

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

4:1-2, 6-8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James

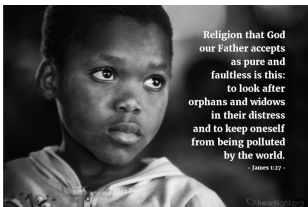
1:17-18, 21-22, 27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The Word of the Lord.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Father gave us birth by
his message of truth,
that we might be
as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
7:1-8,14-15,21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

**31st Aug /1st September, 2024 – Year of Prayer
World day of Prayer for Creation / Father's Day**

*God our Father,
bless all fathers in the world.
Guide them to be good role models
and loving to all their children.
Help them to be a father like you are.
Give them grace and patience
to handle situations in a loving way.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors;



some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret. Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person 'unclean' – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop. © Greg Sunter

The reading from the Letter to James includes three discrete themes. It praises God's goodness and generosity, God's changelessness, and God's recreative power. It also insists that the word of truth that first gave the Christians re-birth remains in them as a force of ongoing transformation. Finally, the concreteness of true religion is outlined.

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 Sunday 1st Sept: **World Day of Prayer for Creation** 3rd Sept **St Gregory the Great**

Fri 6th Sept –**Spring Ember Day**

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@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.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr B
31st Aug / 1st September, 2024 - Year of Prayer
World day of Prayer for Creation/ Father's day.

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

Ken Collins, Lothar (Bill) Tepass, Brian Stackpole, Angelo Rech, Vincenzo Di Battista, Robyn Elliot, Gerry Franken.

The sick: Trish Walton, Sabrina McKeever,, Celia Ellis, Eamon Smith, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Ann Good, Ben McLae, Don Roberts, Maureen Wilson, Lucy Denzin, Gabby Sundstrom, Kathryn Kircos, Ruby Samtoy, Barbara Kenny, Anne Jaywardena, 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.

YOUTH GROUP – FRI 30th AUG, 5.30pm-7.30pm in the 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.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING THANK YOU Those using the Parish Centre may have noticed the addition of a beautiful, new 65" TV on the wall. We wish to thank the Friendship Gathering for their kind donation of this Smart TV for the use of those using the Parish Community Centre. The TV remote is stored in the Kitchen, and there is a cable provided for laptop connection.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING WOOL/KOGO Friendship Gathering thank everyone who took wool to Knit for K.O.G.O (Knit one, Give one) charity. – Finished items can be put in the striped bag in the church foyer or handed into the Parish Office. Thanks also for the donated wool, which is available from the Parish Office for anyone who would like to knit more items.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH OR CATHOLIC AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE? If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or just want to learn more or return to your faith, you are invited to look deeper into the richness of what the Catholic Church teaches in an open and welcoming environment. Our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) sessions will begin soon. These sessions are also opportunities for you to ask those perplexing and difficult questions you may have about the Church. If you would like to chat about this or have any questions please contact our Faith Development Coordinator Mary at marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or call our parish office 9758 1029



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION The season's "Celebration" begins September 1, the Feast of



The firstfruits of hope (Rom 8:19-25)

TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

Creation, and ends October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. This year we will unite around the theme "To hope and act with Creation" with the symbol "The firstfruits of hope", inspired by Romans 8:19-25.

ALL VOLUNTEERS –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 online module: or this live presentation.** The online module is available: www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org

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.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION We offer our Congratulations to all Year 5/6 students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation, on Thursday 29th August.

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN FATHERS

Heavenly Father,
you entrusted your Son Jesus,
the child of Mary,
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.
Bless all fathers
as they care for their families.
Give them strength and wisdom,
tenderness and patience;
support them in the work they have to do,
protecting those who look to them,
as we look to you for love and salvation,
through Jesus Christ our rock and defender.
Amen - (Author unknown)

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.

ARCHDIOCESAN JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE– EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW Open The Archdiocese of Melbourne will run pilgrimages to Rome next year as we celebrate Jubilee Year 2025. The first pilgrimage will be held in May and June 2025, coinciding with the Jubilee for Families, Grandparents and the Elderly. The second pilgrimage will be for young adults (18-35 years), journeying to the Jubilee of Youth in July and August 2025. These graced and hope-filled pilgrimages will journey through the towns and cities of Italy, the homes of great saints like St Francis and St Clare (and soon to be canonised saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati), before walking through the Holy Doors of St Peter's Basilica. Be a pilgrim of hope! Embark on an incredible pilgrimage to encounter God and deepen your faith with others. Be the first to receive the latest updates, including booking information and itineraries, by submitting an expression of interest to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ST83H75>

LEARN NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING . If you are a newly engaged couple, newlywed couple or a married couple who have not learned about NFP, we are excited to share with you a new video-based program that introduces couples to Natural Family Planning. It is called "Natural Plan." Go to: <https://learnnfp.org/>

ROSTERS: Mon 2 nd to Sun 8 th Sept 2024	
Flowers	Marg H & Ange C
Linen	Alvie M
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 9am Joanna C & Thelma B 11am Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm: Gab V 9am Caroline Q 11am Peter J
Counters	George & Genevieve W, Bindu M
Gardening	Theresa N & Help needed.