

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus

16:2-4, 12-15

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, 'Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our hearts content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.'

'I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, "Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your hearts content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God."' And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, 'What is that?' not knowing what it was. 'That' said Moses to them 'is the bread the Lord gives you to eat.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

4:17, 20-24

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth
of God.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
6: 24-35

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus answered:

'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered:

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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18th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

3rd/4th August, 2024 – Year of Prayer

Lord Jesus,

we seek You and follow, because we are hungry for

Your infinite life and love

We thank You for the gift of

Yourself in the Eucharist

May we recognise You in the Breaking of the Bread.

Help us to be conscious of Your direction and mission.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD Following the feeding of the five thousand, the crowd thinks that when Jesus says he is the Bread of Life he is simply referring to the source of their next meal. If this were true it could put a new spin on what some might mean when they use the term 'cafeteria Catholicism'.

Jesus, however, is referring to himself as the fulfilment of all appetites, where we will never be hungry or thirsty again. Appetites are important things. They demand regular attention. Physical appetites tell us that we need nourishment, hydration, exercise or sleep. We have learnt to read our body's signs and if we ignore them we die. We also have emotional appetites, where we need affection, acceptance and a listening ear. If we ignore these signs our mental health deteriorates and our quality of life is compromised. **Jesus, however, also alerts us to our spiritual appetites. These are the needs we have for Him, for meaning and purpose, for faith, hope and love. If we ignore these appetites we can lose sight of where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going.** As the sixth chapter of John's Gospel goes on, Jesus becomes clearer about the hunger and thirst he has come to fill. And as he does the crowd's wires get uncrossed and they're shocked. **Jesus, the Bread of Life, is interested in us fulfilling our physical, emotional and spiritual appetites in this world as a way of glimpsing the life to come in Him, where all our hungers and thirsts will be fulfilled.** May this Eucharist prepare us for the day when our confirmed departure from this world comes. May there be no confusion at the gate, no need for any appeals and may we be reunited with those we love as we bask in the warmth of the Son's love, as he shows us to our place at the Eternal Banquet. © Richard Leonard SJ

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 Tues 6th Aug **Transfiguration** Wed 7th Aug **St Sixtus II St Cajetan**
Thurs 8th Aug **St Mary of the Cross** Fri 9th Aug **St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross**
Sat 10th Aug **St Lawrence.**

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
Wednesday to Friday 9.00am -3.00pm
Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne & Maree Wilson
Accountant: Bernard Negline
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au
PPG CHAIR Carolyn Sombekke
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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.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr B
3rd / 4th August, 2024 - Year of Prayer

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Nellie Plunkett

Those who we remember at this time:

Pat Dillon, Petrocino Sason, Elena Russo, Nora Ryan, Johanna Roelofs, Maria Teofilo.

The sick: Trish Walton, Sabrina McKeever,, Celia Ellis, Eamon Smith, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Ann Good, Ben McLaey, 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 Meet on each **Tuesday Morning** at 9am in the Parish Office. Come and join us to pray for your children.

ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meet in the Parish Community Centre each **Tuesday** at **10.15am** for a **10.30am** start, followed by shared lunch.

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.

MATER CHRISTI COLLEGE AND ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE proudly present their performances of the Teen version of **CHICAGO**. Tickets on **SALE** now for the performances on **1st Aug- 3rd August** Adults \$33 Youth U16yrs, \$16 **BOOK YOURS NOW** here Burrinja.org.au

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT DON BOSCO RETREAT CENTRE 465 Lysterfield Rd. **LYSTERFIELD**

Roles: CLEANER & MAINTENANCE PERSON

Hours: Cleaner-10 hours over 2 days per week

MAINTENANCE PERSON- 6 hrs per week

Experience desirable but not essential. Please send your expression of interest through to Fr Shane [@dbrclysterfield@gmail.com](mailto:dbrclysterfield@gmail.com)

VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT TO RETAIN THE LORD'S PRAYER Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has welcomed news that the Victorian Government has abandoned the idea of scrapping the recitation of the Lord's Prayer in the state's Parliament. Full statement can be found at Melbourne Catholic here.



