

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom 9:13-18

What man can know the intentions of God?
Who can divine the will of the Lord?
The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body
presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs
down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to
work out what is on earth, laborious to know what
lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what
is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could
have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the
paths of those on earth been straightened and men
been taught what pleases you, and saved, by
Wisdom.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ In every age, O Lord, you have been
our refuge.*

*1. You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'*

*To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. (R.)*

*2. You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. (R.)*

*3. Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. (R.)*

*4. In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.*

SECOND READING

Philemon 12-17: Phlm 9-10, 12-17

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you,

and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
14: 25-33**

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time -Year C
6th /7th September, 2025 -Year of Jubilee

Heavenly Father,
You entrusted Your Son Jesus,
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.
Bless all fathers, as they care for their families.
Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience;
and support them in all they do,
to protect those who look to them. Amen.

Happy
Father's
Day

FOCUS: SEASON OF CREATION REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

A common thread that runs through this week's readings is the passing of time. We are told that God's intentions transcend and outlast ours, that our lives are short and our bodies dust. But none of this is cause for worry so much as a reality check, a reminder that we are all Created Beings living within a wider Creation. An elderly St Paul speaks of deprivation 'for a time' before turning his attention to human relationships and eternal hopes, reminding us that the Resurrection for which we hope is Creation renewed in Communion in Christ.

While we are celebrating the Season of Creation, such Scripture therefore also reminds us that Creation's 'season' is eternal. This helps us make sense of this week's seemingly troubling Gospel passage where Jesus speaks of 'hating' loved ones, even 'hating' our own lives, and His insistence that we give up all our possessions. Jesus' point is that our relationships with people and things should be part of a bigger, longer picture, and that our approach towards Creation should not be possessive. Your mother is God's Creation. Your life is God's. Your possessions really belong to God. Which then begs the question: Do you approach Creation unselfishly?



FATHER'S DAY greetings to all our parish families. May this day be a blessed day for all our dad's, grandad's and male role models who play a special part in our lives! Have a great day!

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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Mary Makarucha 9758 1029
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PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday 10.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday to Friday 9.00am -3.00pm
Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne & Maree Wilson
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SCHOOLS:
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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 9.00am 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.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Yr C
6th/7th September, 2025 Year of Jubilee.

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:
Felecia Jayawardena, Ken Collins, John Zerella, Margaret Hill, Carmine Mazzone, Maureen Addicott, Mary Niehof, Emmanuuel Deidun, Lino Bimbi, Alfea Cursaro.
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 jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP SESSION: Friday 12th September Join us for our next youth group session as we begin preparing for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival! We will be in the Parish Community Centre from 6-8pm. This will be a night of food, faith learning and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN PARISH OFFICE HOURS. For the next week, the Parish Office will be closed on Thursday.


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

LITURGY † NEWS † EVENTS
September 2025

Monday	8 th	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday	12 th	Most Holy Name of Mary
Sunday	14 th	Exaltation of the Cross
Monday	15 th	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wednesday	17 th	Hildegard de Bingen
Sunday	21 th	25 th Sunday OT

THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE IS BACK! Please support our parish raffle. Tickets go on sale this weekend to—2nd Nov 2025. \$2 each or \$20 for a book An all new KIA PICANTO car to be won, as well as several Gift Card vouchers. Grab some books to sell to family, friends and work colleagues!

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 this weekend 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.

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

Our Parish Recipe Book
"From our Table to Yours"

is at the printers. Avoid Disappointment and order now. Pre-paid in cash \$20- per copy. \$8- is going to support our parish community. Pre-Paid orders taken after weekend masses, at the Parish Office and the School Office, from:

13th September – 17th October.

Delivery mid - November

A WARM WELCOME TO FR REMBERT FERNANDO who will be assisting Fr Thomas, temporarily. We thank you, Fr Rembert. May your time here be enriched by the faith communities of Ferntree Gully and Belgrave Parish.

DIRECT DEBIT AND CREDIT CARD CONTRIBUTORS

If you notice anything unusual on your bank statement related to your pledge to our parish, please contact the parish office promptly. We'll investigate the matter the matter for you." office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au / 9758 1029

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
7TH – 13TH SEPTEMBER

Theme for this year is:
SHIFTING CONVERSATION TO ACTION

Religious communities play their part to protect and care for children and young people in their community by supporting families and promoting children and young people's health and wellbeing. Children thrive when we all understand how to play our part in keeping them safe and well. Please take a look at how YOU can play your part in: <https://www.napcan.org.au/tips-for-playing-your-part/>

THE SAINTHOOD of CARLO ACUTIS and PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI Sept. 7, Pope Leo XIV will canonize Blessed Carlo Acutis together with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Carlo Acutis will be the first millennial Catholic saint.

ROSTERS: Mon 8th Sept - Sun 14th Sept, 2025	
Flowers	Anne P & Connie B
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L, Myra N 9am Lia U & Lyn K 11am Shamindra A & Chamal A
Lectors	6pm Alvi M 9am Peter F 11am Priya F
Counters ^h	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Theresa Ngaihte