

A reading from the book of Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'
The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2Cor 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven
and against you.*

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. "When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening." "The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."'

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



4th Sunday in Lent – Yr C PROJECT COMPASSION
29th /30th March 2025 - Year of Jubilee

*O God of compassion,
You await the sinner's return
and spread a feast to welcome home the lost.
Save us from the temptations
that lead us away from You,
and draw us back by Your constant love,
that we may take our place in Your household.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



FOCUS ON JUBILEE

As we travel through the Jubilee Year, we hope to visit local Pilgrim Places. **Some parishioners have taken the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to two different designated Pilgrim Places of Worship. Eight of us journeyed to Sacred Heart church, Croydon on Wednesday, 19 March.** Fr Thomas celebrated the mass for us. We also had time to look over the lovely church and grounds.

Fourteen parish pilgrims journeyed to St Dominic's Camberwell on Saturday, 22nd March. Most of us meeting at St John the Baptist car park at 8am to car pool to St Dominic's. We were blessed to join in the Rosary, Divine Mercy plus silent individual prayer as well as the Mass and have the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finally, we had the opportunity to peruse over the beautiful historical church of St Dominic's. We hope to journey to other local Pilgrim Places later this year, please join us.

LIVING THE GOSPEL: The parable of the lost son is a fascinating study of Jewish culture and purity laws. The son could not have distanced himself more from Jewish custom. Firstly, he demanded his inheritance, effectively treating his father as dead. Secondly, he travels to a pagan land and then in despair finds himself feeding pigs – animals whose meat was forbidden to Jews. He knows that his actions have alienated him from his family and culture and yet when he returns, his father gives him a fine robe and a ring to wear – signs of a father claiming a son as his own.

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 Wed 2nd April St Francis of Paola Fri 4th April St Isidore
Sat 5th April St Vincent Ferrer

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: csombekesjb@gmail.com

SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal: Kelli Johnston
Email: kjohnston@siferntreegully.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 2nd 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.

4th Sunday in Lent –Yr C-Project Compassion
29th /30th March 2025 Year of Jubilee

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:
Timothy Donohoe



Those who we remember at this time:
Anthony Silva, Giuseppina Russo, Donald O'Sullivan, Adam Brown, Robert (Bob) Lisle, Janina James, Pat Smith., Tess De Araugo Troy Chapman, Giovanni Cavarra.

The sick: Anne Russo, Diane Highton, Bonnie Hoefler, Sabrina McKeever, Celia Ellis, Eamon Smith, 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.** All welcome

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.

PARENTS & KIDS GROUP Meet on 1st & 3rd Sun of each month. 10am-11am Parish Community Centre .Contact Jacqui & Carlos email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP the next session will be Friday **April 11th at 6pm** in the community centre. Parish Community Centre -Please come & Join us!



REMINDER: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS NEXT WEEKEND. Sunday 6th April 2025 Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour.

WORDS OF HOPE Visit a PILGRIM PLACE with fellow Parishioners - be a - PILGRIM OF HOPE As we travel through the Jubilee Year, we hope to visit local Pilgrim Places.

Some parishioners have taken the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to two different designated Pilgrim Places of Worship. **Eight of us journeyed to Sacred Heart church, Croydon on Wednesday, 19 March.** Fr Thomas celebrated the mass for us. We also had time to look over the lovely church and grounds.

Fourteen parish pilgrims journeyed to St Dominic's Camberwell on Saturday, 22nd March. Most of us meeting at St John the Baptist car park at 8am to car pool to St Dominic's. We were blessed to join in the Rosary, Divine Mercy plus silent individual prayer as well as the Mass and have the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finally, we had the opportunity to peruse over the beautiful historical church of St Dominic's. We hope to journey to other local Pilgrim Places later this year, please join us.



For the 4th Sunday of Lent
29th/30th of March 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia
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

40 HOUR ADORATION at Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater, Thursday 27th March, 2025- Sat 29th March 2025 Adoration will begin with Mass at 7pm, Thurs and conclude with Anointing Mass at 22am on Sat 29th. Reconciliation available. Come and spend time with the Lord. Enquiries: 9729 2622.

CONGRATULATIONS to all students who celebrated the **First Reconciliation on Wednesday 26th March.** May you return often to this sacrament of Grace.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS is on Friday 4th April at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

CALENDAR

SCHOOL OPEN DAY 1st May & Sat 3rd May.
28-30 March Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy
CFA Anzac Dawn service Fri 25th April Quarry Park.

LENTEN GROUP is on Monday evenings at 7:00pm in the Admin building back entrance. You are most welcome to come and join us.

MUSICIANS/SINGERS URGENTLY NEEDED TO HELP WITH HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

We need YOU! Please, join us in the singing or accompanying at Mass, as we prepare for the up-coming Holy Week/ Easter Services. All ages welcome. Please contact Maree in the Parish office, and record your name on the Sign-up sheets on the glass wall.

PARENTS AND KIDS GROUP St John the Baptist's Parents and Kids continues to meet **every 1st and 3rd Sunday** of the month. All families with children of primary school age and younger are welcome to attend. We offer games, arts and crafts, and morning tea so that children and parents can have a space to connect with each other and build relationships within the parish. **Our next meeting is on Sunday April 6th, 10:00 - 11:00am** Please note that there will be **no meeting on Easter Sunday.**

'A REALLY POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION': study reveals lifelong benefits of Catholic education
A new research study from the Victorian Catholic Education Authority (VCEA) using data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey has found that Catholic school education provides lasting benefits in employment, health and life satisfaction. These findings reflect the experience of two Melburnians—audiologist Ewa Ng and artist James Mumane—whose very different career paths have the common base of Catholic education. Read more: ['A really positive contribution': study reveals... | Melbourne Catholic](#)

ROSTERS: Mon 31st March to Sun 6th April 2025	
Flowers	No flowers during Lent
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 9am Joanna C & Thelma B 11am Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm: Alvi M 9am: Gordon V 11am:Phuong B
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S & Guil W
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R