

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Amos 8:4-7
Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?

Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.' The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

1 Tim 2:1-8

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

16:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



No servant can serve two masters, God and Money.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
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25th Sunday in Ordinary time -Year C
20th /21st September 2025 -Year of Jubilee
Observance: Social Services Sunday

*Gracious God,
Empower us, by Your Love, to live trustworthy lives,
Help us to see the needs of all those around us,
Those who stand at the margins,
Inspire us to act with steady hands, in courage & compassion.
To sow seeds of justice and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS on the WORD All three selections for today's liturgy pertain to the subject of faithful stewardship. They remind us that we are God's stewards and that God expects faithful and prudent stewardship from us. They challenge us to use our God-given talents and blessings wisely to attain Heavenly bliss. In the first reading for today, Amos, the Prophet of social Justice, condemns the crooked business practices of the 8th century BC Jewish merchants of Judea, and reminds the Israelites, and us, to be faithful to our Covenant with Yahweh by practicing justice and mercy as God's faithful stewards. **He warns us also against making the goal of our life the gaining money by any means.** In the Covenant relationship between God and his people, **loving compassion and concern for the unfortunate, honesty, and integrity were supposed to be distinguishing qualities in the community.** In Luke's account there are **four morals** drawn from the story to unfold its meaning. The Gospel parable advises us to take inventory of the resources placed in our charge: time, talents, opportunities, health, intelligence, education, and other advantages. It also challenges **us to use these resources wisely** so that they will serve for our good in eternity; **Integrity and fidelity are the true yardsticks for promotion and eternal reward**, and **No servant can serve two masters.** ©Fr Tony Kadavil.

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY Sunday 21 September 2025 marks Social Services Sunday in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we give thanks for the dedicated work of the thousands of staff and volunteers who stand with and serve the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised in Victoria, reaching the lives of more than 300,000 people each year. We recognise and appreciate their commitment and compassion, and reflect on our shared call to be anchors of hope in building a more just and equitable society. **Reflection question: How might we better support each other to support those doing it tough in our communities and society?**

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 Kuruvila 9758 1029
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Assistant Priest:
Fr Rembert Fernando
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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
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
Accountant: Bernard Negline
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SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal: Kelli Johnston
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St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
Principal: Catherine Livingston
Mater Christi College 9754 6611
Principal: Maria Haggett

MASS TIMES: (change coming in October)
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.


25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr C
20th /21st September, 2025 Year of Jubilee.
Observance: Social Services Sunday

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Apollonia (Paula) Porcaro, Lesina Maio

Those who we remember at this time:
Giovanni Maccagnini, Ray Loel, Valentina Parente, Earl Fernandez, John Ryan, Francis Power, Maria Scardillo, James Foster.

The Sick: 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.

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 TRIVIA NIGHT To continue our fundraising to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival, the youth group will be holding a **Trivia night this Saturday (the 20th of September)** at 7 pm in the Parish Centre. It'll be a \$10 entry and under-12s enter for free! You are also encouraged to bring snacks and food from home to enjoy throughout the night. Prizes are also up for grabs for our winners, so test your knowledge, and we hope to see many of you there @[sjtb.youth](https://www.instagram.com/sjtb.youth) or Email: sjtbyouth@gmail.com

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. *9758 1029 office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

LITURGY † NEWS † Events September 2025

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| Sunday | 21 th | 25 th Sunday OT |
| Saturday | 27 th | Saint Vincent De Paul |
| Sunday | 28 th | 26 th Sunday OT (world refugee & migrants day |
| Monday | 29 th | Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael |

FUNERAL MASS for the late *Apollonia (Paula) Porcaro* will be held here at St Johns, 11am on **Tues 23rd September 2025. With Viewing and Rosary Prior at 10.30am**

FUNERAL MASS for the late *Lesina Maio* will be held here at St Johns, 11.30am on **Wed 24th September 2025. With Rosary Prior at 11am**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH CLEANING

Dear Parishioners,
Our church is the house of God, a place where we gather in prayer, worship, and thanksgiving. We need your helping hands to keep it clean and welcoming. If you are able, please consider volunteering to help clean the church after the Saturday Mass, Sunday Mass, or a weekday Mass.

If we receive enough volunteers, we can form small groups so that each group will only need to help once a month.

We warmly welcome everyone—young and old—to lend a hand. Your time and effort will be a wonderful service to God and our parish family. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for being part of this mission of love and care!

THE COMBINED PARISH RAFFLE IS BACK! Please support our Parish Raffle tickets on sale now! \$2 each or \$20 a book. Great Prizes to be won!



Sunday 21 September 2025
Social Services Sunday
anchors of hope
A day to give thanks and pray for those who serve the marginalised
Catholic Social Services Victoria

Video Youtube link: [Social Services Sunday](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Social Services Sunday)

Upcoming Changes to Weekend Mass Times

Please be aware that, beginning the first week of October, there will be changes to the weekend Mass times at St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave, and St. John the Baptist Church, Ferntree Gully. The new schedule will be:

- Saturday Vigil – Ferntree Gully: 6:00 pm**
- Saturday Vigil – Emerald: 6:00 pm**
- Sunday – Belgrave: 8:30 am**
- Sunday – Gembrook: 9:00 am**
- Sunday – Ferntree Gully: 10:30 am**
- Sunday – Monbulk: 11:00 am**

These changes are being made to better serve our parish community. We sincerely thank you for your understanding and support.

Our Parish Recipe Book- “From our Table to Yours” HAS ARRIVED!

\$20- per copy. \$8- is going to support our parish community. Please purchase your book after weekend masses, at the Parish Office and the School Office. It would make a great Christmas gift!



DEFIB. SPECIAL COLLECTION Our application for a defibrillator grant from Knox Council has been successful, and we have received \$2,500. However, we still have a shortfall of \$1,090 in order to purchase two defibrillators, one for our church and one for our community centre. **Next weekend**, we will hold a **special collection** to raise the remaining amount. We kindly ask for your generous support to help us reach this goal. We also sincerely thank Knox Council for their generous grant of \$2,500.

SALE: On the 27th & 28th of September there will be **handcrafted olivewood biblical items** for sale. These items are hand crafted in Bethlehem the Holy Land by the Catholic families there. Any purchase will help support the Catholic community in the Holy Land and improve their livelihood and also support maintaining the Holy sites there.

ROSTERS: Mon 22nd Sept - Sun 28th Sept, 2025

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|-----------------------|--|
| Flowers | Marg H & Judy G |
| Linen | Sabrina M |
| Welcomers | 6pm Lia U, & Help wanted 9am Rosa L & Florence J 11am Shamindri & Chamal A |
| Lectors | 6pm Rosina L 9am Caroline Q 11am Vicente M |
| Counters ^h | Bryon, Ruby, Guil |
| Gardening | Theresa Ngaihte |