

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

3. The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as a king for ever.

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised, he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

The Gospel of the Lord





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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - Year A

Saturday 10th / Sunday 11th January 2026

*God in heaven,
You sent down Your power and Your Spirit
on Jesus to be the light of the world.
Lead us by that same light
so that we may live out our baptismal call to
proclaim your Good News to the world.
We ask this through the same Christ Our
Lord. Amen.*



"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16.

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 E: marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au or Ph: 9758 1029.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

A Whisper Echoing Heaven: Let us focus on Jesus' mystical experience as he emerged from the waters of the River Jordan. *'Suddenly the heavens opened.'* Heaven and earth are communicating again! If heaven appeared closed to humankind it is now open again. *'And he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.'* Jesus experienced a sense of being hovered over by the Divine presence 'in dove-like fashion'. 'And a voice spoke from Heaven: *"This is my Son, the beloved, my favour rests on him"*.' In the Jewish tradition this sort of intuitive sensation is called the bat qol, the daughter of a voice, a whisper echoing heaven.

Each of us has shared in the baptism of Our Lord, been incorporated into *His* baptism. Divine love and power streamed from heaven to earth into each one of you; the Holy Spirit hovered gently over you; and deep down, at the intimate wellspring of your life, the Divine voice was heard whispering: *'You are my beloved daughter'* or *'You are my beloved son,' 'My favour rests on you.'*

We could pause for a moment to resolve to recall each morning the heavenly whisper at *our* baptism and then re-echo it in *our* lives. © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

SALE OF TENNIS COURT AND CLUB ROOM:

Dear Parishioners, I am happy to inform you that our Archbishop Peter Comensoli has given approval for the sale of the tennis court and clubroom to St Joseph's College. All paperwork and documentation will be completed on our behalf by the Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Archdiocese.

I will keep you updated as matters progress. Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

ST JOHN'S PARISH GROUPS

St John's Parish Groups will pause over the Christmas/January period and resume in the new year. The Friendship Gathering restarts on **15 January 2026**, the Youth Group meets on **17 January 2026**, and the Charismatic Prayer Group resumes on **3 February 2026**. Children's Liturgy and the Parents & Kids Group will recommence once schools return in 2026.

SAVE THE DATE for the 90th anniversary Celebration:

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Presentation Sisters in our parish, as well as the opening of St John the Baptist Primary School and the blessing of the presbytery. These historic events took place on 26 January 1936. A special Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am on Sunday, 1 February, followed by light refreshments in the school hall. We invite you to save the date and join us for this special occasion.

Parish Office Hours During the Christmas / January

Holidays: Please note that the parish office is currently closed for the holidays. Normal office hours will resume on **Wednesday, 14 January 2026**.

Over Christmas break, messages can be left on the Parish Mobile Ph: 0468 461 481 or send an email to Thomas.Kuruvila@cam.org.au. Thank you.