

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah Is 50:5-9

The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.
My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,
who dare condemn me?

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James 2:14-18

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
My only glory is the cross
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
which crucifies the world to me
and me to the world.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B
14th / 15th September, 2024 – Year of Prayer
Season of Creation

*Make us one, O God,
in acknowledging Jesus the Christ.
As we proclaim Him by our words,
let us follow Him in our works;
give us strength to take up the cross
and courage to lose our lives for His sake.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE GOSPEL Today's Gospel passage, Pope Francis says, 'turns to the question that permeates the whole Gospel of Mark: **who is Jesus?**'

The Pope points out that Jesus 'is not interested in the opinions and gossip of the people'; nor is he fishing for 'pre-packaged formulas'. In fact, as the Pope notes, 'a faith that is reduced to formulas is a short-sighted faith.' This is not what Jesus seeks. Rather, as the Pope puts it, **Jesus 'wants his disciples of yesterday and today to establish a personal relationship with him' in a way that has practical implications.** In asking who he is, Jesus is also asking us who we want to be.

'**Each person is called to respond, in his or her heart,**' the Pope says, 'allowing each one to be illuminated by the light that the Father gives us.' But this can be challenging. Like Peter, we can easily and reflexively recoil at the idea of a Christ whose mission 'contrasts with our expectations, with worldly expectations.' We switch easily from recognition of Christ to rejection of his real mission.

The Pope affirms that **'the profession of faith in Jesus Christ cannot stop at words.'** **Our thoughts and words about Jesus must translate into action that is 'characterised by God's love' and expressed through 'an abundance of love for neighbour.'**

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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 Mon 16th Sept **Sts Cornelius and Cyprian**

Tues 17th Sept **St Hildegard of Bingen**, St Robert Bellarmine Thurs 19th Sept –**St Januarius**

Fri 20th Sept **Sts Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions**

Sat 21st Sept – **St Matthew**

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@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.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr B
14th /15th September, 2024 - Year of Prayer
Season of Creation

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Father Desmond (Des) Magennis PE

Those who we remember at this time:
Valentina Parente, Philomena Windebank, Giovanni Maccagnini, Rosa Lotrionte, Peter Atkinson, Patricia Gallus, Francis Power, James Foster.

The sick: Trish Walton, Sabrina McKeeverne., 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 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 20th September, 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.

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 14th/15th September and all cards will be priced at \$2.00 each. Please come and have a look - and support our "Vinnies" stall.- Peter & Dawn.

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" 4-6 October, 2024 Live-in Weekend, St Paul's Missionary College, Wantima. **Contact:** Mercy & James Bvirakare Ph: 0409 183 676



SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS TRAINING 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 7.30pm** 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.melbourecatholic.org

NEXT YOUTH GROUP GATHERING FRI 20th SEP, join us in the Parish Community Centre from 5:30-7:30pm for our final Youth Group of Term 3! We will have a pizza dinner and continue our series exploring the Eucharist. Please come along and bring a friend! Thanks, Vicente

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

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING SPRING LUNCHEON Thurs 26th September 2024. The Friendship Gathering invites Parish Friends to join them for a shared lunch in the Parish Community Centre at 12 noon.

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.

Catholic Theological College – Engaging your faith [Engaging Your Faith – Catholic Theological College \(etc.edu.au\)](http://EngagingYourFaith-CatholicTheologicalCollege(etc.edu.au)) starting in October, 13 stand alone sessions. Cost \$25 per session. Ph 94123309

PARISH OFFICE TEMPORARY CHANGE IN HOURS to accommodate staff leave, the Parish Office hours will vary for the next 2 weeks. Mon & Tues 16th/17th 10am -4pm, Wed 18th/9 – 10am-3pm, Closed Thurs 19th Sept, Friday 20th /9 9am -2pm. and Mon & Tues 23rd /24th 10am -4pm, Wed 25th /9 – 10am-3pm, Thurs 26th/9 10am-3pm, Friday 27th /9 Closed -AFL public holiday. Thank you for your understanding.

SEASON OF CREATION Continues until Oct 4, Taking the Season of Creation to heart Reflecting on Pope Francis' prayer for September, and on the central themes of the Season of Creation, which we celebrate this month, Andrew Hamilton SJ observes that **when we take to heart a wounded world and wounded people, we will naturally want to heal it. But paying proper attention to our environment and to our brothers and sisters should also inspire us to give thanks.** When we take it personally, he says, the Season of Creation is a time for celebration and gratitude as well as solicitude.



Fr Desmond (Des) Magennis PE passed away on Tuesday 3rd September, at Justin Villa, Balwyn aged 90yrs. Fr Des was ordained at St Patrick's Cathedral on 23rd July 1961. Among other parishes, he served as assistant priest at **St John the Baptist Parish in 1969.** The Pontifical Vigil Mass for the Repose of the Soul of **Reverend Desmond (Des) Magennis PE** will be offered on **Sunday 15 September at 6.00pm** at **St Therese's Parish, 48A Lincoln Road, Essendon.** The Requiem Mass will be held on **Monday 16 September 2024 at 11.30am** at the **Holy Name of Mary Parish, 76 Hargraves Street, Castlemaine** This service will be livestreamed. Visit Mount Alexander Funerals for more information or call Castlemaine 5470 5951

ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLS REFLECTS ON HIS TRIP TO INDONESIA TO COINCIDE WITH POPE FRANCIS' APOSTOLIC VISIT Pope Francis undertook several encounters and gatherings in the short time he was in Jakarta. I was present at three of them. Read more about this at: [With joy and hope, Archbishop Comensoli reflects... |Melbourne Catholic](http://WithJoyandHope.ArchbishopComensoliReflects...|MelbourneCatholic)

ROSTERS: Mon 16 th to Sun 22 nd Sept 2024	
Flowers	Genevieve & Gina
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Wilma H & Myra N 9am Terry S, Neil & Loraine, Peter C 11am Priya Hall & Patrick S
Lectors	6pm: Alvi M 9am Peter F 11am Shami A
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Theresa N & Help needed.