THANKYOU FR SEBASTIAN AND WELCOME BACK FR THOMAS. A huge thank you to Fr Sebastian for looking after our Parish during Fr Thomas' annual leave. Your support has been much appreciated. Thank you. And we warmly welcome Fr Thomas back from his visit to see his family in India. We missed you Fr Thomas, we look forward to catching up on all your news.

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK: 4 - 11 August 2024. – Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life. **Catholic Vocations Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002**

Australia Telephone: (03) 9926 5733

Email: vocations@cam.org.au

www.melbournepriest.com

www.cam.org.au/vocation



SEMINARY ENQUIRY DAY Saturday 10th Aug
Where? Corpus Christi College **An opportunity for Men to visit the Seminary hear from the Archbishop and enjoy lunch with current seminarians. Please RSVP to vocations@cam.org.au**

THE COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE IS COMING BACK! With tickets only \$2.00ea. Please **RAFFLE TICKETS** look out for our friendly ticket sellers, coming soon! .

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST EVENT The Parish Singles Group invites all Parishioners to a Theme: **TRAVEL SHOW**

DATE: Sunday 18TH Aug 2024

TIME: 2.00pm - 4.00pm APPROX PLACE:

PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE Guest

Speaker : Carolyn Sombekke to lead the discussion

THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CONGRESS will be held in Sydney from 28 to 30 August. This three-day event will be held at the Miller Hotel, North Sydney, with the theme 'Missionary message for the modern world'. **The congress is for all Catholics who are interested in improving their media and communication skills**, and also offers the opportunity to network with other people in this field, both professional and volunteer. The Gala Dinner—at NSW Parliament—will feature journalism educator, press freedom advocate and former global correspondent Peter Greste as the guest speaker. **Registrations open until 8th August only.** Cost: \$425.00 -500.00 Australian Catholic Communications Congress 2024 Tickets, Wed 28/08/2024 at 9:00 am | Eventbrite

Speaker : Carolyn Sombekke to lead the discussion

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Clare Clarke** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Wednesday 7th August 2024 at 11.00am.**

ST MARY OF THE CROSS, FEAST DAY Thursday 8th August, 2024. Mary Helen MacKillop was born in 1842 in Victoria to Scottish immigrant parents and grew up with seven brothers and sisters. At the age of twenty-four, she dedicated her life to God and took on the name "Mary of the Cross.". Mary was an ordinary woman with an extraordinary dream and a big heart. Her dream was to give the poorest families and most neglected children access to education and safe shelter by opening schools. Mary MacKillop's Feast Day is on 8th August, which is the day she died. She was canonised on 17th October 2010 at Saint Peter's Basilica. If you'd like to learn about Mary MacKillop Today please contact us via Ph: (02) 8912 2763 Email: hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au or visit: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au



QUIET TIME IN THE BUSH Kew VIC The Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia *Being with God in Nature* ministry provides opportunities to spend some contemplative time in nature. All of creation is a revelation of God's love and we receive grace to **renew our spirit by being in nature using insights from St Ignatius of Loyola.** At the Bush Hut in Studley Park in Kew, 10.30am to 12noon on the fourth Monday of the month: **26 Aug, 23 Sep, 28 Oct, and 25 Nov.** [Quiet Time in the Bush, Kew VIC - Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia \(jisa.org.au\)](http://Quiet Time in the Bush, Kew VIC - Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia (jisa.org.au)) – Cost \$20.00

ROSTERS: Mon 5th August to Sun 11th Aug 2024

Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 9am Joanna C, Thelma B 11am Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm: Jan R 9am Gordon V 11am Priya H
Counters	Byron M, Ruby S & Guil W
Gardening	Patrick S, Harry R