

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Joshua

24:1-2, 15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the

Ephesians

5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord



You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.

John 6:69



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

24th /25th August, 2024 – Year of Prayer

Social Justice Sunday – Observance.

Lord Jesus,

You invite us all into the Fullness of Life.

May we support one another,

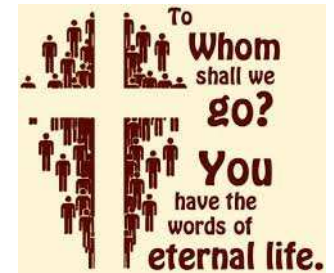
to flourish in body, mind and spirit.

Empower us by Your Holy Spirit,

to reach out to all in need.

May we build communities of welcome and

inclusion, we ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL Why did the crowd reject Jesus? They followed him! He fed them! And then they complain and leave. What was that about? In short, people were scandalised by what Jesus said. They thought differently than Jesus about his mission. They sought earthly triumph over spiritual truth. An important lesson for us, Pope Francis says, is that 'we must not pursue God in dreams and in images of grandeur and power.' Rather, as the Pope explains, God 'must be recognised in the humanity of Jesus and, as a consequence, in that of the brothers and sisters we meet on the path of life.'

This is a hard teaching for many to accept, even among those within the Church.

God, the Pope reiterates, 'asks us to seek him not outside of life and history, but in relationship with Christ and with our brothers and sisters. 'Seeking him in life,' the Pope adds, 'in history, in our daily life ... is the road to encounter with God: the relationship with Christ and our brothers and sisters.' Therefore, with Peter, and his successor Pope Francis, 'we ask for the grace to let ourselves be provoked and converted.' To whom shall we turn? To our brothers and sisters in need. We need to be open to being Christ to them, for they may well be Christ for us. © Nick Brodie

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 27th Aug **St Monica** Wed 28th Aug –**St Augustine**

Thurs 29th Aug **The Passion of St John the Baptist**

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
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.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr B
24th / 25th August, 2024 - Year of Prayer
Social Justice Sunday - Observance

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

Carlo A Rossi, Nancy Penna, Chris Smolders, John Kolmus, Stan & Kathleen McGough, John Zerella, Lucy Leatham, Caterina Mazzone, Pellegrina Rossi, Celeste Lizza.

The sick: Trish Walton, Sabrina McKeeverne,, 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.

NEXT YOUTH GROUP GATHERING FRI 30th AUG, join us in the Parish Community Centre from **5:30-7:30pm** for a movie night and pizza dinner. Please come along and bring a friend! – Vicente & the team.

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate. Online Diaconate information meeting **Tuesday, 24 September /19:30–21:00** Location: via ZOOM Attendance will be by invitation. **Express your interest by emailing** Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest

THANK YOU to all who gave of their time and expertise, at the **Travel Show** last weekend. A fun and informative afternoon for all who attended.



THE SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT FOR 2024/25 In the lead-up to Social Justice Sunday this weekend, Australia's Catholic bishops have released their Social Justice Statement for 2024–25. **Entitled Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World**, the statement argues that peace is possible if people commit to speaking the truth and redouble efforts to end war.. Read more at: [Social Justice Statement 2024-25 - Office For Justice, Ecology and Peace \(catholic.org.au\)](https://www.catholic.org.au)

THE COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE IS BACK!
With tickets only \$2.00ea, or \$20.00 per book. This Year the
1st Prize – All New KIA PICANTO \$21,690
2nd Prize Gift Card to the value \$5,000
3rd Prize Gift Card to the value \$ 3,000+more
PLEASE support this raffle, which will give proceeds to the Parish and St Vincent de Paul FTG conference, Tickets on sale 17th Aug – 27th Oct. **Sales close 14th November, with the draw on Thurs 7th December, 2024.**



PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE from 9.50am on Thursday 29th August, 2024, the Parish Office will be closed, for staff to attend the Parish Administration Forum at the Catholic Leadership Centre. We apologise for any inconvenience.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION The Sacrament of Confirmation at St John the Baptist will be on **Thursday 29th August at 6pm.** Please hold our Year 5/6 students in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.



2024 ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2024 This new annual campaign is more than just a fundraising effort; it's a chance for us to show our gratitude and to support the next generation **The vital ministries to be funded are outlined in the Campaign brochure, which you will find in the pews and on the trolleys.** Please review the material carefully, and prayerfully, **to consider pledging a recurring monthly gift, to help address the needs of the various ministries.** You can also make a gift online at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/archbishopsacampaign>



ENNEAGRAM DAY on SAT 31 Aug 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. This one-day practical workshop offers a transformational experience where you will gain invaluable insight into the unique way in which we relate and respond to the people with whom we share our lives, and the world around us. Facilitated by qualified Enneagram Trainer, Dr Lynn Moresi, will cover some topics including discovering your Enneagram Type; identifying your pathways of strength and challenge and more! **Places limited.** Where? **Heart of Life Centre** for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Alto Ave Croydon. **Cost \$80 (includes notes).** **BYO Lunch.** Book and pay via website: www.heartoflife.melbourne, or tel: 9890 1101.



WEDDING we extend our best wishes and *congratulations to Gordon Wallace and Lisele Goncalves Birelo* who are married this weekend.

CLEANING POSITION from mid September, we are seeking to employ a part-time cleaner (**3hrs per week**) here at St John the Baptist. The successful applicant must be well motivated to work for the Church and ideally possess a strong commitment to its practices and values. Working with Children Check – Mandatory, Police Check (new Check required) Valid Driver License. Please send your expression of interest to the attention of Fr Thomas, office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au



FIRST FRIDAY MASS– Friday 6th September at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

ST John's SAFEGUARDING You are invited to this final face to face presentation of: **THE ESSENTIALS TRAINING MODULE on: Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 7.30p.m in the Parish Community Centre.** This will allow for those who work to attend this evening session. Our Eastern Regional Coordinator will lead this session for **about an hour.** This training module is **mandatory for any volunteer** in our Parish and anyone who has not yet completed it. A certificate will be issued on completion of: **EITHER the on line module: or this live presentation.** The online module is available: www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org

EXCELSIS on Sat 31st of October, Excelsis Choir is performing **RESONANCE**, Under the direction of globally recognised artist and conductor, Jennifer Tham (SG), Excelsis will present a programme of contemporary choral works from composers living and working throughout Asia. The Concert will be at **St Paul's Cathedral, Crn Flinders and Swanston Sts Melb, from 7.30pm-9pm.** Tickets are available via this link <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1242329>
Cost: \$30 General Admission / \$25 Concession.

ROSTERS: Mon 26 th August to Sun 1 st Sept 2024	
Flowers	Ann P, Connie B
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm Lia U, Help Needed 9am Rosa L, Florence J 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Cynthia M 9am Caroline Q 11am Vicente M
Counters	George & Genevieve W, Bindu M
Gardening	Patrick S, Harry R