

## FIRST READING

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14,36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

### The Word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

*1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.*

*Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)*

*2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.*

*If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort. (R.)*

*3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. (R.)*

*4. Surely goodness and kindness  
shall follow me  
all the days of my life.*

*In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. (R.)*

## SECOND READING

### A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

### The Word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;*

*I know my sheep, and mine know me.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

### The Gospel of the Lord.



# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

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## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER – YR A Good Shepherd Sunday

25<sup>th</sup> /26<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2026. Year of St Francis

**FOCUS ON THE WORD:** On this *Good Shepherd Sunday* and the *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*, the Church reminds us of our call to become good shepherds of God's flock and good sheep of His parishes and invites us to pray for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, and the consecrated life. Both the Old and New Testaments use the image of a Shepherd and His flock to describe the unique relationship of God with Israel and of the Christ with Christians. The first reading is taken from St. Peter's first sermon, given on Pentecost. Here, he exhorts his listeners, Jewish people gathered for the Feast of Weeks – the "Sabbath" of the seven weeks that have elapsed since Passover — to know beyond any doubt that the One they have allowed to be crucified is the true Shepherd, whom God has made both Lord and Messiah. **Peter then proclaims that the proper response to the Good News about Jesus is to repent and be baptized "in the name of Jesus Christ," and thus to become members of the Good Shepherd's flock.** Through the Sacrament of Baptism, they will receive forgiveness for their sins. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23), introduces Yahweh as the Good Shepherd of Israel and describes all of the things the Lord does for us, His sheep, in providing for our needs. At some point in our lives, we all pick out leaders to follow, some good, some bad. Depending on whom we choose, we are led well or astray. **Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice."** © [frtonyshomilies.com](http://frtonyshomilies.com).

## 7. Synodality and bishops



Bishops remain shepherds and teachers of the faith. Synodality does not weaken their authority; rather, it enriches their ministry by grounding leadership in prayerful listening and communal discernment. A bishop who listens walks more closely with his people, as Christ the Good Shepherd does.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December 2026, more information is available at [melbournecatholic.org/synod2026](http://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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention) safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

**MEMORIALS/FEASTS:** Sun 26<sup>th</sup> April *World day of Prayer for Vocations*. Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Apr: *St Louis Grignion de Montfort & Mary the Mother of Good Counsel*  
Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Apr: *St Peter Chanel*  
Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Apr *St Catherine of Siena*  
Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Apr *St Pius V*  
Fri 1<sup>st</sup> May *St Joseph the Worker*  
Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May *St Athanasius*

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

**(John 10:10)**

**PARISH PRIEST:**  
Fr Thomas Kuruwila 9758 1029  
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**ASSISTANT PRIEST:**  
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**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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)  
**PPG CHAIR** Carolyn Sombekke  
Email: [csombekkesjb@gmail.com](mailto:csombekkesjb@gmail.com)

**SCHOOLS:**  
**St John the Baptist** 9758 1013  
Principal: Kelli Johnston  
Email: [kjohnston@sferntreegully.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kjohnston@sferntreegully.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** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2pm  
**WILLOWBROOK MASS** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 11am

**BAPTISMS:** Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)**

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

**Divine Mercy Shrine** 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 12pm-5pm **The Polish Catholic Community warmly invites the faithful** to celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 343-337 Greens Rd Keysborough. More info click [here](#)

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Yr A Good Shepherd Sunday.**  
**25<sup>th</sup> /26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 - Year of St Francis**

**PRAYING FOR...**

**All who have died recently:**

**Those who we remember at this time**

Pope Francis, Thoppl Zacharias, Terrence Merry, Chris Watson, Mary Rosenbrock, Lidia Segato, Andy, Angelo, Giuseppina, Federico & Silvia Zarro, and Margherita, Damiano, Luigi, Cosimo & Jilda Coviello

**The sick:** Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hoefer, 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**

What a wonderful retreat day we had at St Pauls Retreat Centre. We return to PCC on Tues 28th April, at 10.30am

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 in the Parish Community Centre. Email [jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com](mailto:jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com).

