

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 49:1-6

Islands, listen to me,
pay attention, remotest peoples.
The Lord called me before I was born,
from my mother's womb he pronounced my name.
He made my mouth a sharp sword,
and hid me in the shadow of his hand.
He made me into a sharpened arrow,
and concealed me in his quiver.
He said to me, 'You are my servant Israel,
in whom I shall be glorified';
while I was thinking, 'I have toiled in vain,
I have exhausted myself for nothing';
and all the while my cause was with the Lord,
my reward with my God.
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,
my God was my strength.
And now the Lord has spoken,
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
to gather Israel to him:
'It is not enough for you to be my servant,
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the
survivors of Israel;
I will make you the light of the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the
earth.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. I praise you for I am wonderfully made.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
13:22-26

Paul said: 'God made David the king of our ancestors,
of whom he approved in these words, "I have elected
David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who
will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his
promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's
descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was
heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of
repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John
ended his career he said, "I am not the one you
imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I
am not fit to undo his sandal."

'My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you
who fear God, this message of salvation is meant for
you.'

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
You, child, will be called the prophet
of the Most High;
you will go before the Lord
to prepare his ways.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
1:57-66, 80

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child,
and she gave birth to a son; and when her
neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had
shown her so great a kindness, they shared her
joy.

Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise
the child; they were going to call
him Zechariah after his father, but his mother
spoke up. 'No,' she said 'he is to be called John.'
They said to her, 'But no one in your family has
that name', and made signs to his father to find
out what he wanted him called. The father asked
for a writing tablet and wrote, 'His name is
John.' And they were all astonished. At that
instant his power of speech returned and he
spoke and praised God. All their neighbours
were filled with awe and the whole affair was
talked about throughout the hill country of
Judaea. All those who heard of it treasured it in
their hearts. 'What will this child turn out to be?'
they wondered. And indeed the hand of the Lord
was with him. The child grew up and his spirit
matured. And he lived out in the wilderness until
the day he appeared openly to Israel.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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The Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist – Year B 22nd /23rd June, 2024 – Year of Prayer

*God, our Father, our strength and our hope,
grant us the courage of St John the Baptist,
to constantly to speak the truth,
and point us towards Jesus, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit
one God for ever and ever. Amen.*



Celebrating
St John the Baptist

FOCUS ON THE WORD Like the feast of the nativity of Jesus, this feast falls on one of the solstices, a hinge point in the cosmos. Some of the patristic writings tell us that the birth of Jesus was placed in the calendar when, in the northern hemisphere, the days began to lengthen. So this day was chosen to celebrate the birth of John precisely because the days were getting shorter. **'He must increase while I must decrease' (John 3:30).** This is the time of seasonal change, of cosmic reversal. The entire universe has been alerted. Something new is about to happen. John the Baptist is the hinge between the old age and the new eschatological age of fulfilment. John himself was never a disciple of Jesus; he did not enter the age that he heralded. **He was the trumpet that sounded the coming of the king;** he was the rooster that announced the dawning of the new day. He brought the people to the threshold of the new age, but he himself never stepped over into it. The idiosyncratic character of his life caught the attention of the crowds, but he did not keep this attention upon himself. Instead, **he used it to point to Jesus,** who appears to have been so commonplace that he might have been overlooked had not John cried out. **It was John's prophetic destiny to be the sharp-edged sword, the polished arrow. He was the voice that cried in the wilderness: Hear me! Listen! Behold, he is coming!** © Dianne Bergant CSA

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 SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY

FEAST DAYS Wed 24th June Nativity of St John the Baptist Thur 27th June St Cyril of Alexandria
Fri 28th June St Irenaeus

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 & Tuesday 10.00am 4.00pm
Closed Tues 25th due to Ausnet Power Outage
Wednesday 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 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.

Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist - Yr B
22nd /23rd June, 2024 - Year of Prayer

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Anthony Baptist Lobo, Carmela DiDonato, Noreen Royle, Anne Yeo, Eileen Strong, Peter Halliday, Innocenza Abbatangelo.

The sick: Trish Walton, Sabrina McKeeverne, Aileen Knox, Janet Roffey, Celia Ellis, Eamon Smith, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, 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.



MOTHERS PRAYERS Take heart! Jesus urges us to bring our burdens/problems to him. Join us to pray, **Tues 9am-10am, in the Parish Office. All welcome.**

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 **Thurs 10am** in the New Parish Community Centre. Please come and join us for a Chat, sit and knit or perhaps 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.



