

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. (R.)

2. The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. (R.)

3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy;

only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

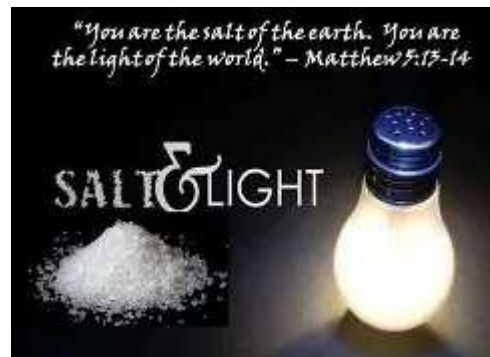
GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord



HARMONY WEEK Monday 17th – Sunday 23rd March. The celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Knox Deanery

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A
7th /8th February 2026 – Year of St Francis

**Loving Lord,
We want to be Salt for the earth,
Bringing flavour to this world.
Teach us, to illuminate the darkness,
Shining the light of kindness
to all in need, and continually,
Pointing others to You.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



FOCUS ON THE WORD The common theme of the readings today is our mission to the world as salt and light. Jesus uses two metaphors to describe the role of his disciples in the society, namely salt and light, which have some common properties: 1) each is needed to sustain life, 2) each has purifying and healing qualities and 3) each has penetrating properties. In the ancient world salt was highly valued. The Greeks called salt divine, and the Romans said, "There is nothing more useful than sun and salt." The English word salary literally means "salt money." In the time of Jesus, salt was connected in people's minds with three special qualities. (i) Salt was connected with purity, (ii) Salt was the commonest of all preservatives (iii) Salt lends flavour to food items. Jesus went on to say that, if salt became insipid, it was fit only to be thrown out and trodden on by men. Usually, salt does not lose its flavour and its saltiness. But when mixed with impurities, salt can lose its ability to enhance flavor. We, too, might lose our ability to be a "flavouring agent" for the world if we allow "impurities" into our lives (1 Cor 15:33). Therefore, we need to keep ourselves free from sin (Eph 5:3-7. As the salt of the earth, the Christians are to keep the fire of Faith alive even under stress Is your salt salty and your light shining? If you doubt your light matters, take this little quiz: 1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world. 2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners. 3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America Pageant. Do you know all these answers? Probably not. Ask yourself some additional questions: 1. Who fed and clothed you when you were helpless? 2. What was the name of your 1st grade teacher? 3. Who is the first friend you would call in an emergency? You do know the answers to these questions. *They are* the salt and light of the world. © Fr Anthony Kadavil

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 Tues 10th Feb St Scholastica Wed 11th Feb World Day of Prayer for the Sick (Holy See)
Wed 11th Feb Our Lady of Lourdes Sat 14th Feb Sts Cyril and Methodius

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

(John 10:10)

PARISH 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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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@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au
St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
Principal: Catherine Livingston
Mater Christi College 9754 6611
Principal: Maria Haggett

MASS TIMES: Please see changes for 10-12 Feb
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.

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Yr A
7th / 8th February, 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time:

Keith Scutt, Kathleen Joyce, Rosemary Tilson, Jack McCann, Domenico Parente, Benito Discenza, John Dunlop, Jim Dale, Coral Pearce, Maureen Hawley, Michael Hanrahan, Joan Rastleigh.

The sick: 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. All welcome.

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 for Praise & Worship, Prayer and Fellowship, ending with a shared lunch from 12pm.

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 8th February 2026 in the Parish Community Centre. email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com. Come and join us! For fun, craft and fellowship.



YOUTH GROUP meet in the Parish Community Centre for more information contact Vicente.

