

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
2:14,22-33

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,

for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad, and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades

nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.

You have made known the way of life to me,

you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Lord, you will show us the path of life.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

1 Peter 1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him

from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread. **The Gospel of the Lord.**

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

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3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A
18th /19th APRIL, 2026. Year of St Francis

FOCUS ON THE WORD: One of the remarkable things about the Risen Jesus is that his friends and followers almost always fail to recognise him at first. In the instance on the road to Emmaus, two of the disciples are walking the road feeling sorry for themselves when Jesus joins them. It is, perhaps, an experience that is not unfamiliar in our own lives: so absorbed by what is happening to us that we fail to recognise the presence of Christ walking the journey with us – in spirit or in the guise of someone around us. Jesus allows the disciples to share their woes and their grief and then he slowly but surely relates all of what had happened to the scriptures and demonstrates to the disciples that the events of the previous few days were all part of God's plan. The disciples felt that their hopes and beliefs had been misplaced in Jesus; he hadn't delivered all that they had dreamed. But the Risen Jesus makes them realise that their hopes were not misplaced; they were right to trust and hope in Jesus and that belief will still bear fruit. It is not until Jesus re-enacts the Last Supper breaking of bread that the disciples suddenly recognise him, but at that moment of recognition, Jesus vanishes from their midst. **Jesus continues to set hearts of fire, inspiring everyday people to do extraordinary things.** Perhaps we shouldn't feel too bad, two millennia later, when we fail to recognise Jesus as he continues to walk beside us. © Greg Sunter

6. Who participates in a Synod?

A Synod involves the whole People of God: bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful. Each has a distinct role, but all share responsibility for the Church's mission. Synodality does not blur roles—it helps each vocation flourish in service of the Gospel.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December 2026, more information is available at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

Open Days for 2027 Prep Children



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 May/June.

School Open Days will be held on:

Thursday 7th May

Saturday 9th May - morning

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Use this link to book a place on one of our open days - <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/65r6w>

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 everyone.** You can find out more about the church's work in this area at: www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

MEMORIALS/FEASTS: Tues 21st April **Anniv Death of Pope Francis.** Thurs 23rd Apr: **St George, St Adalbert**
Fri 24th Apr: **St Fidelis of Sigmaringen.** Sat 25th April : **ANZAC DAY**

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
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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
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

REGULAR 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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND. Make the time to come closer together as a couple. For a fuller life!
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
Watch: <https://youtu.be/69rka7D4caY?si=SbP4x6yQGkd6d7IP>

3rd Sunday of Easter Yr A
18th /19th April 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Ann Jayawardena,

Those who we remember at this time

Arch. Bishop Frank Little, Mildred Silva, Vito Lorusso, Giovanni Lorusso, Lynda Kelly, Peter Ward, Brian Russell, Catherine Lizza, Estre Maidre, Joseph Starks, David Carss, Giuseppe Lotriente, Shirley Smith, John Nash, Bartolino Lugnani, Felice Lizza.

The sick: Rosa Lisle, Lyle & 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Our children's liturgy sessions resume after the school holidays, Meet in the room at the back of the church.



ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

we have our Alpha Holy Spirit Session Retreat this Tuesday at St Paul's Retreat Centre, 11 Nortons Lane, Wantima 9am-5pm to continue the Alpha Course We will be back at the PCC on Tues 28th April.

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 3rd May 2026 in the Parish Community Centre. Email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com.

YOUTH GROUP 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

PERMANENT DIACONATE INFORMATION SESSION 2 May 2026 The annual May Information session has been scheduled. The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and the 50s, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service. The information session is open to everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate. If you have attended any previous session, you are also welcome to attend this session. It is an opportunity to further discern your vocation. Wives most welcome. The session will be on **Saturday morning, 2nd May** and will be in person. If you are interested email Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au with full name and parish, but if you forget, then just turn up on Saturday morning. All are welcome. **Event Date** Saturday 2 May 2026 Time: 10.00am-11.30am **Venue:** Catholic Theological College 278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne



