

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 66:18-21

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ *Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.*

1. *O praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples! (R.)*
2. *Strong is his love for us; he is faithful for ever. (R.)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 13:22-30

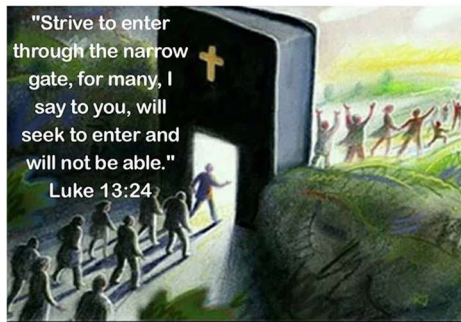
Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us' but he will answer, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will find yourself saying, 'We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets' but he will reply, 'I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!'

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year C
23rd /24th August, 2025 -Year of Jubilee

Jesus,

Your gate is narrow,

not guaranteed by privilege or tradition.

Please, lead us by Your Spirit

Help us to navigate the way with Love.

And teach us how we may be counted among those

With a place in the Kingdom of God.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Try to enter by the Narrow Gate

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



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

FOCUS ON THE WORD As he continues his final journey to Jerusalem prepared for his suffering, and death, Jesus responds to a question asking how many will be saved by answering the unasked and more important questions, "How best does one enter into salvation and how urgent is it that one strive to enter now, before the Master closes the door?" Instead of asking how many will be saved, Jesus wants us to ask ourselves, "Am I prepared to be saved, choosing the narrow gate of sacrificial agape love and so loving others as Jesus loves them?" © Fr Anthony Kadavil. **To experience:** Our society tends to declare, "numero uno!" We tend to want to be first, to find things easy, to have everything handed to us on a silver platter. This gospel says exactly the opposite. We are not first—Christ is. Things will not be easy—the road to salvation is narrow, difficult, demanding. **Every-thing will not be handed to us—rather, we are asked to hand ourselves over. What is our lesson? That God keeps the door open long beyond what anyone would expect, all the way to the end.** But if we are too busy partying and dancing, then finally there is nothing he can do. He has to accept our decision to stay outside. **The message? Get to know God now. Do not delay** till you find yourself at the end of your life at heaven's gates and have nothing to show for yourself. © Fr John Foley SJ @liturgy.slu.edu

FEAST DAYS Mon 25th Aug St Louis, St Joseph Calasanz Wed 27th Aug St Monica
Thur 28th Aug St Augustine Fri 29th Aug Passion of St John the Baptist

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:
Fr Thomas Kuruvida 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 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. 7.00pm
Wed 9.15am
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.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr C
23rd / 24th August, 2025 Year of Jubilee.

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Sophie Fleming
Those who we remember at this time: Michael Solanga, Michael Jones, Chris Smolders, John Kolmus, Margaret Felicetti, Caterina Mazzone, Pellegrina Rossi, Mary Gottwald, Nancy Penna, Celeste Lizza .

The Sick: Alan Tolliday, Annette Scutt, Bonnie Hoefler, Ann Jayawardena,



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 We welcome you all to share prayers, songs and readings.



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 jacquandcarlos@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER Fathers Day Nutella Pie sale Our Parish Youth Group will be raising funds to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival by selling Nutella pies on 6th/7th Sept after all Masses. Slices will be for sale on the day \$4 and whole pies available for pre-order (please text 0414264116) for \$25. Allergens: contains milk, nuts, gluten. Thanks, Vicente.

St JOHNS NETBALL CLUB invites boys & girls 7yrs and up. Register now for the Spring Season from 6th Sept

Enquiries: Email regofficer.stjohnsnetball@gmail.com
Or Call Leanne on 0430 568 058

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

9th -31st Aug Archbishops Campaign
29th Aug The Passion of St John the Baptist
31st Aug Social Justice Sunday
1st Sept World day of Prayer for Creation
7th Sept Father's Day – Youth Gr Pie Sale
Coming up: BBQ Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE for the late **Sophie Fleming** will be celebrated at Renowden Chapel, Springvale Cemetery on **Mon 1st Sept, 2025** at 10.30am We send our support to the family at this sad time.



THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE IS BACK! An all new **KIA PICANTO** car to be won, as well as several Gift Card vouchers. Tickets go on sale this weekend **23rd Aug – 2nd Nov 2025. \$2 each or \$20 for a book.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE The Melbourne Archdiocese will be under Audit from July to August 2025. 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 not, please go to the website at: [Working with Children Check | Working and Volunteering | Service Victoria](#) and apply. Thank you for your assistance. -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.

SAINT CARLO ACUTIS First class relic and exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles **MAIN EVENTS:**
St Patrick's Catholic Parish 65 Clarke St Lilydale: 7pm Friday 12th September, with SPECIAL GUESTS John Canavan & Gary Pinto, in the Community Centre on Jones St, Lilydale Evening includes talks, live music, veneration of the First Class Relic, Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit.

10.30am Sunday 14th Sept Combined Celebration with the Feast of our Lady of Grace: Mass 10.30am in the Church, Ending with procession from the Church to the Community Centre (with the image of Our Lady of Grace) followed by veneration of the First Class Relic of St Carlo Acutis; And a chance to go through the Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles. Tea /Coffee and refreshments provided. And, at: **St Brigid's Catholic Parish Hall, 15 High Street Healesville** Thurs: 4th Sept – 10am -12pm
Sun: 7th September – 9.30am-11am.

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Mary** daughter of **Carley & Matthew**, who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

FIRST EUCHARIST warmest congratulations to **Mateo Chavez** who is receiving his First Eucharist this weekend.

ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge to gift to the 2025 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! **If you are yet to make a gift**, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards are still available in the church, or you can make your gift online at: [melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign](#) – Archbishop **Peter A Comensoli**

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate. Online Diaconate information meeting is on **Tues 24 September 2025** from 19:00 – 20:00 Location::via ZOOM. Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison [Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au](#) In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

GOD & BEER How do we move from simply 'going through the motions' in our faith to truly living as missionary disciples of Christ?

Edward Sri will offer a roadmap for deepening personal conversion, growing in love for Jesus and confidently sharing the Gospel with others.

ROSTERS: Mon 24th Aug - Sun 31st Aug, 2025

Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6pm Myra N & Kathryn C 9am Terry S, Joanna C, Thelma B 11am Patrick S & Anna Mazzei
Lectors	6pm Tess D 9am Pamela E 11am Peter J
Counters ^h	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R