

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Samuel
5:1-3

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

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 Colossians
1:12-20

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him.

Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning,

he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him

and all things to be reconciled through him and

for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom
of David our Father;
blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
23:35-43

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



CHRIST THE KING



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Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Year C
22nd /23rd November, 2025 -Year of Jubilee

***Our beloved Jesus Christ, and King,
With Your last breath
You cared for the lost and lonely.
Please, remember us too Lord.
Guide us into your kingdom, and
Put us on the path of peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.***



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.

22nd /23rd November is Jubilee of Choirs. The Jubilee of a time to recognise choir members as a gift of God's grace in our churches and cathedrals. Choirs, be they large or small, give praise to God in song and lead others to do the same. "[Choirs] are able to enrich the celebration by adding musical elements beyond the capabilities of the congregation alone," (*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, USCCB, 2007, #28)

FOCUS on the WORD The Feast of Christ the King was introduced to the liturgical calendar by Pope Pius XI in 1925. The introduction of the feast was **a call back from the secular and a call to remember Christ as having authority above and beyond any earthly leader.** © Greg Sunter

This feast celebrates the power and authority of Christ by creating a collage of images that capture one or more characteristics of Christ's kingship. Each image reinterprets the concept of king, investing it with new meaning. Gathered together they create a kind of litany that extols the kingship of Christ. **Shepherd and commander** call to mind the care and protection that Christ lavishes on those who place themselves under his care. **King of Israel** is a sign of universal rule. **Image of the Invisible God** acclaims the divine origin of Christ and of the rule that he exercises over all. **First born of all Creation** places Christ over the entire created world. **Source of all Created Things**, acknowledges both the sovereignty of Christ and his importance as the model after which all things were fashioned. **Head of the Body, the Church** underscores the intimacy and interrelationship that exist between Christ and all those who are joined to him through faith and baptism. **Firstborn of the Dead** not only acclaims Christ's resurrection, but it also guarantees the resurrection of those who will follow him into death. **Crucified King** is clearly the image that reinterprets all other images. **The entire liturgical year is brought to completion in the last words of the gospel:** 'Today you will be with me in Paradise.' These are the words that we all long to hear, words that are empty when coming from one who has no authority, but charged with power when spoken by the one who is king over us all. © Dianne Bergant CSA

FEAST DAYS Mon 24th Nov **Sts Andrew Dung-Lac, priest, and companions, martyrs**
Tues 25th Nov **St Catherine of Alexandria** Nov **Red November:** Remember Persecuted Christians

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/responsesandprevention

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 9754 2141
Email: rebertfernandomgl@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev. Peter Stringfellow
Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Mary Makarucha 9758 1029
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
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SCHOOLS:
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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 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

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe -Year C
22nd /23rd November, 2025 Year of Jubilee.*

PRAYING FOR...


All who have died recently:

Billy O'Connell

Those who we remember at this time:

Luigia Cecchin, Stephen Koski, Len Nash, Ilva Tassoni, May Ferguson, Theresa Sinclair, Mikayla Hutchings, Marco Porco, Kathleen Sage.

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.

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 in our Saturday night Mass** 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.

ADVENT WORKSHOP Dear parishioners, the 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!

PIETY STALL NEWS Children's Daily Gospel Readings for 2026 are now available for \$15, in addition to St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards \$6 per pack of 5 – just in time to post overseas to relatives. There is also some 2026 Columban Art calendars left at \$11 which would make a beautiful Christmas gift.

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!



WELCOME TO FR PETER NGUYEN AND THANKS TO FR REM

We are delighted to share the joyful news that Archbishop Peter has appointed **Fr Peter Nguyen** as the new assistant priest for the Belgrave-Ferntree Gully parishes. He will officially begin his ministry with us on 15 December 2025. Let us extend to Fr Peter a warm and heartfelt welcome as he joins our parish family.

Fr Peter comes to us from the Thornbury, Thornbury East, Alphington, and Northcote parishes, where he has been serving generously as an assistant priest. He brings with him a wealth of pastoral experience, a deep commitment to parish life, and a genuine spirit of service. We look forward to the many ways his presence, enthusiasm, and faith will enrich our community. May his transition to our parishes be filled with blessings, support, and joy.

At the same time, we prepare to farewell Fr Rembert, who will be completing his ministry at Belgrave and Ferntree Gully at the end of this month. His final weekend Masses with us will be on 29 and 30 November. During the past three months, he has faithfully assisted our parishes, celebrating Mass with devotion and offering his pastoral care with generosity and kindness.

We are deeply grateful for all the ways he has supported our community during this time. His quiet dedication, warm presence, and willingness to serve have been a blessing to many. As he moves on to the next chapter of his journey, we hold him in our prayers and wish him every success and blessing in his future endeavours.

Please take a moment over the coming weeks to express your thanks and appreciation to Fr Rem for his wonderful contribution to our parish life. May God continue to guide both Fr Peter and Fr Rembert in their ministries and keep them always in His loving care.

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- 30th Nov.** 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)


YOUTH GROUP Retreat Day in preparation of ACYF will be on **Saturday Nov 22nd** the Parish Community Centre. 12pm -6pm. **Contact** :Vicente @sjtb.youth or Email: sjtbyouth@gmail.com

WORKING BEE We are having a working bee on Saturday 29th November at 9am, Helpers are needed for a tidy up of the Parish Grounds. If you can help us, **please let Sue or Gordon know if you can help us**, if we have enough people, we will order a skip for all the clippings.. Please join us! Thank you everyone.



DEAR PARISHIONERS, please welcome our RCIA catechumens and candidate, this Sunday, at the 10:30am mass, as they receive their Rite of Acceptance and Welcome. We celebrate together as an entire parish community to accept and encourage our new brothers and sister into our church family. Please remember them in your prayers.

RED NOVEMBER: Pray for persecuted Christians

 **Aid to the Church in Need** invites all Catholics to remember, pray for and support persecuted Christians throughout **Red November**. Please pray especially for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, Sudan and the Middle East, where Christians are facing grave danger right now. Watch the official video and download your Red Rosary prayer card by scanning the QR code or visiting www.rednovember.org

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 24th Nov at 7pm** for the Advent reflection group. Don't worry if you didn't order a book. All welcome.

CARITAS URGENT APPEAL FOR THE PHILIPPINES AND VIETNAM.

A series of compounding weather events have struck the Philippines and Vietnam, leaving communities devastated. Many lives have been lost, with people also missing, and thousands displaced. Our partners on the ground are providing urgent support to affected families amid absolute exhaustion. Your support will provide emergency relief and help communities rebuild. Donate via the Caritas webpage: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/asia-storms/asia-storms/> Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

PALMS-GAP YEAR Develop community self-reliance and create lasting change! Discover How you can get involved in Palms International Volunteering.

1. Explore our GAP YEAR opportunities for (18-25yo) Year 12 graduates and university students, **that could shape your future.** Date: Thursday 4 December 2025 Time: 6pm or 9pm AEDT (NSW/VIC/ACT/TAS)
2. Join our TIMOR-LESTE ENCOUNTER Information session for those who would like a short taste and tour of Palms placements to Timor-Leste from 14-27 May 2026. **Mon 8th Dec 2025.** 7.30 – 8.30 AEDT. Venue: ONLINE-Scan the QR code or register at palms.org.au/events Phone: 02 9560 5333

ROSTERS: Mon 24th Nov - Sun 30th Nov 2025

Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Myra N 10.30am Terry S, Joanna C, Thelma B, Anna
Lectors	6pm Tess D 10.30am Terry S, Vicente M
Counters	Joan R, Peter C, Ruben P
Gardening	Carlos E