St John the Baptist Sacramental classes for the SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION will take place in 2nd term 2026. If your child is due to take part in the celebration for Confirmation please contact the parish office on: 9758 1029 or office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au The sacrament of confirmation is for children who have celebrated their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist and are in Grade 6 or upwards. **Register NOW!**

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 26th APRIL. Next Sunday

we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday – the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. During this coming week, perhaps you may like to make a prayer each day for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Perhaps there is a young person you may know to pray for by name this week. **The annual Seminary Enquiry Day** at Corpus Christi College will be on **Saturday 23 May 2026 for any young men whom would like to know more about becoming a priest.**



MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY APPEAL – Aid to the Church in Need is calling for urgent prayer and support for Christian communities affected by war in the Middle East. Your help will provide emergency food packages, support parishes sheltering displaced families, keep schools running, and supply vital medical and pastoral care.

To learn more or give today, please scan the QR code or visit www.rebrand.ly/EmergencyAppeal

YOUTH LEADERS TRAINING Saturday 9th May, 2026 from 9am -3pm at the Cathedral Room, Cardinal Knox Centre East Melbourne. This series is especially designed for youth and young adult leaders who want to keep growing. Being a leader isn't just about what you know. It's about being a disciple, humbly walking with young people as they journey with Jesus Christ. This is your time to grow with the Lord, sharpen your skills and be equipped for the mission ahead! The day begins with optional 8am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. **Morning tea and lunch is provided.** **Youth Leaders Training - May | Melbourne Catholic Youth Register Now!** www.trybooking.com/events/1568237/TryBookingAustralia. Speak to the Proclaim team on 03)9926 5761 or email: proclaim@cam.org.au

INDIVIDUAL / PERSONAL RETREATS at Holy Cross Centre – \$125pn (BYO linen) inc meals Holy Cross Centre in Templestowe has accommodation for personal retreats that has become available btm **27 April-13 May 2026** as well as other dates throughout 2026. A special rate of \$149/night (or \$125/night BYO linen) applies. To book dates, please call us on (03) 9846 6014 or email: hcc@passionists.com

MASS COUNT: The National Count of Attendance for 2026 will be taking place over the **first four weeks of May**, with the first weekend of the Count taking place on 2/3 May 2026. In 2021, when we did the last count, we still had the COVID-19 restrictions in place. For that reason, in that year, Mass attendance dropped from approximately 12% of the Catholic population to 8% nationally. So, we expect this year that the figures from the 2026 Count might be higher.

ANZAC DAY DAWN WATCH, 25TH April, 2026.



PALMS INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING
Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities! Join Palms International Volunteering for two special sessions where you'll learn about our **diverse assignments** suited to your qualifications. **In April on Thurs 30th from 7pm-8.30pm** meet past Palms volunteers and discover how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities, **or join our May session, Thurs 21st May from 4pm-5.30pm** for a live crossing to Timor Leste and see how lives are changing today. Scan QR code or see pals.org.au/events or Ph: **02 9560 5333**



ANCHORED Helping Kids Thrive: Developmental Changes and Digital Wellbeing Tuesday 28 April 2026, 7pm to 8pm, Online. Facilitated by Real Talk, this first session of our new practical and faith-centred webinar series will help parents and caregivers of children aged 12 and under better understand key stages of childhood and adolescence, set healthy digital boundaries and respond with confidence and care. Register here: [Anchored – Helping Kids Thrive Tickets | TryBooking Australia](http://Anchored - Helping Kids Thrive Tickets | TryBooking Australia)

SPIRITUALITY DINNER Topic: Centering Prayer - re-imagining the nature of spiritual transformation in the 21st Century **Date: Friday, 1st May 2026, 5.30pm– 8.30pm**
Venue: 22 Woodvale Road, Boronia, VIC 3155 **Suggested donation: \$35/ Per Person** To find out more and see the flyer go to <https://janssencentre.au/events> **Booking is essential!** Tel. **Mobile: 0432261194 (Fr. Thien)**

ROSTERS: Mon 20 th Apr to Sun 26 April 2026	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6pm Lia & Help needed 10.30am Florence J & Help needed
Lectors	6.00pm Queenie J 10.30am Eduardo M
Counters	George & Genevieve, Bindu M
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R