**YOUTH GROUP** Please dm us on Instagram @sjtb.youth or email us at [sjtb.youth@gmail.com](mailto:sjtb.youth@gmail.com) if you would like to know more or if you have any questions

**YOUTH LEADERS TRAINING** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

**Register Now!** [www.trybooking.com/events/1568237/TryBookingAustralia](http://www.trybooking.com/events/1568237/TryBookingAustralia). Speak to the Proclaim team on (03)9926 5761 or email: [proclaim@cam.org.au](mailto:proclaim@cam.org.au)

**PERMANENT DIACONATE INFORMATION SESSION 2**

**May 2026.** 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. If you are interested email Deacon Kevin Pattison [Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au](mailto:Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au), 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



**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL.** Today is the



World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Leo tells us: "Listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use (cf. Mt 25:14-30) and to unite your limitations and weaknesses with the glorious cross of Christ."

Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood.

**A Vocation View** On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, pray for yourself. Pray to know if God is calling YOU to be a Priest, Sister or Brother. Pray! Please contact us at [vocations@cam.org.au](mailto:vocations@cam.org.au) or phone 9926 5733, to learn more.

**ADORATION FOR WORLD PEACE** on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2026 we will be holding a special time of Adoration in our Church, for Peace in our World. Beginning with 10am Mass,

followed by Adoration & Praying all decades of the Rosary, both for World Peace and to intercede to Mother Mary in the Month of May. Concluding at 12pm with Benediction. Refreshments will be served. Please, note this date in

your diary, and come and join us.



**CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal**

Next weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August).

CatholicCare Victoria is the Church's mission in action - empowering children and young people, strengthening families and individuals, providing safe housing and homelessness assistance, and supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

Your kindness and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community.

Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au), call (03) 9967 2515 or scan the QR Code below.



All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

**SAVE THE DATE: The Melbourne Corpus Christi Procession 2026** Begins at 2pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, and concludes at Federation Square. All parishes, communities, families are invited to join Archbishop Peter Comensoli. contact Proclaim at: [proclaim@cam.org.au](mailto:proclaim@cam.org.au) or (03) 9926 5761.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2026 at 11am.** Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

**ANZAC DAY 25TH April, 2026.** Anzac Day is one of our most significant national commemorations. Observed on April 25 each year it marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by the Australian and New Zealand Army during World War I at Gallipoli in 1915.

However, its importance goes far beyond a single battle. Anzac Day is a time to remember, reflect, and honour all those who have served and sacrificed their lives in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. The phrase "Lest we forget" is a potent reminder of the human cost of war and the importance of honouring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Sourced from [www.majellan.media](http://www.majellan.media)



**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](#)

**REMEMBERING THE JOYFUL AND HUMBLE**

**POPE FRANCIS** one year after his death Pope Francis died

on Easter Monday, 21 April 2025, at his residence in the Vatican. Pope Francis modelled the Church as 'a field hospital that takes in the weakest people: the infirm,' principles modelled on the Ignatian spirituality of the order in which he was ordained and formed, the Jesuits. We continue to give thanks for a pope who for more than 12 years shepherded us with such joyful and humble dedication.



**SPIRITUALITY DINNER Topic:** Centering Prayer **Date:**

**Friday, 1st May 2026, 5.30pm- 8.30pm Venue:** 22 Woodvale Road, Boronia, VIC 3155 To find out more and see the flyer go to <https://ianssencentre.au/events> **Booking is essential:** Tel. Mobile: 0432261194 (Fr. Thien)

**ROSTERS: Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Apr to Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

Flowers	Genevieve W & Tess D
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6pm Peter G, Wilma H 10.30am Joanna C & Thelma B
Lectors	6.00pm Rosina L 10.30am Peter F
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Theresa N