

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

6:2-6

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. 'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/. I love you Lord, my strength.*

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be to the God that saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown love for his anointed. (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests

who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them  
and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**Knox Deanery**

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

**Phone: 9758 1029**

**Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au**

**Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au**



**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 – Year of Prayer**

*Almighty Father,*

*So we never forget, write on our hearts*

*that You want us to love You*

*with our whole soul, our whole mind,*

*and all our understanding,*

*and with every ounce of our strength.*

*And let our love for You spill*

*over to our neighbour.*

*Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** The central message of today's readings is the most fundamental principle of all religions, especially Christianity. **It is to love God in Himself and living in others.** Scripture readings for today remind us that **we are created to love God by loving others and to love others as an expression of our love for God.** Our religious practices, like prayers, Bible reading, Sacraments, acts of penance, and self-control, are meant to help us to acknowledge and appreciate the presence of God in our neighbours **and to express our love for God by serving our neighbours with love, sharing our blessings with them.**

**How do we love our neighbour?** We love our neighbour by helping, supporting, encouraging, forgiving, and praying for everyone, without discrimination based on colour, race, gender, age, wealth, or social status. If I am going to love my neighbour as I love myself, or as Jesus has loved me, it will cost me suffering as it did Jesus! I may have to seek forgiveness when I think I have done something wrong. I may have to sacrifice something I think I need, to meet a brother's need. I may have to spend time in prayer for other people and reach out to them, helping, encouraging, and supporting them in the name of the Lord.  
<https://frtonyshomilies.com/2024/10/26/o-t-31-b-nov-3rd-sunday-homily/>

**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** Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov **St Charles Borromeo** Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Nov The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

*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  
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**PPG CHAIR** Carolyn Sombekke  
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**SCHOOLS:**  
**St John the Baptist** 9758 1013  
Principal: Kelli Johnston  
Email: kjohnston@sferntreegully.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.

31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr B  
2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 - Year of Prayer

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

Giovanni Francesca

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Fr Bill Bainbridge, Pius & Florence Silva, Michael T. Johnson, Elena Catalano, Salvatore Teofilo, Cameron Coney, Alan Lawson, Vincenzo Caruso, Gerry Daelmans, Louis Theodore, Francis Cassar, Paul Savannah, Agnese Paternoster, Pauline Wite; Emily Morrison, George Brown and Vince Sasso

**The sick:** Bonnie Hoefer, Sabrina McKeeverne., Celia Ellis, Eamon Smith, Elsie Johnson, Ann Good, Ben McLacy, 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.

**SICK LIST:** If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 97581029. Thank you.

**ROSARY** the Rosary will be recited 30 minutes prior to **all weekday Masses** in the Church. All welcome to join in the recitation.



**CHILDREN' LITURGY** *Please Note:*  
There is **No Children's Liturgy Melbourne Cup Weekend.**

**REMINDER:** Children's Liturgy team meeting this Sunday, 3 November at 10am in the Parish Community Centre.

**SAVE THE DATE: ADVENT WORKSHOP** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 from 12pm. Fun crafts for Christmas.



**ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** No meeting on Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Nov due to Cup Day Public Holiday.

**FRIENDSHIP GATHERING** We meet **Thurs 10am** in the Parish Community Centre. Please come and join us for a Chat, sit and knit or perhaps a game of cards

**YOUTH GROUP** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, 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.

**STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES** A big thank you to everyone for collecting your envelopes. Your generosity in supporting the mission of our Parish is truly appreciated.



**FUNERAL MASS** for the late Giovanni Francesca will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> November at 11am the day prior, Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Nov is a Viewing at 6.30pm and Rosary at 7.00pm**

**Twilight session at Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melbourne** Awakening to the Divine in Nature. **Day : Thur 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2024 Time:** 5.45pm to 7.45pm. **Venue :** Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert St, East Melbourne. **Price:** \$40 (Light refreshments provided at 5.30 pm) [Twilight session: Awakening to the Divine in Nature Tickets, TryBooking Australia](#)

**NEW FAMILIES GROUP** After a very successful first meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, **we would love to extend another invitation** to all families with children of primary school age and below to our next meeting **on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November. The meeting will take place at 10am - 11am at the Parish Community Centre.**

Whether your child is 10 or 10 weeks, we hope you'll join us for games, craft and fun.

Any questions, please contact Jacqui and Carlos. [jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com](mailto:jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com) or 0427 937 253

Owing to the Melbourne Cup long weekend, this year we will celebrate **THE MEMORIAL MASS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED** on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm. All are most welcome.

**NOVEMBER CROSS** November is the month of the Holy Souls, where we pray for parishioners, friends, and members of our families, who have gone before us in faith.

Our prayer is that they will live forever with the Lord. As is our custom at St John's, during November you'll have the opportunity to write the names of those you wish to remember on our November Cross. For those who would like to have a Mass offered for deceased relatives and friends, November Offering envelopes are available on the trolleys.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE ASBESTOS REMOVAL** Baxter Projects has informed us that on the weekend of the **Melbourne Cup**, that they will be carrying out asbestos removal from the Old Parish Hall site. Whilst this is occurring we can not be on the school site. We encourage parishioners to be as far away from the site as possible. Thank you.

**PIETY STALL** Books for sale this weekend. We have something new for our families with young children. **"Childrens' Daily Gospel Readings for 2025"**. Cost \$15. One per family. Highly recommended. – Peter & Dawn

**OCTOBER ROSARY** A thank you, to all parishioners, taking part in praying the rosary during the month of October, before all our masses, whether leading or reciting or just sitting quietly. May our prayers be like incense raising up to Our Lord. God bless you all!

**COMBINED PARISH RAFFLE** "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank Father Thomas for his support to The sale of the Combined Parish Raffle tickets in 2024, all proceeds from the sale of These tickets will go to the FTG St. Vincent de Paul Conference. **This year we sold 100 books.**

The Conference will receive \$1,000.00 to help meet the needs of our Companions. Thank you to all the parishioners who help both to man the sales of tickets and all those Who help purchase tickets. Your continued assistance is truly appreciated.", - Connie

**ST JOHN'S TENNIS CLUB SOCIAL DAY:**

**Everybody is welcome** – we are inviting new players, older players, juniors, teenagers and anyone who would like to play tennis – or just say hello. We have 4 great courts and a well-equipped clubhouse. **We have been part of St Johns Parish for 40 years** and we have been a place for families and many generations of competitive teams – you should see how many pennants we have on our walls!! Come along on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 from 10am – 2pm, at Brenock Park Drive, Ferntree Gully. Courts will be open for play**, we will have spare racquets available and lots of used balls. **BBQ Sausage Sizzle will be cooking from 12pm, coffee, tea and soft drinks will be available – Cost NO CHARGE! Free, 1<sup>st</sup> year Membership.** Enquiries: Maureen Ph 0438 053 343, (President) Beth Ph 0423 759 850 or Peter Kenny (Secretary) ph 0403 183 272



**ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI: PRAYING FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED** As we enter into November, the month of remembrance, and continue journeying through this Year of Prayer, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli offers some thoughts on the profound consolation and experience of communion to be found in the practice of praying for the faithful departed. <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/archbishop-comensoli-praying-for-the-faithful-departed>

**MANNIX LIBRARY BOOK SALE** Calling all bookworms. From Mon 7<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2024, the Mannix Library at 278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne is holding a book sale – all books are now \$2 come in and grab a bargain.

ROSTERS: Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024	
Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Carol D'S
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L & Myra N
	9am Lia & Help needed 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Alvi M
	9am Terry S
	11am Priya H
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Carlos E