

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

38:4-6, 8-10

The king's leading men spoke to the king, 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. (R.)

2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. (R.)

3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. (R.)

4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

12:1-4

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything

that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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20th Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year C
16th /17th August, 2025 -Year of Jubilee


*To set the earth ablaze, O God,
Your Son endured a baptism unto death,
and from His cup of suffering
You call the Church to drink.
Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus
and give us strength in time of trial
to run the race that lies before us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Your generous gift supports ministries across the Archdiocese —bringing the Good News to life not only in word, but in action.

Thank you.

 **THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN**
2025

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melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

FOCUS ON THE WORD The central theme of today's readings is that we should be Christians on fire instead of remaining "frozen Christians." It is by courageously living out our religious convictions with commitment as Jeremiah, Paul, and Jesus did, even if doing so would result in causing divisions in families and society and inviting suffering and death. If no one is ever offended by the quality of our commitment to Christ, then perhaps we are practicing "inoffensive Christianity." © Fr Anthony Kadavil <https://frtonyshomilies.com>

"I have come to 'set the earth on fire.'" In the Bible, fire is sometimes symbolic of purification. Jesus acts as a catalyst in his believers' life. "Fire was to be an expected aspect of discipleship in the sense that: (1) baptism into Jesus dying and rising necessarily included a process of purification by his word and the Holy Spirit; (2) those who align themselves with him who is both LIGHT and TRUTH will inevitably know the heat of persecution; (3) the service of the good news will require a zeal so contagious that it will set fire in the hearts of others." (Sanchez Files).

FEAST DAYS Tues 19th Aug St John Eudes Wed 20th Aug St Bernard Thurs 21st Aug St Pius X
Fri 22nd Aug The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sat 23rd Aug St Rose of Lima

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

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

PARISH PRIEST:
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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 10.00am – 4.00pm
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 9.00am and 11am
Tuesday No Mass during Fr's Leave. **7.00pm**
Wed Communion Service 9.15am
Thurs No Mass during Fr's Leave. **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.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr C
16th /17th August, 2025 Year of Jubilee.

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Bishop Peter Elliott

Those who we remember at this time:

Natalia Pereira, Audrey Uber, Yvonne Petrova, Wanda Furno, Rosemary Cameron, Conrad McKeever, Bartolomina Marotti, Mary Gannan, Veronica Fox, Len Wilson, Ludmilla Jancar.

The sick, Annette Scutt, Bonnie Hoefler, Ann Jayawardena, Sophie Flemming

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

GROUP ROSARY FOR PEACE –

When: Saturday 6th Sept at 10.30am 63 Dobson St FTG
Contact: Joan 0408 411 096.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER Meet in the Parish Community Centre on Tuesdays at 10.15am. There will be Praise and Worship starting at 10.30am, some teaching and a shared lunch from 12pm. All welcome.


FRIENDSHIP GATHERING meet in the Parish Community Centre between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Drop in for a chat over a cuppa, join a card game, knit or just sit for a while Come and join us!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY operates at the 6pm Saturday and 11am Sunday Masses. returns for term 3 this weekend. We welcome you all back after the break, to share prayers, songs and readings.

6PM MASS MUSIC MINISTRY children are invited in our Saturday night Mass come sing with the choir.

PARENTS AND KIDS GROUP will follow the 11:00am mass meet at 12pm on 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month., in the Parish Community Centre. Contact Jacqui & Carlos email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP SESSION is planned on 15th August at 6pm-8pm in the Parish Community Centre. Check the instagram: @sjtb.youth or Email: sjtbyouth@gmail.com



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL
30th Nov-2nd Dec 2025
A National gathering of Catholic Young People. Learn More: acyf.org.au

FUNDRAISING COOKBOOK. Thanks to all who have contributed recipes, we have approximately 80! Well done. Work is now underway to format and publish. Stay tuned! - from the Friendship Gathering.



Welcome Back Fr Thomas!
CLERY CONFERENCE There is a clery conference on Monday 18th August, 2025 – 22nd August 2025:
Tuesday Evening: No Mass
Wednesday 9.15am Communion Service
Thursday No Mass
Friday 11.00am Mass

VALE BISHOP PETER ELLIOTT Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass Monday 18 August, 10.30am St Patrick's Cathedral: Principal Celebrant Most Rev Peter A Comensoli DD

SJB SCHOOL NEWS, REGARDING THE NEW BUILDING. Our school principal, Kelli Johnson is extremely excited to announce that the new school building is scheduled to open on Monday 11th August 2025. On Sunday 17th August, Kelli would like to WARMLY WELCOME PARISHIONERS, WHO WOULD LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WALK THROUGH THE BUILDING to take a walk through, between Sunday Masses



The St Vincent de Paul Piety Stall Update grateful thanks to everyone for your wonderful support of our card sale. – Peter & Dawn.

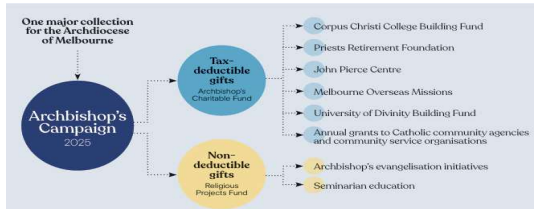
IMPORTANT NOTICE The Melbourne Archdiocese will be under Audit from July to August 2025. It is vital that our Parish Records are in order regarding Professional Standards and Risk Assessment. **From a parish perspective,** this means that we must have all our Working with Children Checks and Police Checks as well as Code of Conduct information up to date and correctly stored. **All Volunteers must have these documents in order.** PLEASE – if you hold a WWCC or Police Check, and are a current volunteer at St John's, forward a copy to the Parish Office. If you do not have a WWCC, or if it needs to be updated, please go to the website at: [Working with Children Check | Working and Volunteering | Service Victoria](#)

I will be emailing reminders where necessary, but I would appreciate your utmost assistance, so that all is in order. Thank you for your understanding. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. - Maree

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING for youth will take place on Sunday 24th August at 10am, in the church. Girls and boys are all welcome to attend the training. Youth of all ages from grade 4 upwards who have celebrated their First Holy Communion. New altar servers as well as current servers.



ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN The Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Donations can be made via the QRcode, via



the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends. – Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Live Your Best Life in Love... A Marriage Encounter weekend is a gift for every married couple And every married couple deserves this very special weekend. Time-out for the two of you to focus on your most precious relationship. You will come away feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep your renewed intimacy alive. No group sharing is required. The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome. We offer 2 further weekends in 2025. Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend: October 3-5: Tooleybuc Sporting Club / Tooleybuc Motor Inn, Tooleybuc NSW (35 mins from Swan Hill) **October 10-12: St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.** Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm **Info /Bookings:** Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

ROSTERS: Mon 18 th Aug - Sun 24 th Aug, 2025	
Flowers	Genevieve W & Tess
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Lia U & Matt V 9am Rosa L & Florence J 11am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Gab V 9am Caroline Q 11am Henner C
Counters ^h	George & Genevieve, Bindu
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R