

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ

treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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2nd Sunday of Advent - Year A

6th / 7th December 2025 - Year of Jubilee

Come Lord Jesus!

Warm our hearts with your love.

Help us to prepare for your coming, by repenting of all that draws us away from You.

You are the light, that overcomes the darkness.

Come, Lord Jesus!



***2nd Sunday
Advent - Peace***



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. In his [Message for the 40th World Youth Day](#), Pope Leo writes: "Peace, which is a gift of the risen Lord, will become visible in the world through the common witness of those who carry his Spirit in their hearts." It sounds simple, and in reality, it is. If everyone were to cultivate peace in their home and in their community, the spread would eventually become global. [Jesus offers you a highly motivating incentive: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God,"](#) (Matt 5:9).

FOCUS on the WORD In today's Gospel, John the Baptist urges the Pharisees and Sadducees **to give evidence that they mean to reform their lives so as to recognize and be ready to meet and accept the promised Messiah.** He challenges them to repentance, conversion, and renewal. He tells the common people, who expect the Messiah to come soon, to act with justice and charity, letting their lives reflect the transformation that will occur when the Messiah enters their lives. In the same way, as we prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas, **John advises us to "prepare the way of the Lord."** **Life Message:** We need to prepare for Christ's coming by allowing him to be reborn daily in our lives: Advent is the time for us to make this preparation by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives through prayer, penance, and the sharing of our blessings with others. Let us humbly admit the truth about our need with the German mystic Angelus Silesius: "**Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem – but all in vain until He is born in me.**" (https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Angelus_Silesius). He means that **Jesus must be reborn in our own hearts during this season of Advent and every day of our lives**, radiating through our living his love, kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and spirit of humble service to the world. 2. We need to answer the call for a change of life. While obeying the commandments faithfully, we must correct our relationships with others. <https://fronyshomilies.com/>

FEAST DAYS Mon 8th Dec **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mary.**

Tue 9th Dec **St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin.** Wed 10th Dec **Our Lady of Loreto**

Thurs 11th Dec **St Damasus I** Fri 12th Dec **Our Lady of Guadalupe** Sat 13th Dec **St Lucy**

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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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 No Mass Wed 10th Dec
Thurs Belgrave 9am FTG No Mass Thurs 10th Dec
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

2nd Sunday of Advent – Year A
6th / 7th December, 2025 -Year of Jubilee.

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:
Pasquale Parente, John Masterson, John Dillon, Justin Madeira, Wally Johnson, Joan Nash, Edward O'Brien Noel Ryan, Dominico Presti, Leopoldina Newton, Ethel Arrowsmith/Bluett, Cosimo Petracca, Michele Fini, Syd Commons, Robin Samual, Bob Baker, Maria Bekkers.

The Sick: Bonnie Hoefer, 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.

The CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP Christmas Break-up will be on Tuesday 9th December at 10.30am, with Carol singing, Quiz and party food. Please bring a plate of food to share, and a gift (Value under \$10) to swap in our Chris-Kringle. All welcome.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING Christmas Break up in the Parish Community Centre on Thurs 11th November between 9.30am and 12.30pm. Drop in for a chat join a card game, knit or just sit for a while, enjoying the Christmas Cheer. Come and join us!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will now take a break but we will resume in the new year. **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.

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 Find out More at: <https://dbcc.org.au/holiday-program>

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 14th December at 7pm** for the Advent reflection group. Don't worry if you didn't order a book. All welcome.



MASS TIMES TEMPORARY CHANGE
Please note – there will be NO WEEKDAY MASS at St John's Ferntree Gully on Wednesday 10th December, and Thursday 11th December. Fr Thomas will say Mass at St Thomas More Belgrave at 9am on these days.

IMPORTANT DATES
Thursday 11th December: Year 6 Graduation Mass & celebration 6.00pm
Tuesday 16th December: Thanksgiving Mass 9.15am. join us in giving thanks and celebrating the many volunteers and contributions shared so generously throughout the school year.

TUES 23rd December, 7.00pm Extended Penitential Rite within Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation (Individual) following Mass from 7.30pm.

ADVENT WORKSHOP I would like to thank the Children's Liturgy team for their support on Sunday at the Advent workshop and for the months before in the preparations and their creativity! Thank you to the families that could attend this year. Lots of fun was had by all! Thank you to all the volunteers of the Children's Liturgy team. For the whole year you are there to bring the Gospel to the children of our parish and you do a fantastic job. God bless you all abundantly! We will take a break now for the Christmas season and will be back in February 2026!



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

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES was on 3 December, with it's theme: *Fostering disability inclusive societies for advancing social progress.* Find out more here: [International Day for People with Disabilities](#)

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to: **Brooklyn Tran** child of Vincent & Katherine, **Killarney Clark** child of Benjamin & Sheridyn, **Phoenix Nunis**, child of Oliver & Lana, **Leah Polo** child of Carlo & Romina, **Ivy Alarcon**, child of Daniel & Rebecca, and **Imogen Porter**, child of Rob & Madeleine who are to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL
The ACYF has wrapped up in Melbourne, farewelling pilgrims with a commissioning Mass that featured all the beauty of the Catholic Church in Australia. After 3 days immersed in reminders of God's love for them, the final Mass allowed the 6,000 pilgrims to show they loved God back. Read more at Melb Catholic: [here](#)

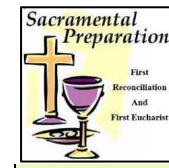
2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT—PEACE. The second candle, which is purple, is the Candle of Peace. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. It symbolizes preparation for Christ's arrival and the peace He brings to our Broken world.



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 – Thanking you 😊



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026 The Sacramental program for children who do not attend a catholic school, will begin early in term 1 2026. First Term is for students who are in grade 3 and upwards to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Second term will be for children, who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation, grade six or upwards and Third Term will be for children who will be celebrating their First Eucharist. For further details please contact the parish office of Ferntree Gully on: E: marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or Ph: 9758 1029.



| ROSTERS: Mon 8 th Dec - Sun 14 th December 2025 | |
|---|--|
| Flowers | Genevieve W & Tess D |
| Linen | Alvi M |
| Welcomers | 6pm Rosina L & Myra N 10.30am Lia U & Lyn K, Shamindri & Chamal |
| Lectors | 6pm Alvi M 10.30am Eduardo M |
| Counters | George, Genevieve, Bindu M |
| Gardening | Patrick S, Harry R |