

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.' While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ The Lord has revealed to the nations
his saving power.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John

1 John 4:7-10

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and
knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known
God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will
come to them.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:
'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.
Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.
I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
if you do what I command you,
I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
his master's business;
I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me,
no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you
is to love one another.'

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

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



6th Sunday of Easter – Year B

4th /5th May 2024 – Year of Prayer

God of Love,

You love us so much that

You sent Your only Son, Jesus to the world.

*Remind us of all that Jesus said and did,
of who He is, and how he loves us.*

Open our hearts to receive that love

and to share it with others.

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



FOCUS ON THE WORD Jesus' command to 'love one another' is given twice in this short passage.

As such, it needs to be taken seriously and become the guiding principle in our daily lives. But, as Pope Francis once said, **expressing Christian love means going beyond 'words, words, words'.**

'First and foremost,' the Pope points out, 'it is important to realise that Christ's love is not a superficial feeling.' In this Gospel passage Jesus was not telling his disciples to be unflappably polite or overtly nice to each other. This was not a message about social conventions. **Jesus is concerned with our attitude toward others, and those actions that flow from it. 'Love,' as the Pope points out, 'is fulfilled in everyday life, in attitudes, in deeds.'**

As the Pope has repeatedly stressed, **loving another person often requires us to challenge our own attitudes. We are called to love everyone**, with openness to, as the Pope puts it, 'however they may be and whatever their situation.'

While sometimes hard, this is our Christian duty: **We are called to love in response to being loved.**

Which means it is not our place to judge or put conditions on the love we receive and share. 'To love as the Lord loves us,' the Pope says, 'means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be.'

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

IMPORTANT DAYS Thurs 9th May School open day Fri 10th May St John de Avila

Sat 11th May -Parish Hall Clean Up

Sun 12 May Ascension of the Lord / Mother's Day/ Blessing of the New Community Centre.

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

6th Sunday of Easter – Yr B
4th /5th May 2024 - Year of Prayer

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Dennis O'Rourke

Those who we remember at this time:

Leo Ladds, John Burgess, Luigi DeCristo, Josef Knur, Ernest Royle, Agnes Russell.

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 are meeting at St Simon's Rowville this week, until the new community centre is ready. 10.30 at Rowville.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING Thank you. a big bag of lovely rugs and children's jumpers collected over summer has gone off to K.O.G.O. A bag to collect your items is in the back porch of the church, and free wool is available from the Parish Office. Happy winter knitting for those in need! We meet next on the 14th May in the New Parish Community Centre.

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.

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS**

Open Morning: Saturday 4th May - tours @
9am, 9:45am & 10:30am

Open Day: Thursday 9th May - tours @
9am, 10am, 4pm & 5pm

Please contact the school: 9758 1013

LITURGY† NEWS †EVENTS

Sunday May 5 6th 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 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 11th May. Otherwise, items left behind will be disposed of.

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.

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS TRAINING

this is an important meeting for all volunteers in our parish. On Sunday 26th May, 2024 at 12.30pm-2.30pm we will run a special training day with our archdiocese Safeguarding Office Brech Burgess, who will go through all the relevant safeguarding training. We will be updating all Code of Conduct forms



Join us for the Blessing of the Parish Community Centre which will take place on Sunday, 12th May after the 9am Mass. All parishioners are invited to attend at the Parish Community Centre after the mass. Bless our Hall, and all who enter in..

EVENING PRAYER GROUP Our next meeting is Monday 6th 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.

FUNERAL MASS – The Funeral Mass for the late Dennis O'Rourke will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Friday 10th May at 1pm

CATHOLIC CARE APPEAL This weekend we are having a special collection. You have the power to impact the future of vulnerable families and individuals living in Victoria. At CatholicCare Victoria we have been helping individuals, families and communities to access the care and support they need, when they need it most. Your donation today will ensure mental health, parenting, employment, housing, and financial support continues to be available for families and individuals in need, now and into the future. Find our more or donate online at: <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/donations> Thank you for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT it's time for the annual Mass count which will take place over the next 4 weekends. This information gives the Vicar General an up-to-date picture of Mass attendance over the diocese.

Caritas Australia's 60th Anniversary Online Photo Exhibition – Vote for your chance to win! To mark the 60th anniversary of Caritas Australia, we have compiled a selection of our favourite 60 photos. Vote for your favourite photo to go into the draw to win a beautiful Indigenous Australian artwork from Djilpin Arts. Simply visit our website caritas.org.au/faces-of-caritas-australia-60th-anniversary

ROSTERS: Mon 6 th May to Sun 12 th May 2024	
Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Sabrina McK
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L & Myra N 9am Lia U & Help needed please 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Jan R 9am Gordon V 11am: Bonnie H
Counters	Peter G, Peter C, Florence J, Joan R
Gardening	Tom N & Theresa N