

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver. The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble. There is no cure for the proud man's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him. The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

- 1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy. O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. (R.)*
- 2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, such is God in his holy place. God gives the lonely a home to live in; he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. (R.)*
- 3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain: when your people were starved you gave them new life. It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. (R.)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
12:18-19, 22-24

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have

been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Take my yoke upon you;
learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
14: 4:1. 7-14

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



For everyone who humbles himself, will be exalted.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year C
30th /31st August, 2025 -Year of Jubilee
Observance: Social Justice Sunday

*Jesus our Brother,
You noticed those living on the edge,
listened, healed and served them, out of love.
Move us from our embarrassment or discomfort
by those who show us your suffering face.
Instead, may we be taught by them,
offer our loving friendship
and share your good news together. Amen.*



FOCUS ON Social Justice : This weekend we observe **SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement: **Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving homeless people with mental ill-health.** reminds us of the raw truth: homelessness and mental ill-health are deeply entwined crises. They leave thousands of Australians isolated, invisible, and suffering. Yet, at the heart of this year's message is not despair, but **hope**. Hope that springs from encounter. Hope that is born when we choose **to see, to notice, and to respond.** This statement could not have come at a more urgent time. Across Australia, the **cost-of-living crisis** has pushed countless families and individuals to the brink. Housing prices soar, rents escalate, and homelessness services are overwhelmed. Behind every statistic is a story: a family sleeping in their car, a young person turned away from crisis accommodation, an elderly widow who has lost not only her home but her sense of belonging. it is a commissioning. **We are called** not to walk past, but to **walk with**. Not to avert our eyes, but to **notice with love**. Not to offer only charity, but to foster relationships of dignity and belonging. And let us, in our daily encounters, offer the radical hospitality of Christ. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>
FOCUS ON THE WORD The common theme of today's readings is **the need for true humility which leads to a generous, blessed sharing with the needy.** The readings warn us against all forms of pride and self-glorification. They present humility not only as a virtue but also as a means of opening our hearts, our minds, and our hands to the poor, the needy, the disadvantaged, and the marginalized of society. **For Jesus, the daily human needs of the poor are the personal responsibility of every authentic, humble believer. In addition, humility is the mother not only of peace, but also of many virtues, like obedience, fear, reverence, patience, modesty, meekness, and gentleness.** ©Fr Tony Kadavil

FEAST DAYS Tues 1st Sept **World Day of Prayer for Creation** Wed 3rd Sept **St Gregory the Great**
Fri 5th Sept **Spring Ember Day of prayer & penance**

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 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 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.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr C
30th /31st August, 2025 Year of Jubilee.
Observance: **SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Noel McNamara

Those who we remember at this time: Robyn Elliott, Lucy Leatham, Lothar (Bill) Tepass, Brian Stackpole, Angelo Rech, Felicia Jayawardena.

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



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.
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 jacquiancarlos@gmail.com

St JOHNS NETBALL CLUB invites boys & girls 7yrs and up. Register now for the Spring Season from 6th September, 2025. Enquiries: Call Leanne on 0430 568 058
Email regofficer.stjohnsnetball@gmail.com

CLEANER REQUIRED – PART TIME, 3HRS PER WEEK. Involves cleaning, vaccuming & moping church and Parish Community Centre, alternatively Please contact the Parish Office for further information.

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.
October 10-12: St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South
Website: wwme.org.au



SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

31st Aug Social Justice Sunday

3rd-13 Sept Temporary change in Office Hours.

1st Sept World day of Prayer for Creation

7th Sept Father's Day – Youth Gr Pie Sale

Coming up: BBQ Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY The Church in Australia marks Social Justice Sunday on Sun 31st August 2025. Our Australian Bishops Social Justice Statement this year is entitled “**Signs of Hope on the Edge.**” This year’s Social Justice Statement calls us to follow the example of Jesus, who always noticed, listened to, and cared for those on the edge of society. Australia is facing a deepening crisis. Over 273,000 people sought help from homelessness services last year, many also struggling with mental illness. Services are overstretched and many people are left without care, shelter, or hope. Many who are homeless also live with serious mental health challenges. Services are overwhelmed, and too many people are left without the help they desperately need. Listen to Archbishop Tim Costelloe by clicking [here](https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/) or go to the website at: <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

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..

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.

@sjth.youth or Email: sjtbyouth@gmail.com

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.

MEETING WITH THE VICAR GENERAL Thanks to those who attended the meeting on Wednesday night with the Vicar General Fr Tony Kerin EV JCL. We have been informed that Fr Rembert Fernando will be assisting Fr Thomas with Masses both here and within the Belgrave Parish in the coming months.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS– Friday 5th September at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS. For the next 2 weeks, the Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, owing to staff leave. Should you need to arrange for access to the Community Centre, please make arrangements to collect your key on Wednesday. Thank you for your understanding.

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. **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.

100years of YCW – Women in Action Luncheon Sunday

31st August Registrations at 10:30 for a 11am start Catholic Theological College, Knox Room 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

YCW (Holdings) Melbourne invites you to join us to celebrate the contributions women have made to Australian YCW as we celebrate the centenary of YCW. Hear stories from different generations of women who live out the YCW method in their everyday lives. Share your own memories and experiences of YCW with others during a delicious light lunch. Open to women AND men of YCW, their friends and interested networks. Bookings essential: <https://events.humanitix.com/100-years-of-ycw-women-in-action>

ROSTERS: Mon 2nd Sept - Sun 7th Sept, 2025

Flowers	Anne P & Connie B
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Peter G, Wilma H 9am Joanna C & Thelma B 11am Anna M & Priya H
Lectors	6pm Louise D 9am Gordon V 11am Phuong B
Counters ^h	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Theresa Ngaihte