

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

1. *Lord, make me know your ways.*

*Lord, teach me your paths.*

*Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:*

*for you are God my saviour. (R.)*

2. *The Lord is good and upright.*

*He shows the path to those who stray,*

*he guides the humble in the right path;*

*he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)*

3. *His ways are faithfulness and love*

*for those who keep his covenant and will.*

*The Lord's friendship is for those who revere*

*him; to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)*

## SECOND READING

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.*

*Alleluia!*

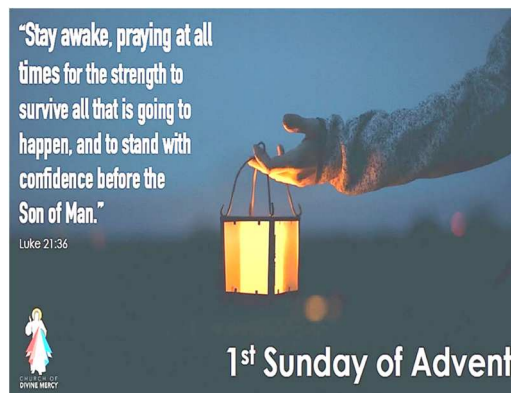
## GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

**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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

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



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – Year C  
30<sup>th</sup> November / 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

*God of light and life,*

*You love us so much that you want to be  
among us and share your life with us.*

*Make us ready to welcome You.*

*To recognize Your signs, and*

*Send us out to gather the harvest*

*Bringing hope to the lost.*

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



**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** Advent is a time of waiting for Christ, allowing Jesus to be reborn in our lives. It is also a time for purifying our hearts by repentance and for renewing our lives by reflecting on and experiencing the several comings (advents) of Christ into our lives. Besides coming into our world through birth, Jesus comes into our lives through His Church and its members, through its Sacraments (especially the Holy Eucharist), the Word of God, the worshipping community, and finally, in His Second Coming. **Life messages:** 1) We need to prepare ourselves for Christ's second coming by allowing Jesus to be reborn daily in our lives. Advent gives us time to make this preparation – repenting of and confessing our sins, renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and sharing our blessings with others. In Advent, we also ought to check for what needs to be put right in our lives, to see how we have failed, and to assess the ways in which we can do better. 2) A message of warning and hope: The Church reminds us that we will each be asked to give an account of our lives before Christ the Judge, both at the moment of our death (“*private Judgment*”) and at Jesus' *second coming* (“*The Last Judgment*”). Today's readings invite us to assess our lives every night during Advent and to make the necessary alterations in our thoughts, words, deeds, and omissions, in the light of the approaching Christmas celebration. Amid the tragedies that sometimes occur in our daily lives and the setbacks in spiritual life, we must raise our heads in hope and anticipation, knowing that the Lord is coming again..© Fr Tony Kadavil

**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** Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec **St Francis Xavier** Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Dec **St John Damascene**  
Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec **St Nicholas** Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Dec **St Ambrose**

*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 **Temporarily 9am-2pm**  
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** 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - Yr C  
30<sup>th</sup> Nov / 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 - Year of Prayer

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

Matthew John Bailey.

*Those who we remember at this time:*

Giovanni (John) Francesca, Mary Rita Fernando, Mary Magret Fernando, Alexander Rodrigo, Luigja Cecchin, Dominico Salvatore Presti, Leopoldina Newton, Ethel Arrowsmith/Bluett, Rita White, Noreen Hilet, Kathleen Sage, Francesco Caligiuri, Micele Fini

*The sick:* Diane Highton, Bonnie Hoefler, Sabrina McKeveer,, Celia Ellis, Eamon Smith, Elsie Johnson, Ann Good, Ben McLae, 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** the Rosary will be recited 30 minutes prior to **all weekdav Masses** in the Church. All welcome to join in the recitation.

**CHILDREN' LITURGY** is held at the :   
6pm Mass Saturday  
11am Mass Sunday

**ADVENT WORKSHOP** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 from 12pm.  
*Fun crafts for Christmas. See the full advertisement*

**ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** Meet each Tuesday Morning at 10.15am for a 10.30am Start. Come and Join us for Praise & Worship, prayer, and interesting guest speakers, followed by a shared lunch.

