

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Sirach 27:4-7

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.

The orchard where the tree grows is judged on
the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. *It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning and your
truth in the watches of the night. (R.)*

2. *The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)*

3. *Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians 1 Cor 15:54-58

When this perishable nature has put on
imperishability, and when this mortal nature has
put on immortality, then the words of scripture will
come true: Death is swallowed up in victory.
Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your
sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its
power from the Law. So let us thank God for
giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit
defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always,
knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring
in vain.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man
guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The
disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained
disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you
observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never
notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your
brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in
your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own?
Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and
then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter
that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor
again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every
tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs
from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good
man draws what is good from the store of goodness in
his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of
badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his
heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please note:

ASH WEDNESDAY: 5 March
Mass: 9.15am & 7pm



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



8th Sunday in Ord Time – Yr C PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY
1st / 2nd March 2025 - Year of Jubilee

*God our Father,
You look into our hearts, and You offer us
understanding and compassion.
Help us to be more like Jesus, Your Son,
who did not judge others.
May we bear witness to Your truth and Your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON JUBILEE The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Franciscan

Gospel Reflection: 'The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good.' What makes a person good? Is it that they have had good things happen in their life? There are plenty of people who have had good things in their life but they remain cynical and spiteful people. Similarly there are plenty who have had the hardest of circumstances yet goodness constantly flows from them. It's not the external influences but what we do with them that determines whether we are nurturing 'good treasure' or harbouring 'evil treasure'. This is not just sugary sweetness but a deliberate decision to be a person of hope.

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 Tues 4th Mar St Casimir

Lent begins: Ash Wednesday Wed 5th March, 2025 – Mass 9.15am & 7pm
Fri 7th March Autumn Ember Day – Special day of prayer and penance.

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)



PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruwila 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
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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
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.

8th Sunday in Ord Time –Yr C-Project Compassion Sunday
1st /2nd March Year of Jubilee

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time:

Therese Edmunds, Judy Aitkinson, Daniel Cahill, Anna Ashton, Barbara Smith.

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.

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.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS: are a 14-step

Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation.. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited,

then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. **We will be having the Stations of the Cross on Friday at 10.20 am during lent** followed by mass at 11.00 am. All are invited to join.

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 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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 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 7th March at 10:am 12 Mountview Road, Upper Ferntree Gully**



WORDS OF HOPE Hope is a state of mind, not a state of the world. Either we have hope within us, or we don't; it is a dimension of the soul, and its not essentially dependent on some observation of the world or estimate of the situation. Hope is not prognostication. It is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart; it transcends the world that is immediately experienced, and is anchored somewhere beyond its horizons...Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously headed for early success, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed. The more unpromising the situation in which we demonstrate hope, the deeper that hope is. Hope is not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out. **-Vaclav Havel, Disturbing the Peace, 1986**



Project Compassion Sunday
1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. By taking home a Project Compassion donation box or envelope, you'll be answering the Gospels' call to care for our global family and walk alongside the most vulnerable.

Your generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to communities facing poverty, food insecurity, lack of education, and water shortages, while building resilience against future challenges. Together, through faith and action, we can bring compassion and opportunity to those most in need.



Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. **Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion** **Or by calling: 1800 024 413** Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

MARCH CALENDAR

Shrove Tuesday 4 March
ASH WEDNESDAY 5 March Mass 9.15am & 7pm
Project Compassion begins.
School Open Day will be held on:
Thursday 6th March: more details see school Website
International Women's Day, 8 March 2025

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to *Lucy, Grace & Holly Van Wamel*, children of Geoff & Rebecca who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

LENTEN BOOKLETS The sign up sheet is on the glass wall. , Ash Wednesday is on 5 March. **Mary is resuming the evening Prayer Group on Monday evenings at 7:00pm** from Mon, 24 Feb in the Admin building back entrance. You are most welcome to come and join us.

PREP STUDENTS & FAMILIES WELCOME MASS
Prep families **we warmly welcome** you to our Mass today. We hope that you feel right at home, here at St John the Baptist Parish, you are integral members of our community.

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 children are invited to participate singing with the choir for the final hymn.

ROSTERS: Mon 3rd March to Sun 9th March 2025

Flowers	No flowers during Lent
Linen	Sue O'Halloran
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L & Myra N 9am Lia U and Help needed 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm: Louise Di B 9am: Terry S 11am: Priya F
Counters	George & Genevieve, Bindu M
Gardening	Carlos E