Holy Thursday 8pm Mass Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday 3pm Mass Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Easter Vigil 8pm

*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.

**Palm Sunday of Lent – Yr B**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Year of Prayer**  
**PRAYING FOR...**  
*All who have died recently:*

*Those who we remember at this time:*  
Tom Schepisi, Ronald Gallenti, Domenico Lizza, Brian Mitchell.

*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 PRAYERS.** Takes a break this Tuesday. We will resume after the school holidays.

**ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** Will not run this week, as we will be attending a Funeral. And there 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.**

 **Caritas AUSTRALIA** **RETURN PROJECT COMPASSION** Please remember to bring your Project Compassion boxes and envelopes for collection at Holy Thursday's 'Mass of the Lord's Supper'. **If at all possible, please return them earlier. Donate through [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by Ph: 1800 024 413.**

**PARISH PASTORAL GROUP** meeting notes are on the notice board, at rear of Church.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION** Congratulations to our School and Parish children of St John the Baptist who celebrated their First Reconciliation on Wednesday 20 March. May they return frequently to this sacrament of healing and mercy as they continue their journey of faith. Thank you to all parishioners for their prayers for the children.

**LECTOR ROSTER** The lector roster for the next quarter (May, June, July, August) is due to be created. Before any of you go away for the Easter break can I please request that you send any dates that you are not available to be a reader at any time in the next quarter. Please also forward any other amendments required. Thank you. [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au) or 9758 1029

**EASTER VIGIL** Our catechumen, Louis, and Sally our candidate, receive baptism and full reception into the Catholic Church at our Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil mass. Following the mass, we intend to celebrate this special time with a supper in the hall. Please join us on this very special holy night. **You are most welcome to assist with our supper by bringing a plate to share** Please contact Mary at the parish office. [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**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> April 2024, 10.00am – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 5.00pm** At St Paul's Missionary College Wantirna Sth. Contact: Mercy & James on 0409 183 676. visit [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au).

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION** Brothers and sisters, as is the case in many parts of the world, the financial situation in the Holy Land continues to be extremely challenging. The annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land takes place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Envelopes will be available on Good Friday from the trolleys in the Church.

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

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL OPEN DAYS 9<sup>th</sup> May, 9am-5pm.** ENROL NOW FOR 2025. **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 ASAP on PH: 9758 1013

**JESUS YOUTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE** registrations are now open. **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Sun 28<sup>th</sup> April** at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre. Hear from international speakers and bishops including Archbishop Peter Consensoli. All welcome register at: [JesusYouth.Org](http://JesusYouth.Org)

**THE MELBOURNE PASSION PLAY** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 1.30pm -3.30pm Performed at the Holy Cross Centre, Templestowe, 'The Melbourne Passion Play' is a great opportunity to experience the passion and death of Christ enacted in Melbourne by a group of volunteers. This is a scene-by-scene representation of the ministry of Jesus by people in real, open-air surroundings. All welcome! Free.. **Note that the Melbourne Passion Play will also be performed at the same venue on Good Friday, 29 March 2024.** For more information, visit [MelbournePassionPlay.org](http://MelbournePassionPlay.org) or contact Dawn on 0411 957 164 or Gino on 0422 662 451.

**CHOIR PRACTICE FOR HOLY THURSDAY AND EASTER VIGIL** – Wed 27<sup>th</sup> March 7pm in the Church  
**CHOIR PRACTICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY** in the church Good Friday 12pm. All welcome.

ROSTERS: Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> March to Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2024	
Flowers	Genevieve & Gina
Linen	Jean B
Welcomers	6pm Kathryn C & Myra N 9am Terry S, Joanna C, Thelma C 11am Patrick S & Anna M
Lectors	6pm: As per Sign Up sheets 9am As per Sign Up sheets 11am: As per Sign Up sheets
Counters	Tony B, Stephanie H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Carlo E & Help needed.