

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

3:13-15,17-19

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ Lord, let your face shine on us.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

1 John 2:1-5

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when
you speak.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Look at my hands and feet, yes, it is I indeed!



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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3rd Sunday of Easter – Year B

13th /14th April 2024 – Year of Prayer

*Risen Jesus,
You let them feel and see
your hands and feet,
and you unlocked their minds.
Release our own minds,
To let us see You in the faces of
those around us.*



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

FOCUS ON THE WORD Reflecting on this Gospel passage, Pope Francis draws our attention to the three key verbs: look, touch, and eat.

'To look is not only to see,' the Pope points out, adding that 'it is more; it also involves intention, will.' When Jesus asks the disciples to look at his hands and feet, therefore, he is not only offering visual proof of identity. Rather, Jesus is inviting his disciples to look at his wounded limbs as 'a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others.' Jesus' wounds are still present for those with the courage to look at them.

Similarly, Jesus' invitation to the disciples to confirm his presence by touch has a teaching element too. 'By inviting the disciples to touch him,' the Pope suggests, 'Jesus indicates to them and to us that the relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters cannot remain "at a distance".' Having seen the wounds, we must be close to the wounded.

Finally, by eating with his disciples Jesus again did more than prove he was physically present at that specific moment. As the Pope points out, 'eating, when we do so together, among family or friends ... becomes an expression of love, and expression of communion.'

Once again, the Gospel suggests Jesus' action had a deeper meaning about Jesus' continuing presence among his followers. As St Augustine said of the Eucharist, we become what we consume, which means something truly amazing: The Risen Jesus still eats with us!

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

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
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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
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SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal: Kelli Johnston
Email: kjohnston@siferntreegully.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 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 Easter – Yr B
13th / 14th April 2024 - Year of Prayer

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Donald Francis O'Sullivan

Those who we remember at this time:

Mildred Silva, Bevin Vertigan, Linda Lawson, Matteo Parente, Sinforsoso Oracion, Mark Fabian, Peter Ward, Lynda Kelly, Brian Russell, Catherine Lizza, Estre Maidre, Giuseppe Feleppa, Christopher Nguyen.

The sick: Aileen Knox, 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 has resumed meeting 10.15am for a 10.30am start with Praise and Worship, then prayer.

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.

POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

- Communications Officer
- Executive Support Coordinator-Proclaim, East Melbourne
- Aboriginal Catholic Ministry of Victoria (ACMV) Manager, Thornbury

Parish Positions

- Parish Secretary, St John Vianney's Parish, Springvale North

Go to : <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies> to find out more.

CHILDRENS LITURGY WILL RECOMMENCE next weekend, 20th/21st April, in the rear of the Church.



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 25th 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's Sudan Crisis Appeal

Following the outbreak of conflict in Sudan a year ago, 25 million people - including 14 million children - now need humanitarian assistance and support, according to the [United Nations](#). 9 million have been displaced from their homes making Sudan the largest displacement crisis in the world! **Damage to infrastructure has impacted access to food, water, healthcare services, and even banking. Sudan now teeters on the edge of a famine.** Since the outbreak of violence Caritas partners in Sudan have distributed food at 17 gathering points for internally displaced people, as well as delivering multipurpose cash assistance, water and hygiene services, and gender-based violence protection. Partners also have access to remote border towns in Chad and South Sudan, enabling them to support those displaced overseas. As late as the end of last



year, one partner reported seeing 4,200 refugees arrive there each day, around 90% of them women and girls. The Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference has raised concerns "the international community has forgotten the Sudan crisis" and called on the Caritas network across the world to "engage their respective governments, donors, and the wider international community to urgently pick up and advocate for the needed resources to avert the looming famine." Caritas Australia take solace in the breadth of our partner network in the region. Their tireless work ensures the generosity of our supporters here in Australia reaches people in need.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Sudan Crisis Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/sudan or phone 1800 024 413

PARISH HALL please, if you have any items stored in the Parish Hall, consider cleaning/sorting them, prior to the move to our new facility. Thanking you!

OFFICE CLOSURE:The Parish Office will be closed on **Thursday 25th April**, owing to the Anzac Day Public Holiday.

Next Sunday we celebrate GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY – the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. During this coming week, perhaps you may like to make a prayer each day for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Perhaps there is a young person you may know to pray for by name this week.

NEW EVENING PRAYER GROUP Please come and join us this Mon 15th April at 7pm in the Parish Hall. We plan to meet every 3 weeks and explore different topics of our Catholic Faith and how it relates to each of our lives. More info, contact Phuong on 0400 086 073

WORKING BEE FOR THE NEW PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE On Saturday 11th May, many HELPING hands are needed to help move tables, chairs, trestles, crockery & kitchen items to the new parish centre from our old Parish Hall, which will soon be demolished to make way for the new school building. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet or notify the Parish Office if you are able to assist. Thank you.

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE? The **Permanent Diaconate** is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. **COME & SEE!** An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on **4 May 2024 Saturday, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victorian Parade, East Melbourne.** For more information: The Vocations website for the Archdiocese is available. The links below (copy, then paste) are a source of additional information. Watch: Melbourne's Deacons <https://youtu.be/q2RhNDbfTSO> Watch: Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for Deacons and video <https://youtu.be/NuG99HD1LaY>

NEED TO DISPOSE OF A VEHICLE? Disposal of a car from a deceased estate, or when a family member has had to relinquish their licence or go into residential care, can be a challenging process. If you need to dispose of a vehicle from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, **could you consider gifting it to the "Lifeboat Foundation"**. If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to "Lifeboat", contact Fr. Kevin Dillon (frkdillon@outlook.com.au or 0421 777 360)

ROSTERS: Mon 15th April to Sun 21st April 2024	
Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Myra N & Wilma H 9am Terry S, Neil & Loraine R, Peter C 11am Priya H & Patrick S
Lectors	6pm: Rosina L 9am Peter F 11am: Phuong B
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R