

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come

the mountain of the Temple of the Lord

shall tower above the mountains

and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it,

peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob

that he may teach us his ways

so that we may walk in his paths;

since the Law will go out from Zion,

and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations

and adjudicate between many peoples;

these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles.

Nation will not lift sword against nation,

there will be no more training for war.

O House of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

13: 11-14

You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted.

The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do

under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live

decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or

licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

24: 37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s

day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes.

For in those days before the Flood people were

eating, drinking, taking wives, taking

husbands, right up to the day Noah went into

the ark, and they suspected nothing till the

Flood came and swept all away. It will be like

this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two

men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two

women at the millstone grinding, one is taken,

one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the

day when your master is coming. You may be

quite sure of this that if the householder had

known at what time of the night the burglar

would come, he would have stayed awake and

would not have allowed anyone to break

through the wall of his house. Therefore, you

too must stand ready because the Son of Man is

coming at an hour you do not expect.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



5 WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HEART THIS ADVENT

- 1 Prepare room at the Inn**
Make room in your heart for Jesus.
- 2 Clean out the cobwebs**
After an Examination of Conscience, go to Confession.
- 3 Hang new curtains**
“Decorate” your heart with joy and hope.
- 4 Get out the fine china and set the table**
Let your attitude be one of enthusiastic expectation.
- 5 Open the front door and wait**
Wait for Christ’s arrival silently and in a spirit of prayer.

INFORMATION BY CATHOLICNEWSAGENCY.COM CatholicLink



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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1st Sunday of Advent -Year A

29th /30th November 2025 -Year of Jubilee ACYF Begins!

***Lord Jesus,
make us ready.***

***We yearn to walk in your light,
washed in your peace.***

***Keep us always awake, watching for you,
prepared, with our hearts open wide.***

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Stay Awake



FOCUS on YEAR OF JUBILEE This Year of Jubilee in the universal Church calls us to embrace, and be renewed in, the hope of Christ—a hope that does not disappoint. We may be accustomed to think of Advent as the time when we prepare for the coming of God, but the readings also train our attention on our own journey to God. We see this most clearly in this first Sunday with readings that tell us the identity of the pilgrims, the destination toward which they travel, and the way of life that is required of them on their journey. As the Vatican Council has proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people.

FOCUS on the WORD The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of **the new liturgical year.**

This new liturgical cycle is referred to as **Year A** and features the gospel of Matthew. (Year B features the gospel of Mark and Year C, that we have just completed, features the gospel of Luke.) **Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which literally means ‘coming’;** it is also reflected in the Greek word *Parousia*, which is used

to describe the second coming of Jesus. So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas. The gospel passage chosen for today’s

reading richly expresses that anticipation and need for preparation. The two great feasts of Christianity – the Nativity and Easter – **are each preceded by a period of preparation: Advent and Lent. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith.** In the

Nativity, we celebrate God become human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world. **One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath.** The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage

represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first

candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. **The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity.** © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS Wed 3rd Dec **St Francis Xavier** Thurs 4th Dec **St John Damascene**

Sat 6th Nov **St Nicholas – Bishop**

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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St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
Principal: Catherine Livingston

Mater Christi College 9754 6611
Principal: Maria Haggett

MASS TIMES
Saturday Vigil Emerald and FTG 6:00 pm
Sunday Belgrave 8.30am FTG 10.30am
Gembrook 9.00am and Monbulk 11.00am

Weekday Mass Times
Tuesday, Belgrave 9am FTG 7.00pm
Wed Belgrave 9am FTG 9.15am
Thurs Belgrave 9am FTG 9.15 am
Friday Belgrave 9am FTG 11.00 am
Saturday Belgrave 9am Reconciliation Belg 9.45am

RECONCILIATION: FTG Saturdays 5.15 pm

GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS 1st Friday 2pm
WILLOWBROOK MASS 2nd Thursday 11am

BAPTISMS: Either during a weekend Mass or at **12.00pm** 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

1st Sunday of Advent – Year A
29th / 30th November, 2025 Year of Jubilee.

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:
Rita Fernando, Pendry White, Florence Silva, Pius Silva, Damien Welch, Leopoldina Newton, Rita White, Noreen Hilet, Kathleen Sage, Francesco Caligiuri, Daniel Hurley.

The Sick: 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.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY the First Saturday Rosary will be held on **6th December at 10.30am**, at the home of Parishioner Joan - 63 Dobson St Ferntree Gully. Enquiries: Please contact Joan on 0408411096 All Welcome.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER Meet in the **Parish Community Centre on Tuesdays at 10.30am**, some worship, teaching and a shared lunch from 12pm. All welcome.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING meet in the Parish Thursday 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 10.30am Sunday Masses We welcome you all to share prayers, songs and readings. **6PM MASS MUSIC MINISTRY children are invited at our Saturday night Mass to come sing with the choir.**

PARENTS AND KIDS GROUP will meet after the 10.30am Mass Sunday **7th December 2025** in the Parish Community Centre. email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com Don't miss this last meeting for this year. Come and join us! For fun, craft and fellowship.

