

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 49:3,5-6

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*(R.) Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. (R.)

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. (R.)

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. (R.)

4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. (R)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 1:1-3

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are

called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace..

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.

He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:29-34

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

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Phone: 9758 1029

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
17th / 18th January, 2026

Lord Jesus,

In the waters of the Jordan

You were united forever with the human family.

*As we were made one with you in our baptism,
never let us be separated from your love.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD There is an odd line in today's passage. John reminds the crowd that he had said 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' In Jewish tradition, the prophets and patriarchs who came earlier in their history ranked higher than those who came later. They believed that the history of salvation was at its pinnacle with God's self-revelation to Abraham. Successive episodes and characters were regarded as lesser. But John affirms that Jesus ranks before himself because Jesus existed before John. He is saying that Jesus is more than simply the latest in a long line of prophets. **John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus.** In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.. © Greg Sunter.

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 **SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY**

FEAST DAYS Tues 20th Jan St Fabian & St Sebastian Wed 21st Jan St Agnes
Thurs 22nd St Vincent Sat 24th Jan St Francis de Sales
Mon 26th Jan - Australia Day - Mass 10.30am at FTG.

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
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Monday & Tuesday 10am-4pm
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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:
Saturday Vigil Emerald and FTG 6:00 pm
Sunday Belgrave 8.30am FTG 10.30 am
Gembrook 9am Monbulk 11.00am
Tuesday Belgrave 9am FTG 7:00pm
Wednesday Belgrave 9am FTG 9.15am
& Thurs Belgrave 9am FTG 9.15am
Friday Belgrave 9am FTG 11.00 am
RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 5.15 pm

GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS 1st Friday 2pm
WILLOWBROOK MASS 3rd 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.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr A
17th /18th January 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

Fr Noel Mackay, Gary Bailey, Lorenzo Ricchetti, Jon Abraham, Vito Teofilo, Moya McDonald, Geraldine Fitzpatrick, Elaine Brain, Riccardo Garbuio, Tom McCristal, Maureen Meyer, Therese Mueller, Canion Daraio, Anthony Gannon, Irene Barron, Chris Quinn, Carlo Vitale, Pasquale Pipicelli, Giovanni Di Donato.

The sick: Bonnie Hoefler, Ann Jayawardena



ROSARY the Rosary will be recited 30 minutes prior to all weekday Masses in the Church. All welcome to join in the recitation.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

When: **First Saturday of the Month** Please contact Joan Ryan on 0408 411 096 for details. All welcome.

CHILDREN' LITURGY Our children's liturgy sessions will recommence when school resumes :



ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will have a break and **be resuming on Tues 3rd February 2026.** A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. For those looking for some spiritual nourishment **over the break, Catholic Charismatic renewal in conjunction with Charis Summer Conference Stay Alert Keep your Lamps Lit from 15th -17th January, 2026 find out more at <https://www.ccr.org.au/>**

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING resumes Thursday 15th February **Come and join us each Thursday Morning at 10am in the Parish Community Centre** for a chat, a game of cards, may just a cuppa and to sit and knit. **All welcome.**

YOUTH GROUP will meet **Sat 17th Jan 2026** in the Parish Community Centre at 12pm -4pm.

SAVE THE DATE: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the host country is **NIGERIA.** And, the theme is:

"I will give you rest: Come"

Friday 6th March at 6pm

Here at St John's. 19 Forest Road, Femtree Gully.. More details to follow.



LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY. Would you like to prayerfully journey through Lent with inspiring and meaningful reflections on the daily Mass readings? **Coming soon.. resources.**



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST 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 Femtree Gully on: Phone: 9758 1029 or email marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

SAVE THE DATE This year marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Presentation Sisters in our parish and the opening of St John the Baptist primary school. There will be a special Mass at 10.30am on Sunday 1st February followed by light refreshments in the hall. We are asking that you please bring a plate of finger food to share, something that does not require heating please.



CONTINUE TO BE PILGRIMS TOGETHER ! POPE LEO'S HOMILY FOR THE CLOSE OF THE JUBILEE OF HOPE. Pope Leo XIV presided over the rite of the closing of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica on 6 January 2026, officially ending the Jubilee of Hope, which began on Christmas Eve 2024. He also presided over Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord in the basilica. The following is the text of his homily.

- Yes, the Magi still exist today. They are the people who sense the need to go out and search, accepting the risks associated with their journey, especially in a troubled world like ours that may be unpleasant and dangerous in many ways. The Holy Door of this Basilica, which today is the last to be closed, has seen a stream of innumerable men and women, pilgrims of hope, journeying toward the new Jerusalem, the city whose doors are always open (cf. Rev 21:25). Who were these men and women, and what motivated them? At the end of this Jubilee year, the spiritual searching of our contemporaries, much richer than perhaps we can comprehend, invites us to earnest reflection. Millions of them crossed the threshold of the Church. What did they find? What was in their hearts, their questions, their feelings?

Let us ask ourselves: is there life in our Church? Is there space for something new to be born? Do we love and proclaim a God who sets us on a journey? After this year, will we be better able to recognise a pilgrim in the visitor, a seeker in the stranger, a neighbour in the foreigner, and fellow travellers in those who are different? Read more at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/continue-to-be-pilgrims-together-pope-leos-epiphany-homily-for-the-close-of-the-jubilee-of-hope>

COMMUNITY BBQ The Femtree Gully Uniting Church is providing a community BBQ Wednesdays in January to cover Foothills who have a summer break. If you can help with meal preparation, or a donation of time of finance, please contact Don Campbell on 0410 413 483. Thank you.



A SPECIAL AUSTRALIA DAY MASS will be celebrated at 10.30am, on Monday 26th January, 2026. All welcome. **Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on this day, owing to the Public Holiday.**

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF YEA, ALEXANDRA IS MORNING THE LOSS OF ONE OF IT'S CHURCHES,



the church of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows in Caveat has been ravaged by the bushfires, that have torn through some parts of Victoria.

More than 500 structures have been damaged or destroyed including nearly 200 homes in Victoria's latest bushfires.

POPE PROCLAIMS FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR



Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a "Special Year of St. Francis" to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. This Franciscan Jubilee Year, considered a gift for the entire Church and an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal, was inaugurated on Jan. 10 with a decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See. Until Jan. 10 of next year, the faithful can obtain this grace under the usual conditions — sacramental confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope — by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world.

GOD'S EYE WITNESS NEWS

Unscramble each word, then use the marked letters to reveal the secret word.



RIPSIT
10 5
VEOD
1
WERTA
4 6 3
HEANEV
8 7
TEISFTY
9 2

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

ROSTERS: Mon 19th Jan to Sun 25th Jan 2026	
Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Sabrina McK
Welcomers	6pm Lia U & Help needed 10.30am Florence J, Shamindri & Chamal
Lectors	6pm Louise Di B 10.30m Peter J
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Theresa Ngaihte