MEDITATION & MINDFULNESS IN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION - 10x sessions. From Thursday, 12 Sept – 14 Nov 2024, 11am–12pm (in-person event) with Roland Ashby. This series offers a beautiful space to stop for an hour to explore the ancient way of contemplation and tap into a deep spring of love, joy, peace and compassion at the centre of being. Booking via email info@heartoflife.melbourne. Cost \$100 for the series or Book online at: <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/meditation-mindfulness-in-the-christian-tradition-sem2/>.

EUCHARISTIC INTINCTION Dear Parishioners, from this weekend forward we have decided, for health reasons, not to permit intinction (dipping the host into consecrated wine.) Thank you for complying. If you have any concerns, please ask Fr Thomas, Mary or Sue.

PETERS PENCE COLLECTION: next weekend, the 29th/30th June, we will have the Peters Pence Collection. Catholics around Australia are being encouraged to support the Peter's Pence appeal on June 30, the Sunday after the Feast of St Peter and St Paul. Donations to the appeal, which goes back to Medieval times, to support Pope Francis' mission from the proclamation of the Gospel to the promotion of integral human development, education and peace. The Holy Father said in a message for Peter's Pence 2024: "The hope that we have been given never divides us from others. Instead, it is an extraordinary gift of which we are called to make ourselves 'channels', with humility and simplicity, for everyone. So our boastfulness is because we have as Father a God who opens his house to all human beings, beginning with the least and the most distant, so that as his children we may learn to console and support one another."

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN/WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS AND SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS. With the new Safeguarding Children Protocols, **all people who volunteer in our Parish**, either in choir, Linen roster person, in a Family Group, as a reader, with Children's Liturgy, or any other role **need a current Working with Children Check.** If you don't have a current one, or a VIT, Working with Children's Checks **are free for volunteers**, and you can apply on line using this link: <https://www.service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children> Please forward a copy to the Parish office, once you have a valid card, and we will keep a copy on record. Thank you all. ☺

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY 23rd June, 2024. For many women around the world,

the devastating loss of a partner is magnified by a long-term fight for their basic rights and dignity. Despite the fact that there are **more than 258**

million widows around the world, widows have historically been **left unseen, unsupported, and unmeasured in our societies.** Widow's day is observed to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they need. As widows move through their own experiences of grief, loss, or trauma after the death of a spouse, they may also face economic insecurity, discrimination, stigmatization, and harmful traditional practices on the basis of their marital status. Find out more at <https://www.un.org/en/observances/widows-day>

ANNOUNCEMENT - NEW VICAR GENERAL ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE Following the joyful news of Fr Joe Caddy's appointment as Bishop-elect for the Diocese of Cairns, I now have the pleasure to share with you the appointment of Very Rev Anthony (Tony) Kerin EV JCL, currently Episcopal Vicar for the Eastern Region; Episcopal Vicar for Life, Marriage and Family; and Parish Priest of Box Hill, as the new Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, commencing in the role, 5 August 2024.



FUNERAL MASS: for the late **Stephen Windebank** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on Friday 28th June at 1.30pm.

LITURGY+ NEWS +EVENT

Sun June 23rd Parish celebration of The Nativity of St John the Baptist - Combined Sunday Mass 10am only.
Join us for a cuppa in the School Hall after Mass..

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT RETREAT FOR MEN The Vocations office invites all men discerning a vocation to a day retreat. The day will include talks on the Priesthood and discernment as well as time for prayerful reflection. **RSVP by Wed 3rd July at:** vocations@cam.org.au

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Chizara Okechukwu as you celebrate your first Holy Communion on Sunday 23rd June. When you partake in the Eucharist for the first time, may you feel the presence of God's love surrounding you and filling your heart with peace and joy.



Fr THOMAS WILL BE ON HOLIDAYS FROM 25TH -2ND AUGUST, we wish you a safe and happy trip home to India, and in his absence, Fr Sebastian will celebrate all the Masses. I know you will make Fr Sebastian very welcome.



ROSTERS: Mon 24th June to Sun 30th June 2024	
Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Lia U & Kathryn C 9am Rosa L & Florence J 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Louise D 9am Terry S 11am .Carolyn S
Counters	Florence J, Peter C, Joan R, Ruben P
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T