

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

Gen 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth

shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ *Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.*

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

2 Tim 1:8-10

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud

the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

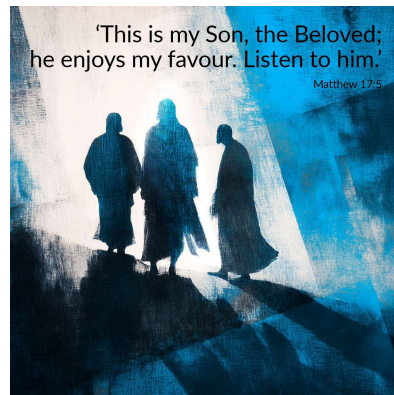
A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

Mt 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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2nd Sunday of Lent – Year A

28th February/ 1st March 2026 – Year of St Francis

O Lord,

Pour grace into us we pray,

from the depths of Your love,

So that we can bear our share

of the gospel hardships, that

You in Your goodness suffer with us.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



FOCUS ON THE WORD: The common theme of today's readings is **metamorphosis or transformation**. The readings invite us **to work, with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, to transform and renew our lives during Lent**, so that we may radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord, which we have just received, all around us by our Spirit-filled lives.

The Transubstantiation in the Holy Mass is the source of our strength. In each Holy Mass our offering of bread and wine becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine. **Hence, just as the Transfiguration of Jesus strengthened the Apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength for resisting evil** when the evil one incites us to disobey the will of God and to choose to serve ourselves as gods turning our backs on God, rejecting His Love, Grace and salvation — and then yielding ourselves more completely to the evil one's ways and lies. The Holy Mass, then is the best defence against the barrages of temptations for **it provides us with and inexhaustible source a source of grace for renewing our lives during Lent and of strengthened protection against temptations** at repeated attacks of the evil one. In addition, should be a source of daily transformation of both our minds and hearts, **enabling us to see Jesus in every one of our brothers and sisters with whom we come in contact each day.** Lord, give me the grace for transformation.

<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>

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 Wed 4th Mar *Collect of St Casimir (optional)*

Fri 6th Mar *Autumn Ember Day (special day of Prayer and Penance)* Sat 7th Mar: *Sts Perpetua & Felicity*

Week 2: 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 Kuruvila 9758 1029
Email: thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

ASSISTANT PRIEST:
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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
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PPG CHAIR Carolyn Sombekke
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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.

2nd Sunday of Lent - Yr A
28th Feb / 1st March 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Julian Celso Buen

Those who we remember at this time:

Therese Edmunds, Benariza Sason, Josephine & Joseph Kuek, Lucy Lee, Louise Bowler, Christopher Winstone, Ron Neville, Eileen Haire.

The sick: Rosa Lisle, Donna-Marie Chapman, Bonnie Hoefler, Ann Jayawardena, Barbara Kenny.



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

CHILDREN'S 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. We are currently running the ALPHA course All welcome, and share lunch after the talk.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING Come and join us each Thurs 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.

YOUTH GROUP ACYF Reunion: Sun 28th February, 2026 at ACU Fitzroy. <http://youth.melboumencatholic.org/events/acuf-reunion-were-not-our-heart-burning-2> Please dm us on Instagram @sjtb.youth or email us at sjtb.youth@gmail.com if you would like to know more 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.



WE WELCOME OUR PREP FAMILIES Our Prep students and their families are warmly welcomed to join us for Sunday Mass this Sunday as we come together in prayer, community, and celebration. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youngest learners to experience the joy of worship and for families to connect with our parish community.



Second Sunday of Lent
28 February – 1 March 2026

Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

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* this Lent.

RCIA - Newly Elect Please congratulate our catechumens and candidate who attended the Rite of Election at St Patrick's Cathedral, last Sunday. This year's Rite of Election has seen record numbers, with around 550 people preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation. St Patrick's Cathedral was full to capacity. Our catechumens and candidate will be attending mass in the next month to take part in the scrutinies. Please make them feel welcome and please keep **Justin, Macaulay, Shannon and Brodie** in your prayers.

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

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



FIRST FRIDAY MASS Friday 1st March at 11am. 10am for time before the blessed sacrament, then, 10.30am for Stations of the Cross. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

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.

Congratulations to Elliana Saltamacchia, and Nikola Garezski, who will be married on 28th February, 2026.



NEW LITURGY ROSTER for April to July 2026 It is time to start looking at updating the liturgy roster, for Lectors and Ministers of the Eucharist, for the months of April to July 2026. Please contact the parish office, by Tuesday, 10th March if you know of any time that you are unavailable during that period. Phone: 9758 1029 or Email marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au
Thank you for your continued service in this ministry.

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.

World Day of Prayer AUSTRALIA 2026
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FERN TREE GULLY
is hosting **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.**
Friday 6th March 2026
Parish Community Centre at 7pm
Please attend this event joining our ecumenical neighbours.
You are most welcome to bring a plate.

#CDF Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account.
With competitive interest rates, it's a greater reward than money alone.
Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information

ROSTERS: Mon 23 rd Feb to Sun 1 st March 2026	
Flowers	NO Flowers Lent
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6pm Rosina L, Myra N, Lyn K 10.30am Lia U, Help needed
Lectors	6pm Louise Di B 10.30am Christopher G
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Carlos E