RECIPE BOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE to collect after Masses this weekend, with some books also for sale. Fr Thomas' recipes are available for those who bought the first Print. Please see the Friendship Gathering volunteers before or after Mass. – a great Christmas gift idea!

DON BOSCO CAMP HOLIDAY PROGRAM The Don Bosco Holiday Camps are conducted for young people the summer and winter school holidays, making full use of our facilities and surrounding locations. The camps are split into Junior (ages 9-13) and Senior camps (ages 13-16). An average camp will have 50-60 campers led by 20-25 volunteer youth leaders and are assisted by camp staff. our Leadership program is run during the first week of December for young people 16 years and above. In 2025 it will be: Friday December 5th (starting 3pm) - Monday December 8th (finish at 3pm) <https://dbcc.org.au/holiday-program>



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL OPENING DAY 30th NOV. We have 6 pilgrims attending this event from our Parish. **AYFE LAUNCH & WYD Cross Reception & Pilgrimage Walk- JOIN US** at St Patrick's Cathedral on **Sunday 30 Nov** as we welcome over 6,000 young pilgrims to Melbourne. Let us come together to share in their joy and offer a warm Melbourne welcome. **1.30pm Melbourne Catholic Festa, 2.30pm Reception of WYD Cross and Icon, 3.00pm Pilgrimage Walk (5KM to MCEC: Please note: only Ticketed Pilgrims enter the Melbourne Convention Centre)**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS 2025

ANGEL TREE Each year we provide needy families who we have visited throughout the year with a Christmas Food Hamper and Gift cards for each of their children. We invite you to contribute to either of these. Under the Angel Tree we will provide basket/ bags for your **Christmas food items/ toiletries**; or those who might like to donate a complete hamper. Please feel free to supply your own bags if you wish.

The gift cards that you donate allow the parents to purchase a suitable gift themselves according to the age and needs of their child/ren. The cards can be purchased from: **Westfield; Kmart, Target, Coles/ Myer** You may like to take an angel tag off the tree and purchase a gift card to the amount of either: **\$10, \$20, or \$30**; other. **Please place your donation in the box near the tree.** On behalf of our SVPD local conference, we would like to **thank you most sincerely** for your ongoing generosity this year in supporting our work with the disadvantaged **Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society**

WORKING BEE Saturday 29th November at 9am, **A HUGE THANK YOU** to all those who came to help with the tidy-up. We are so grateful of your kind support, and hard work. Because of you, our grounds are now a beautiful place to be!

ADVENT STUDY- THE PROMISE Advent is such a busy time, we can easily forget to prepare for the coming of Jesus. **If you would like to include some reflection and quietness, come to the Parish Community Centre, Monday 1st December at 7pm** for the Advent reflection group. Don't worry if you didn't order a book. All welcome.

MARY GLOWREY officially to be known as **VENERABLE MARY OF THE SACRED HEART GLOWREY.** Following the **announcement by Pope Leo XIV on 21 November** that Mary Glowrey lived a life of 'heroic virtues', she has a new title: she is officially known as **Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey.** She is just the second Australian-born person to receive this honour. **St Mary of the Cross MacKillop** was accorded the title **Venerable** in 1992 and canonised in 2010. A proud daughter of Melbourne, she was a trailblazer – one of our early female doctors, before answering the call to serve in India. **Read more here:**

ADVENT WORKSHOP *Dear parishioners,* the **Advent Workshop** Children's Liturgy team will be running an Advent Workshop, the First Sunday of Advent, for all families on **Sunday, 30th November, at 11:30am in the school hall.** Please come along to enjoy activities and refreshments plus a time to chat with fellow parishioners. All Welcome!

FIRST FRIDAY MASS 6th December at 11am. **MASS (with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick)** Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

FAREWELL FR REMBERT We sincerely thank Fr. Rembert Fernando, for serving as the Assistant Priest (pro tempore) for the parishes of Belgrave and Ferntree Gully. **His final masses with us are 29th/30th November.** May you be blessed in your future endeavours. Thank You! Fr Rem.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—HOPE The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the **"Prophecy Candle"** in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

A MESSAGE FROM PARISHIONER – PATRICK SAWYER: ZIMBABWE – HELP NEEDED a community in Zimbabwe that look after disabled families, have a great shortage of water. They depend on bore water but due to drought conditions the bores no longer reach the water table. They need to drill a new bore to go deeper. A **"GOFUNDME"** page, has been started by Patrick, for the L'Arche organisation, that supports disabled people. If you would like to help with this project, please go to: <https://gofund.me/046f52bee>. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS SIGN UP SHEETS -HELP NEEDED You will notice our Sign Up Sheets on the glass wall once again this year. It's a big job getting everything organised for the Christmas Liturgies. **WE HOPE THAT YOU CAN HELP US –**

- If you can sing or play an instrument, we are looking for **additional people to join us over the Christmas Masses.**

We also need readers, Eucharistic ministers, Welcomers. Please sign up on the sheet or contact the Parish Office

ROSTERS: Mon 1st Dec - Sun 7th December 2025	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm Peter G Wilma H 10.30am Joanna C, Thelma B, Anna M, Priya
Lectors	6pm Alvi M 10.30am Caroline Q, Carolyn S
Counters	Joan R, Peter C, Ruben P
Gardening	Patrick S, Harry R

