

## FIRST READING

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

**9:26-31**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ I will praise you Lord, in the assembly of your people.*

## SECOND READING

### **A reading from the first letter of St John**

**1 John 3:18-24**

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life

that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him.

We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

### **The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.*

*Alleluia*

## GOSPEL

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

### **The Gospel of the Lord**



**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)**

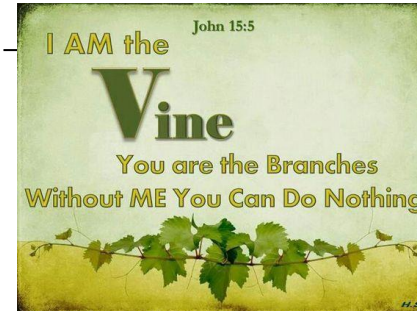
**Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**



**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Year B**

**27<sup>th</sup> /28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Year of Prayer**

## *Spiritual Drink*



We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history.

There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer – 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' – becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen?

For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.'

So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vignerone desires.

We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.

© Fr Michael Tate; [mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

**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)

**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@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** No Mass  
**Wednesday** 9.15am Service  
**& Thurs** 9.15 am Service  
**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.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Yr B  
27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024 - Year of Prayer

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Orlando Luciano, Bruce Bellman, Rosaria Ranaudo, Fred Delaney, Andy, Giuseppina, Angelo, Federico & Silva Zarro, Margherita, Damiano, Luigi, Cosimo and Jilda Coviello, Omar Foda, Chris Watson, Mary Rosenbrock, Lidia Segato

**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.

**NO MASS THIS TUESDAY EVENING, 30 APRIL. WE WILL HAVE MASS SERVICES ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY AT 9:15AM WITH ROSARY BEFORE MASS AS USUAL.**

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST  
PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS**  
**Open Morning:** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May – tours @ 9am, 9:45am & 10:30am  
**Open Day:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – tours @ 9am, 10am, 4pm & 5pm  
**Please contact the school: 9758 1013**



**LITURGY† NEWS †EVENTS**

Sunday April 28 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Wednesday May 1 St Joseph the Worker  
Friday May 3 Saints Phillip & James  
Saturday **May 4 School Open Day**  
Sunday May 5 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Catholic Care Appeal  
Thursday **May 9 School Open Day**  
Saturday May 11 **Parish Hall Clean Up**  
Sunday May 12 The Ascension  
Mother's Day

**Blessing of the Parish Community Centre**  
World Communications Day

Thursday May 14 Saint Matthias

Sunday **May 19 Pentecost Sunday**

**All Parishioners are invited to celebrate our gifts and talents after the 11am Mass.**

Friday May 24 Our Lady Help of Christians

Sunday **May 26 The Holy Trinity**

**Safeguarding Essential Training for all volunteers**

Friday May 31 The Visitation

**PARISH HALL please note:** if you have any items stored in the Parish Hall, please have it sorted or cleaned out before our clean up day which is on the 11<sup>th</sup> May. Thanking you!

**WORKING BEE FOR THE NEW PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE** 

**On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## Blessing of the Parish Community Centre

**Will take place on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> May after the 9am Mass. All parishioners are invited to attend at the PCC after the mass.**

### **EVENING PRAYER GROUP**

Our next meeting is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7-8:30pm and then fortnightly after that. we will start at 14-week series by Fr Dave Pivonka called the “Wild Goose” which is the Irish reference for the Holy Spirit. Come join us, free of charge. For venue details contact Phuong on 0400086073

**LINKS of Interest:**  
**CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE:**  
[Together in mission and hope | Melbourne Catholic](#)

Job Vacancies:  
[Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic](#)  
The Vatican:

[The Holy See \(vatican.va\)](#)  
CathNews:  
[Catholic News and Jobs in Australia - CathNews](#)

<b>ROSTERS: Mon 29<sup>th</sup> April to Sun 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>	
Flowers	Genevieve & Gina
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 9am Joanna C & Thelma B 11am Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm: Alvi M 9am Peter F 11am: Shami A
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J, Joan R
Gardening	Tom N & Theresa N