

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel

1Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
1 Cor 15:45-49

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man

is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man..

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
6: 27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

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



7th Sunday in Ord Time – Yr C

22nd /23rd February 2025 - Year of Jubilee

Loving God,

*St Paul understood the work of a Deacon as the proclamation
of the good news of reconciliation.*

*May deacons today help bring awareness
of the Good News of Jesus*

to a world in need of hope..

*And may they be given the grace of God
to hold to their promises*

We ask this through Christ our Lord



FOCUS ON JUBILEE OF DEACONS 'occurs from 21st February 2025 – 23rd February 2025.



The origins of the ministry of Deacon can be traced back to the days of the New Testament, and were well-established early in the life of the Church. From the earliest decades, ordination by the laying on of hands was conferred on deacons, presbyters and bishops, these orders being three grades of one sacrament of Holy Orders. Over the years, however, as the priesthood grew in prominence, the diaconate declined. Eventually, in the Latin Church, the diaconate became a mere formality on the path to priesthood. After Vatican II the diaconate was restored as a permanent order and is open to both married and single men. Ordained to be Ministers of the Gospel, deacons are called to evangelise, to spread the good news of God's saving love, to introduce the entire world to Christ, the Word of God. Through baptism, all the faithful are called to be evangelists. All are anointed with Christ's Spirit of true servanthood, supremely witnessed by Christ, the original and true deacon. Commissioned by the Father, the Son of God humbled himself, becoming the greatest through the self-emptying gift of himself in service to the people beloved by God.

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

FEAST DAYS *Thurs 27 Feb St Gregory of Narek*

Lent begins: Ash Wednesday Wed 5th March, 2025 – Project Compassion begins

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 9.45am – 3.45pm
Tuesday 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
Wed & 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.

7th Sunday in Ord Time –Yr C-
22nd / 23rd February - Year of Jubilee

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

James Hoefler



Those who we remember at this time:

Palmerino Capozzi, Rosemary Tilson, Mark Barbin, Louise Bowler, Tom Weerden, Ron Neville, Judy Pek, Terry McCluskey, Eileen Haire, Stan Hilder.

The sick:, Anne Russo, Diane Highton, Bonnie Hoefler, Sabrina McKeeverne, Celia Ellis, Eamon Smith, Elsie Johnson, Ann Good, Ben McLeay, 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.

Please notify the Parish office if you know that a person is ready to come off the Sick List. Thank you.



ROSARY is recited prior to Morning Weekday Mass on Wed, Thurs, Friday, in the Church. All welcome to join in the recitation.

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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER At 10.15am in the Parish Hall There will be **Praise and Worship starting at 10.30am**, some teaching and a shared lunch from 12pm. Please bring a plate of food to share. All welcome.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Children's Liturgy operates at the **6pm Saturday and 11am Sunday masses**. We look forward to seeing the children return to the liturgy celebration joining in our prayers, songs and readings that are adapted to their level of understanding.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING meet the Parish Hall on Thursdays between 10 am and 12pm drop in for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while. Come along and join us.

YOUTH GROUP SESSION FOR 2025. Our first meeting is on **Friday March 7th at 5:30-7:30pm**. Come along and be a part of this great group of young people.

DO YOU HAVE a Working With Children Check (WWCC)? Is it still valid? if not please renew it. If you do not have a valid WWCC please apply using the following link- <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children/landing>. Because Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility! **All Group leaders, please check your teams.**



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY- FERNTREE GULLY CONFERENCE UPDATE AND THANK YOU – 2024 The Society of St. Vincent de Paul- Femtree Gully Conference would like to thank all of our parishioners for your tremendous support for our ongoing work in assisting the disadvantaged in our parish area. Thank you for the donation of gift cards and Christmas items of non- perishable food for distribution to our families.

Our Appeal continued to raise the awareness of our varied work for the those who are experiencing hardship. We are pleased to inform you that all non -perishable food and cash that you donated has been used directly to support the needy this Christmas

Once again, we thank parishioners for their generous donations over the Christmas period.

Cash donations and gift cards from Primary School totalled: \$ 2,359.25

Parish donations of gift cards totalled: \$ 2,093.15. Overall total:

\$4,452.40. **We were also fortunate to receive a grant of \$5000 from Knox Council**

toward the cost of our Christmas hampers

Our members packed and delivered: 57 hampers with a total cost of \$12,540

Each hamper contained Christmas non-perishable food, plus two \$50 Woolworth cards; as well as your gift cards for the children in that family. We sincerely thank Fr Thomas and everyone who supported us in so many ways.

We are always delighted to welcome people to join us as we continue to support those in need. May God's blessings be upon you and may you be blessed for who you are.

SVDP– Ferntree Gully Conference

WORDS OF HOPE World Day of Prayer 2025 - Building Bridges not Walls The focus of World Day of Prayer Service this year is on the Cook Islands. All are invited to join our fellow Christian communities on World Day of Prayer to pray for the Cook Islands, it will be held:

St Thomas Anglican Church
Friday 7 March at 10:30am
12 Mountview Road, Upper Ferntree Gully

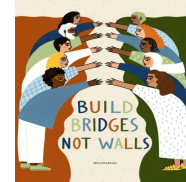


Image from [Sakina Saïdi for OBI x Fine Acts](#)

Last year at the World Day of Prayer Salvation Army, Rosie Massey, spoke about building bridges not walls so that peace and hope can reign within all of us and through all of us.

“Let us build bridges rather than barriers, openness rather than walls.” – Martin Luther King Jr
(Please let Mary know if you are attending, we do need volunteers for the service)

MARCH CALENDAR

Prep Welcome Mass - Sunday 2 MARCH 11am Mass
Shrove Tuesday 4 March
Ash Wednesday 5 March Mass 9.15am & 7pm
School Open Day will be held on: Thursday 6th March

LENTEN BOOKLETS Please remember to sign up for the Lenten books we need to know who would like to purchase one or more, asap, to order the booklets so that they arrive here be the First Week of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on 5 March. **Mary is resuming the evening Prayer Group on Monday evenings at 7:00pm** from Monday, 24 February in the Admin building back entrance. You are most welcome to come and join us.

PARENTS AND KIDS GROUP UPDATE! On Sunday **March 2nd** our parish will welcome new Prep families at our 11am mass. To build that sense of welcome, our group will be meeting **after the 11am mass (12:00pm - 1:00pm)**. As always, the group works to create a space where the children of our parish can come together and connect and all are welcome. Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Questions and inquiries to Jacqui and Carlos or email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com

A Warm Welcome to all our First Reconciliation Candidates and their Families. This weekend we welcome our First Reconciliation Candidates and their families who will be joining us in our mass services making their commitment promises. **We pray for all our candidates and their families and encourage all parents and their children to join us every weekend!**

6PM MASS MUSIC MINISTRY Dear Parents, do you want your children to participate more in our Saturday night Mass? So do we! we invite kids of all ages and of ALL skill levels to come sing with the choir. This month, we will be singing "Trading My Sorrows." Here is the YouTube link for you to practice at home <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SzbUmeUHE>
Hope to sing with you at the 6pm Mass! 😊

ROSTERS: Mon 24th Feb to Sun 2nd March 2025	
Flowers	Marg & Ange -No flowers during Lent
Linen	Sabrina M
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 9am Joanna C & Thelma B 11am Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm: Jan R 9am: Pamela E 11am: Cynthia M
Counters	George & Genevieve, Bindu M
Gardening	Carlos E