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY. The Journey Home, by Archbishop meritus Mark Coleridge - resource is available. Cost is \$5 per book + postage. or you can by an electronic download. <https://shop.archdiocesanministries.org.au/products/lent-2026-the-journey-home>

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

JOURNEY TO CATHOLIC EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS The 54th International Eucharistic Congress 2028 Sydney, Australia. Eucharist 28 website is up and the rollout of national parish resources is underway across Australia More info at: <https://www.eucharist28.org/>



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL 90TH ANNIVERSARY What a fabulous celebration was enjoyed last weekend, on the occasion of the 90th Anniversary of our school, and the founding of the Presentation Sisters in our Parish. Our Special guests Sr Una Melville and Sr Frances Mongan, who both taught at our school were in attendance. Thank you to all for your support of this event.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SACRAMENTAL Program 2026 The Sacramental classes for children who do not attend a catholic school, and would like to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will begin on 11th Feb, 2026. You must register now! For further details please contact the parish office of Ferntree Gully on: Phone: 9758 1029 or email marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASS TIMES This week, 10th -12th Feb, there will be no weekday Masses at St Thomas More Belgrave, please come to St Johns Ferntree Gully for the usual weekday Masses. Thank you for your understanding.

YOU'RE INVITED! At Alpha, you can ask anything! Alpha is a safe space where you can ask questions about Life, Faith and Meaning. And the great news is that Alpha runs right HERE. 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, which is just behind the Parish Office at 19 Forest Road Ferntree Gully. All are welcome. Please invite your friends, who might be interested.

LITURGY + NEWS + EVENTS

FEBRUARY	MONTH	
Wednesday 4.30pm	11 th Feb	Reconciliation classes begin 4.30pm
Thursday 9.15am	12 th Feb	Beginning of school year Mass & Staff Commissioning
Thursday 7pm	12 th Feb	First Reconciliation Family night
Wed 9.15 And 7pm	18 th Feb	ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

MIGRANT JUBILEE CROSS PRIGRIMAGE celebrate the vibrancy and contribution of our migrant communities in our Church as we welcome the Migrant Jubilee Cross to the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Friday 13th Feb at 7pm, at St Patrick's Cathedral - Solemn Celebration of Vespers for the Welcoming of the cross.



<https://melbournecatholic.org/events/migrant-jubilee-cross-pilgrimage-in-the-archdiocese-of-melbourne>

BAPTISMS Congratulations to *Eliza Price*, daughter of Christopher & Kerry, *Zoe Zinachiundu* daughter of Sanctus & Adammia, *Annabelle Wilson* daughter of David & Jade, who are to be baptised this weekend, and *Charlie Price*, celebrating Rite of Acceptance. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

PASTORAL HOME VISITS Fr. Peter, who has been appointed as Assistant Priest in our parish, is available for home visits as an opportunity to get to know members of our parish community. Parishioners who would like to arrange a visit are invited to contact the parish office."

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FERNTREE GULLY
This year our very own parish, Saint John the Baptist, will host World day of Prayer.
Friday 6th March 2026
St John the Parish, Forest Road Ferntree Gully Parish Community Centre at 7pm
Please feel free to bring a plate
Joining us will be our own parish family from Nigeria; Chinwe, Dozie, Chizara & Zikora

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST OPEN DAYS FOR 2027 PREP CHILDREN Let your neighbours, friends and relatives know St John's School Open Days are set for March. School Open Days will be held on:

- Wednesday 11th March
- Tuesday 17th March
- Thursday 26th March
- Thursday 7th May
- Saturday 9th May - morning
- Tuesday 2nd June



Use this link to book a place on one of our open days - <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/65r6w>
Alternatively families can book tours by phoning the office, or through the school website. Please come and see us in action. or the QR Code. Every day is Open Day at St John the Baptist School!! Please come and see us in action.

ROSTERS: Mon 9 th Feb to Sun 15 th Feb 2026	
Flowers	Marg H & Judy G (Lent from 18 th Feb)
Linen	Carole D
Welcomers	6pm Myra N, Wilma H 10.30am Terry S, Priya H, Patrick S, Neil
Lectors	6pm Rosina L 10.30am Christopher G
Counters	Joan R, Peter C, Ruben Prieto
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T