**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

**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.

**FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH** please note that for 2024 we are unable to host our Foothills Christmas Eve Lunch at our usual Ferntree Gully Location as it is unavailable. For Other local lunches around Christmas Go to website <https://www.foothillscare.org.au/>

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS UPDATE:** For the period between 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2024 to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 the parish office hours for Monday & Tuesday will be 9am - 2pm. Parish Pastoral minutes for November have been placed on the back wall of the church.

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES BAYSWATER, 40 HOUR ADORATION.** Thursday 5th December 2024, 5pm till Saturday 7th December, 9am, concluding with Mass.



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY BREAKUP - ADVENT WORKSHOP** THIS Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Parish Community Centre at 12: noon for children of all ages and their parents. A fun filled afternoon of Advent Activities for children to prepare for Christmas. Light refreshments will be available, and you are most welcome to bring a plate. To help with our environment, no plastics, no rubbish, we ask that parents bring water bottles from their home. We will have tea and coffee available. **Please come and join in.**



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SACRAMENTAL CLASSES** for children who do not attend Catholic Schools. The sacraments for 2025 are **First Reconciliation and First Eucharist**. If any parents would like their children to make these sacraments and are interested in attending these classes, please contact the parish office for an application form: [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au) or 9758 1029. Classes for First Reconciliation begin in February 2025. If any parents are considering having their children baptised in the Catholic Faith, please contact St John the Baptist parish office.



**JUBILEE YEAR and Launch of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. (ACYF)** On Sunday 24th November, the solemnity of Christ the King, young people and families from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne came together in joyous celebration at St Patrick's Cathedral. **The Jubilee Year was inaugurated** by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, with the launch being on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2024, marking one year until the **Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)**. 3 representatives from our Parish ( Gordon Veerasawmy, Henner Castaneda, and Vicente Morillo Morales, ) attended this Mass, and all the representatives from parish communities across the diocese were blessed by Archbishop Comensoli and given a **Jubilee candle** to return with their parish, and bum throughout 2025. For more information about this event, go to the Melbourne Catholic [Website](http://www.melb.catholic.org.au): Connected with the Jubilee Year, **POPE FRANCIS INVITES PEOPLE TO PREPARE TO THE JUBILEE BY MAKING A PILGRIMAGE**. Starting this Christmas Eve, the Eternal City will open its gates to an estimated **35 million pilgrims for the 2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE**.

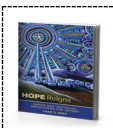


The Catholic Holy Year ordinarily occurs once every 25 years, and the Jubilee is a chance for the faithful to visit holy sites, perform pious works, and have their sins remitted. **Please visit the notice board at the rear of the church** to see multiple Pilgrim opportunities which are available.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS (with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick) Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 11am.** Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

**ADVENT BEGINS** This weekend we celebrate the First Week of Advent, a time of waiting and anticipation. Week one focuses on **HOPE**. Light the first candle on your advent wreath, and think about how you can be hopeful in the week ahead. **Perhaps you could bring hope to someone, by bringing some food for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers?**

**ADVENT PRAYER MEETING:** Mary, the Faith Development Coordinator, will be running a prayer meeting on Tuesday evenings throughout Advent. Starting from **Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November to 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm**. You are most welcome to attend. Please let Mary know if you are interested.



**HELP NEEDED** – If you can sing or play an instrument, we are looking for additional people to join in over the Christmas Masses. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested as practice will commence soon.



**YOUTH GROUP & PARISH POTLUCK DINNER:** Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Dinner last Saturday evening! It was a wonderful night and we all enjoyed the end of the Liturgical Year. We would also like to invite all young people to our final Youth Group session of the year next Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 5:30-7:30pm in the Parish Community Centre. We will be wrapping up our sessions on the Eucharist, and dinner is provided!



**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM PALMS** Are you looking to give something really special this year? Something that makes a tangible difference? Palms has the shop for you! Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here! Just scan the QR or go to [palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop](http://palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop) **Happy shopping! And yes, your purchase assists the amazing communities overseas**



ROSTERS: Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec to Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2024	
Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Sabrina McK
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L & Myra N 9am Lia U & Help needed please 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Jan Roffey 9am Gordon V 11am Edward M
Counters	Florence J, Peter C, Joan R, Ruben P
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R