

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/... God mounts His throne
to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians **4:1-13**

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same

hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would: When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to all.

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always,
until the end of the world.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers; in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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The Ascension of the Lord – Year B

11th /12th May 2024 – Year of Prayer – Mother's Day

*O God of power and might,
in the mystery of the Ascension
You have raised up and glorified Your Son.
May the Gospel that Jesus proclaimed
live within our hearts, so that we may
continue to spread this Living Word to others.*

We make this Prayer, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, 'Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words!' The mission of the church is to **evangelize**.

Our Gospel reading tells us that before Christ left his disciples physically, he commissioned them to preach and baptize in his name. This command is accompanied by the promise that Jesus will be with them always.

The passage from Acts tells us how they were able to do this. Jesus reminds the disciples of his promise to send his Spirit. Baptized in the Holy Spirit, they have the power to preach in the name of Jesus. **Like love, evangelization is not an option for the church. We are commanded in today's readings, "Go; you will be my witnesses..."**

On the feast of Pentecost, Sunday, May 19, [Laudato Si' Week](#) 2024, commemorating the 9th anniversary of the publication of the encyclical *Laudato Si'* on **the care of creation**, will begin. It will last until Sunday, May 26, and will announce (as in previous years) Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, September 1, the beginning of the [Season of Creation](#).

Convinced along with Pope Francis that **"there are no lasting changes without cultural changes... and there are no cultural changes without personal changes"** (LD 70), Catholics around the world will join in daily challenges that motivate changes in personal habits, and gradually transform societies.

MOTHER'S DAY *A very Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers!.*

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

On this special day, we show our gratitude for all mothers. We thank them for their all-encompassing love, for their commitment, care and kindness. We thank them for their wisdom, for helping us grow and flourish. Amen.



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

Mon 13th May **Our Lady of Fatima** Sat 18th May-**St John I, pope**

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
Accountant: Bernard Negline
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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.

The Ascension of the Lord – Yr B
11th / 12th May 2024 - Year of Prayer

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

Fr. Jim Carroll, Laurie Nicholls, Hans Roleff, Ada Moretti, Angelo Zarro, Henry Brohier, Elena Francesca, Margaret Makie, Leon Koelmeyer, Harvey Mitchell, Elenora Discenza, John Furno, Vincent Delaney, Denis Cashen.

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 in the new Parish Community Centre this week, 10.15am for a 10.30am start.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING We meet next on the 14th May in the New Parish Community Centre. Please come and join us for a Chat or a game of cards.

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 JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OPEN DAYS
Enrolments are OPEN for 2025, 2026 and beyond. Enquire now to secure the chance of gaining a place. Open Days (Principal's Tours) 2024 Wed 15th May, Sat, 18th May, Sun 1st June. A tour of the College takes place with our Principal and is a fantastic opportunity to view the College including the new facilities.

- Visual and Performing Arts Complex
- Science Complex (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, General Science, Outdoor Science, Hub Space, Aquarium and Vivarium)
- STEM, Digital Technologies, Robotics Complex
- Sports Complex

You are invited to attend one of our many Open Days or alternatively, contact 9756 3112 to organise attending one of our small group tours. Register on the College website for your tour: <https://stjosephs.com.au/register-now/>



LITURGY† NEWS †EVENTS

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

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** Please read the information sheet about this, which will be attached to the emailed newsletter, or ask for a copy.



THANKYOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEER

HELPERS Who came to assist at our working bee, cleaning out the old Parish Hall and preparing the new Parish community centre On Saturday 11th May we are so grateful for your help.



LAUDATO SI WEEK Laudato Si calls us to a

LAUDATO SI' profound ecological conversion, moving us

toward greater care for creation and care for the poor. Today's feast of Ascension is a fitting reminder of our call to take up this sacred work. As Jesus took leave of his followers, he gave them instructions about the work they were to do – making disciples of all the nations, working to build his kingdom here on earth.



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..*

PENTECOST SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Pentecost Sunday is a significant feast day in the Church's calendar which falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter and celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples. **St John the Baptist community will celebrate this major event on Sunday 19th May after the 11am Mass, in the school hall. Please join us, you are most welcome to bring a plate to share.**

EVENING PRAYER GROUP Our next meeting is **Monday 20th May at 7pm-8:30pm** in the Parish Community Centre and then fortnightly This fortnight we explore **Segment 2 – Breathe of God, a series by Fr Dave Pivonka called the "Wild Goose"** For those that can't spare the time, the prayer group now has a Chat. You can watch it on Youtube by clicking this [link](#); before Monday 20th May, and input into the discussion questions in the coming days after via the what's app group Or Else, **join us face to face at 7pm in the Parish Community Centre.** To join the chat, please contact Phuong on 0400086073.

CATHOLIC CARE APPEAL Thank you. The **Amount Raised \$799.90.** Find our more or donate online at: <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/donations> Thank you for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE on Thursday 16th of May, the **Parish Office will be closed**, due to the Parish Administration Forum at East Melbourne. Sorry for any inconvenience.

ROSTERS: Mon 13th May to Sun 19th May 2024

Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Myra N 9am Terry S, Neil & Loraine R, Peter C 11am Priya H, Patrick S
Lectors	6pm: Louise D 9am Pamela E 11am: Eduardo M
Counters	George & Genevieve W, Bindu M
Gardening	Tom N & Theresa N