

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 8:23-9:3

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help, whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; Before whom shall I shrink? *(R.)*

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. *(R.)*

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! *(R.)*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 1:10-13,17

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for

Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:12-23

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!
Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!
The people that lived in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

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3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
24th / 25th January, 2026

Lord Jesus,

When we are divided, gather us into one body,

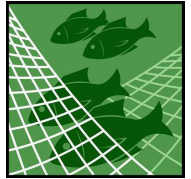
Let us hear Your call, to follow You.

Teach us how to leave our nets, and our works

to come and follow You in love, and

to seek out Your people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD Two sets of two brothers were running successful family businesses. But once Jesus passed by and *called* them, the Gospel says, at *once* they left their boats and followed him. I think because, hearing his voice, they realised that Jesus was the true vocalist of God.

Irish author and mystic, John O'Donohue, once wrote, 'Something in us senses and knows how perfectly the contours of the soul fit the divine embrace.' Maybe Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John sensed that, in this Jesus, there was a Soul whose contours perfectly fitted the divine embrace. They were prepared to risk everything for the chance to have their souls contoured along the same lines.

The call: '**Follow me ...**', was not to an isolated individual promising to save his soul, but to two brothers and then another two brothers. Immediately, **a community was being formed and its task was to bring others into that Jesus-following community.** We could pause for a moment to hear the brothers beckoning us to follow the call of that voice sounded by Our Lord Jesus Christ. © Fr Michael Tate

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. Please send a copy of any renewed cards to the Parish Office for updating.

FEAST DAYS Mon 26th Jan *Australia Day Mass 10.30am at FTG.*
Tue 27th Jan *St Angela Merici & Sts Timothy and Titus*
Wed 28th Jan *St Thomas Aquinas Sat 31st Jan St John Bosco*

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

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruwila 9758 1029
Email: thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

ASSISTANT PRIEST:
Fr Peter Nguyen 9758 1029
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FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR
Mary Makarucha 9758 1029
Tuesdays and Wednesdays. 10.00am -2.00pm
Email: marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday & Tuesday 10am-4pm
Wednesday 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@siferntreegully.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 10.30 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.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr A
24th /25th January 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

Patrick Masterson, Domenico Parente, Gina Parolin, Lorraine Loel, Rita Hauer, Geoffrey Winters, Kenneth Lowden, Teresa Abraham, Hazel Maybus, Giuseppe Pilotto, Jadwiga Godsmark.

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'S 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. find out more at <https://www.ccr.org.au/>**

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING 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 meet in the Parish Community Centre for more information contact Vicente.

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? **We are going to order booklets called The Journey Home, by Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge. Cost is \$5 per book.** Please write your name on the **signup sheet if you would like to order a booklet.**



THE JOURNEY HOME
DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT YEAR A

FIRST FRIDAY MASS AND HOLY HOUR: Fri 6th February. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.



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.



ARCHBISHOP INVITES COMMUNITY TO EMBRACE National Day of Mourning with reverence and lament. On Thursday 22nd January, Australians observed a National Day of Mourning in response to the tragic and horrific events at Bondi on 14th December. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli invited all members of our community, of every belief and background to embrace the day with reverence and lament and to hold with deep compassion those who mourn. You can learn more about the day of mourning here. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news/national-day-mourning-victims-bondi-beach-terrorist-attack#bondimitzval>

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, to remember our nation. .

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on this day, owing to the Public Holiday.

THE RED MASS is the traditional gathering of the Legal Profession to invoke God's guidance and blessing for the year ahead. A Mass will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne, on **Tuesday 27th January, 2026 from 9.00am -10.00am.** Following the mass, the Judiciary, members of the legal profession, law students, staff and their families are invited to join Archbishop Peter A Comensoli for morning tea in the presbytery grounds adjacent to the Cathedral. Please rsvp to Kathryn Toll at: admin@mcfarlanelegal.com.au for catering purposes.

MARY MAGDALENE THE MUSICAL A bold new musical about rebellion, ruin, and resurrection. Staged by the COG Theatre Group, the musical will take place at the Renaissance Theatre, 826 High Street Kew East on:

March 13, 2026 at 7pm
March 14, 2026 at 1pm & 7pm
March 15 2026 at 1pm



Enquiries: cogtheatregroup@gmail.com
Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/DHZPPD>

FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL (5th - 20th May 2026) Fr. Sebastian A.M invites you to a journey in the footsteps of St. Paul, reliving the Acts of the Apostles and exploring the letters of the New Testament. Explore Greece and Turkey with a 3-night Greek Islands cruise in this 14-day pilgrimage for an allinclusive price of \$9790+ tips (25+ pilgrims). The early bird price expires on January 30th.



SAINTS OF ITALY (8th - 21st June 2026) Fr. Franco Filippetto invites you to a 14-day journey to Italy, visiting Milan, Padua, Siena, Assisi, Rotondo, Sorrento, and Rome, with an all-inclusive price of \$ 9,290 + tips (for 30+ pilgrims). The early bird price expires on January 30th. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in 4-star Premium Hotels, Meals + English speaking professional guides + Entrances as per itinerary and more. For inquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or email us pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au

SAFEGUARDING NEWS If you are a volunteer in any of our positions here at St John the Baptist Parish and you have not done the **Safeguarding Essentials online training** yet, we encourage you to do it asap as it is a compulsory requirement to comply with the Safeguarding policies and procedures. You can access it at <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login/>. Also, please check that your WWCC card details are up to date, and notify the office of your valid card.



Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

It is a compulsory requirement to comply with the Safeguarding policies and procedures. You can access it at <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/s/login/>. Also, please check that your WWCC card details are up to date, and notify the office of your valid card.

ROSTERS: Mon 26th Jan to Sun 1st Feb 2026	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 10.30am Johanna C, Thelma, Anna M
Lectors	6pm Phoung B 10.30m Pamela E
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T