

## FIRST READING

### **A reading from the book of Numbers 21:4-9**

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.' At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived..

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Do not forget the works of the Lord.**

*1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching;  
turn your ear to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable  
and reveal hidden lessons of the past. (R.)*

*2. When he slew them then they would seek  
him, return and seek him in earnest.  
They would remember that God was their  
rock, God the Most High their redeemer  
(R.)*

*3. But the words they spoke were mere  
flattery; they lied to him with their lips.  
For their hearts were not truly with him;  
they were not faithful to his covenant. (R.)*

*4. Yet he who is full of compassion  
forgave their sin and spared them.  
So often he held back his anger  
when he might have stirred up his rage. (R)*

## SECOND READING

Philippians 2-6-11:

The state of Jesus was divine,  
yet he did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

***We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,  
because by your cross you have redeemed the  
world.  
Alleluia!***

## GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
John 3: 13-17**

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.'



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**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross -Year C**  
**13<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 -Year of Jubilee**

O Father, with humble hearts, we come before You,  
overflowing with gratitude for the sacrifice of the Cross.

Thank You for the boundless love and grace poured out through Your Son, Jesus.

May we always remember the depth of His suffering and the gift of salvation it brings

Help us to live in a way that honors this profound sacrifice, reflecting

Your love to the world.

Amen.

**FOCUS: SEASON OF CREATION REFLECTION** by Nick Brodie

During the very first Mass for the Care of Creation, Pope Leo commented on how 'the liturgy represents life.' Given this, we should learn to more fully appreciate the relationship between the prayer of the Church and the Church's concern for the world.

Indeed, the pope wants us to 'pray for the conversion of the many people, inside and outside the Church, who do not yet recognise the urgent need to care for our common home.' Pope Leo affirms that Pope Francis' teaching in *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti* 'continues to be timely.'

So too does the example of Our Lord. The Gospels clearly show us that in Galilee Jesus revealed his own 'deep connection with that land and those waters, with the rhythm of the seasons and with the life of creatures.' We too, to be truly Christ-like, cannot then turn our backs on creation.

'Our mission to care for creation, to foster peace and reconciliation, is Jesus' own mission,' Pope Leo declares. It is 'the mission that the Lord entrusts to us.'

'We hear the cry of the earth and we hear the cry of the poor,' the pope says in echo of his predecessor, 'because this plea has reached the heart of God. Our indignation is his indignation; our work is his work.'

## **SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2025**

**Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day that we pause on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable.**

**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](http://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  
Email: rebertfernandomgl@gmail.com  
**DEACON:** Rev. Peter Stringfellow  
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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  
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au  
**PPG CHAIR** Carolyn Sombekke  
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**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** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2pm  
**WILLOWBROOK MASS** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 11am

**BAPTISMS:** Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Yr C**  
**13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 Year of Jubilee.**

**PRAYING FOR...**

*All who have died recently:*

*Faimasasa Ngan Wu, Tim Wilson*

*Those who we remember at this time:*

*Alfie D'Silva, Joyce D'Silva, Cleara Vaz, Regee D'Silva, Mary D'Silva, Margaret Mary Woodward, Marie & Phillip Thomas, Faustino Cadavona*

**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 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.

**OUR OFFICE HOURS WILL RESUME as usual as of next week.**

**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

Monday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	Hildegard de Bingen
Sunday	21 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday OT
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Saint Vincent De Paul
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday OT
Monday	29 <sup>th</sup>	Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

**BAPTISMS** – We offer our congratulations to Zeke D'Silva, Joshua Mulrooney, Sienna and Isla Cann, Ayla and Indie Eaton who are to be baptised this weekend: May every blessing be upon you today and always.

**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! \$2each or \$20 a book.  
**Great Prizes to be won!**

**Youth Group Fathers' Day Nutella Pie sale**

**Thank you to everyone** who bought a pie or gave a donation last weekend! All your generous support is greatly appreciated, and together we raised over \$800 which will go towards helping cover the costs of registrations for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. We will also be hosting a Triva Night fundraiser in the next few weeks so stay tuned for more details!

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

**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"**

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:

**13<sup>th</sup> September – 17<sup>th</sup> October.**  
**Delivery mid - November**



<b>ROSTERS: Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Sept - Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2025</b>	
Flowers	Genevieve & Tess
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Myra & Wilma 9am Terry, Neil & Lorraine, Peter 11am Priya and Patrick
Lectors	6pm Jan R 9am Terry S 11am Shami A
Counters <sup>h</sup>	Bryon, Ruby, Guil
Gardening	Theresa Ngaihte