

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ Be merciful, O Lord,
for we have sinned*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 5:12,17-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign

in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!*

*No one lives on bread alone, but on every word
that comes from the mouth of God.*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



*You must worship
the Lord your God,
and serve him
alone.'*



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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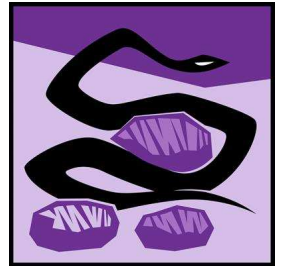


1st Sunday of Lent – Year A

21st / 22nd February 2026 – Year of St Francis

*Lord God,
Renew us in these Lenten days:
washed clean of sin,
sealed with the Spirit,
and sustained by Your living bread,
may we remain true to our calling
and, with the elect, serve You alone.*

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD: *Have you thought? – An invitation*

Lent is a season of invitation. It is an invitation to step into the desert with Jesus; to confront our own purpose and ministry and to renew our trust in God's vision for the world and for us individually. Seen in this light, Lent is so much more than fasting from meat and giving up ice cream for a few weeks. The whole idea of fasting and sacrifice is an attempt to simplify our lives. Through simplifying our life and removing some of the daily distractions, we can share in the desert experience of Jesus and then truly celebrate the hope reborn in the Easter season.

PRAYER:

We pray for all who are trying to rise from the ashes in their lives. May our support for Project Compassion remind us that now is the time to turn to the Lord with all our hearts and embrace the needs of God's whole family.

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.

MEMORIAL DAYS Mon 23rd Feb Collect of St Polycarp (optional)

Fri 27th Feb Collect of St Gregory of Narek (optional)

PROJECT COMPASSION Unite Against Poverty - Donation boxes available in the Church



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
Email: Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au

DEACON:
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

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
Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
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 10.30 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 2nd 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.

1st Sunday of Lent - Yr A
21st /22nd February, 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Stanley Caton , Gerharda Fransen

Those who we remember at this time:
Chanake Aponso; Leandro Morales Antonius Weerden, Palmerino Capozzi, Judy Pek, Terry McCluskey, Stan Hilder, Eileen Haire , Giuseppina, Angelo, Andy, Federico & Silvia Zarro, Margherita, Damiano, Luigi, Cosimo & Jilda Coviello.

The sick: Rosa Lisle, Donna-Marie Chapman, 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.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS: are a 14-step Catholic devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation.. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. **We will be having the Stations of the Cross on Friday at 10.30am at St John's, and 7pm at St Thomas More Belgrave during lent** followed by mass at 11.00 am. All are invited to join.

CHILDREN' LITURGY Our children's liturgy sessions are back on, **Meet in the room at the back of the church.**

ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meet every **Tuesday Morning at 10.20am** in the Parish Community Centre **beginning the ALPHA course** Tues 24th Feb.

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.**

PARENTS AND KIDS GROUP will meet after the 10.30am Mass **Sunday 1st March 2026** in the Parish Community Centre. email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com. Come and join us!

YOUTH GROUP PICNIC Meet Up -Join us for a relaxing youth group catch-up **on Saturday 21st Feb** at the **Tim Neville Arboretum**. We will be meeting up for a **picnic from 3pm**. Please dm us on Instagram @sjtb.youth or email us at sjtb.youth@gmail.com if you are interested in coming along, or if you have any questions!

LENT PRAYER GROUP – The Journey Home
Please join us on **Mondays at 7:00 pm in the meeting room in the Parish Office** for a time of Lenten prayer and reflection.



Project Compassion Sunday

This Lent, we are called to Unite Against Poverty through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.

Please donate today. QR code on front of bulletin.
You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code on the front of the bulletin..

Or online at:

www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty

YOU'RE INVITED! Alpha is a safe space where you can ask questions about **Life, Faith and Meaning. Right now, a seat at the table has been prepared for you, all you have to do is come.** We start on **TUES 24TH FEBRUARY 2026, from 10.30am -12.30pm** and we enjoy a shared lunch after the meeting. **It's in St John the Baptist Parish Community Centre., All are welcome.**

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR 'I have come that you may have life and have it to the full' John 10:10. If you would like to speak to a Spiritual Director, please call the Parish Office on 9758 1029 or phone Beth Duffy on 0423 759 850

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH MINISTRY GROUPS/ 2026 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN/ VULNERABLE

ADULTS: 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: **SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY. (www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention).**

VALE: **MRS MARGARET TIGHE, of THE RIGHT TO LIFE AUSTRALIA inc.** It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Mrs Margaret Tighe, President, aged 94 who has valiantly led the pro-life movement in Australia for over 60 years. Margaret sacrificed her career as a pharmacist as well as precious family time to devote herself to the pro-life movement over many years. **Funeral details as follows:**

Date: Tuesday 24 February 2026 , 11 am
Venue: St Monica's Catholic Church, 820 Mt Alexandra Road, Moonee Ponds, VIC 3039
Please note there is very little parking on site.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND. 24-26 April, 2026 – Live-in Weekend, St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantima South Mercy & James Bvirakare Ph: 0409 183 676
Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

ACYF Reunion | Were not our hearts burning? Sun 28 Feb 2026, 10am - 3pm. Australian Catholic University, Fitzroy
ACYF Reunion | <http://youth.melbourne.catholic.org/events/acuf-reunion-were-not-our-heart-burning-2> ACYF Pilgrims Next step!

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Gerharda Fransen** will be celebrated at St John the Baptist Parish on **Tues 24th February, at 11am.**

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Stanley Caton** will be celebrated here at St John the Baptist Parish, on **Friday, 27th February, at 1pm.**

URGENT-WANTED ON BEHALF OF: ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE Temporary Accommodation for a single male. Please contact the: Parish Office if you can help.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL – THANK YOU.



Thankyou sincerely for all your generous donations towards our SVDP Christmas Hampers in 2026. Ferntree Gully Conference-would like to thank all of our parishioners for your tremendous support for our ongoing work in assisting the disadvantaged in our parish area. Thank you for the donation of gift cards and Christmas items of non-perishable food for distribution to our families. Our Appeal continued to raise the awareness of our varied work for the those who are experiencing hardship. We are pleased to inform you that all non-perishable food and cash that you donated has been used directly to support the needy this Christmas. Once again, we thank parishioners for their generous donations over the Christmas period. **The Families were delighted to receive the much-needed support.**

CASH DONATIONS AND GIFT CARDS from SJB Primary School totaled: \$ 1,146.90
PARISH DONATIONS OF GIFT CARDS totaled: \$930.00. = Overall total: \$ 2076.90

We would also like to acknowledge with thanks, the Knox City Council Community Development Fund's generous grant of \$12,000 used toward the cost of our Christmas hampers.



We sincerely thank Thomas and everyone who supported us in so many ways. We are always delighted to welcome people to join us as we continue to support those in need. May God's blessings be upon you - SVDP-- Ferntree Gully Conference

Tongratulations to Elliana Saltalamacchia, and Nikola Garezski, who will be married on 28th February.

Lectio Divina Spirituality Dinner: 5th Mar 5.30-8.30pm at the **Janssen Centre Boronia: Enquiries: PH 0405040870**
See flyer on the notice board for more information.

ROSTERS: Mon 23rd Feb to Sun 1st March 2026	
Flowers	NO Flowers Lent
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6pm Peter G & Wilma H 10.30am Joanna ,Thelma, Anna, Priya
Lectors	6pm Gab C 10.30am , Henner C
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Carlos E