

## FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Is 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. Praise the Lord, my soul!*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good News  
of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**Knox Deanery**

**19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156**

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**Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**



**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**

**7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 – Year of Prayer  
Season of Creation / Safeguarding Sunday**

*God of power and compassion,  
in Christ You reveal Your will to heal and to save.  
Open our ears to Your redeeming Word,  
and move our hearts by the strength of Your love,  
so that our every word and work may proclaim  
Jesus as Lord & Messiah.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL** Strangely, this week's gospel about the healing of a man who was deaf and dumb is less about healing than it is about Jesus being the Messiah. The theme is set up in the first reading when the prophet, Isaiah, describes the signs by which the coming of the Messiah will be recognised: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will leap; and the dumb will speak. When Jesus healed the man in the gospel story the crowd were admiring of what he had done. They even exclaimed, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.' These words are a direct echo of the Isaiah text – they were recognising Jesus as fulfilling the prophecies of the promised Messiah. However, the passage also demonstrates to us that Jesus was trying to show the people that he was not exactly the Messiah that many of them were anticipating. This healing story takes place in the region of The Decapolis – south-east of the Galilee region and populated mostly by Gentiles. By travelling in this area and working miraculous healings, **Jesus is making the point that his mission is to all people, not just 'the Chosen People' of Israel.** He commands the crowd who witnessed the healing to tell no one about it but, filled with the idea that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for, they broadcast the news. Jesus wanted their silence because he knew that they did not fully understand the sort of Messiah that he was. Only when they understood that this Messiah must suffer and die would he have allowed them to speak of his deeds. ©Greg Sunter

**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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)  
**SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY**

**FEAST DAYS** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept: **Feast of the Nativity of Mary** Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Sept **St Peter Cleaver**

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Sept –**Most Holy Name of Mary** Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Sept **St John Chrysostom**

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Sept – **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

*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: csombekesjb@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** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2pm  
**WILLOWBROOK MASS** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 11am

**BAPTISMS:** Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr B  
7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 - Year of Prayer  
Season of Creation/ Safeguarding Sunday

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*



*Those who we remember at this time:*

John Zerella, Margaret Hill, Carmine Mazzone, Maureen Addicott, Mary Niehof, Emmanuuel Deidun, Lino Bimbi, Alfea Cursaro.

**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.

**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 WOOL/KOGO** thank you 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.



**PIETY STALL NEWS** We have been overwhelmed with kindness! A very generous donor has given us a considerable variety of cards and small gifts to sell. Also, Sr Clare's beautiful hand made flower cards will be available. A sale is planned for the weekend **14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> September** and all cards will be priced at **\$2.00** each. Please come and have a look - and support our "Vinnies" stall.- Peter & Dawn.

**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY** This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters.



We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and

vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: <https://www.catholic.au/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024>

**SEASON OF CREATION begins Sept 1, & ends Oct 4**, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology The Season of Creation is a **time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all Creation** through celebration, conversion, and commitment. It is an annual ecumenical season **where we pray and act together as a Christian family for our common home**



**TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION**  
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The first fruits of hope (Rom 8:18-25)

**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](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au) or call our parish office 9758 1029



**THE COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE IS BACK!** With tickets only \$2.00ea, or \$20.00 per book. This Year the **1<sup>st</sup> Prize – All New KIA PICANTO \$21,690** **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Gift Card to the value \$5,000** **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> Aug – 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. Sales close 14<sup>th</sup> November, with the draw on **Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.**



**BAPTISMS** – We offer our congratulations to **Sebastian Andersen**, Son of Mark & Jessica, and **Rose McPhee**, daughter Michael & Jessica who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy

**ALL VOLUNTEERS -ST John's SAFEGUARDING** You are invited to this final face to face presentation of: **THE ESSENTIALS TRAINING MODULE on: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.melbourne.catholic.org](http://www.safeguarding.melbourne.catholic.org)

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** A Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) is a weekend away, offering married couples, a special kind of "time out", a different kind of "weekend getaway". It is an opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries and more deeply explore the precious nature of your relationship. It gives you the tools to keep your passion alive in a gentle, nurturing environment, away from the pressures and distractions of daily living. **4 - 6 October, 2024 - Live-in Weekend, St Paul's Missionary College, Wantima South.** For more information, **contact:** Mercy & James Bvirakare Ph: 0409 183 676 Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au)

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S WOMEN FOR THE WORLD APPEAL** Support women to lift their families and communities out of poverty. With your support Memory completed vocational training and became the first female carpenter from her village in Malawi.



More women and girls need this support to break the cycle of poverty. You can create real change for women like Memory. **Donate online at: [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)**

ROSTERS: Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2024	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Sabrina McK
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L & Myra N 9am Lia U & Help needed 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Tess D 9am Gordon V 11am Joan R
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Theresa N & Help needed.