

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./ Give thanks to the Lord for he
is good, his love is everlasting.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory

and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*You believe in me, Thomas, because you have
seen me; happy those who have not seen me,
but still believe!*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

11th/12th APRIL, 2026, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

FOCUS ON THE WORD: Thomas was granted the gift of seeing the Risen Lord bearing the wounds of His crucifixion. Thomas was invited to touch them. Responding, he simply cries out: 'My Lord and my God.' Thomas does not declare his belief in the Resurrection as such. That was all too apparent. Rather, he declares his faith in the *identity* of the risen Jesus Christ: 'My Lord and my God.' Pope Francis used to say we can *only* join Thomas in this faith by touching the wounds of Christ. Those wounds are to be found in the body of someone wounded. This can be in a myriad of ways.

We have to bend down and touch those wounds in whatever means of healing is available to us. Otherwise, we simply engage in philanthropy at a distance. We end up believing in a semblance of God, but not God embodied in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ always bearing his wounds. Sometimes we struggle with our faith – after all, it is an astounding claim that Jesus of Nazareth is God embodied for us. You, or any other person intrigued by Jesus, are invited to touch the wounds of Christ and let the patience of God take care of the timing of the response of faith. We could pause for a moment, praying to be counted amongst those who receive the Blessing promised to those who have not seen the Risen Lord as such, but who touch his wounds and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God.' © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

5. Why listening matters in
the Church

Listening is not a sign of
weakness. In the Christian
tradition, listening is an act of humility and
faith. We believe that God can speak
through the experiences, joys, and
struggles of His people. Synodality
reminds us that listening is a form of love
and a path to wisdom



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>

AFEGUARDING 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 everyone's responsibility.

MEMORIALS/FEASTS: Mon 13th St Martin I, Pope, Martyr

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

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
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ASSISTANT PRIEST:
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DEACON:
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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
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SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal: Kelli Johnston
Email: kjohnston@sjfemtregully.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.

SLAVERY-FREE EASTER CHOCOLATE – Look for any of these three certification symbols on the wrappers: More Info: <https://acrath.org.au/slaveryfree-easter>

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@wme.org.au

2nd Sunday of Easter Yr A
11th /12th April 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Fr Grant O'Neill, Denis Ring.

Those who we remember at this time

Mark Fabian, Giuseppe Feleppa, Filonila Lobo, Maisie Gallenti, Bernadette Jackson, Peter Dixon, Domenic Lizza, Christian Van Oosterom Christopher Nguyen, Terry Potter.

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 are back on, Meet in the room at the back of the church.



ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

we will return on **Tuesday 14th April, at 10.30am** to continue the Alpha Course.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING Will resume on **Thursday 16th April.**

PARENTS AND KIDS GROUP will have a break over Easter, and resume **3rd May, 2026** Happy Easter all. Email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com.

YOUTH GROUP Please dm us on Instagram @stjbyouth or email us at stjbyouth@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



Reflection Note: Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday is a special feast celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. It is a day dedicated to remembering and trusting in the infinite mercy of God. This devotion originated from the visions and revelations received by Saint Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun, in the 1930s. According to her diary, Jesus asked that this feast be celebrated so that people may come to know His mercy and receive His grace in a deeper way. Later, the Church officially established this feast, emphasizing God's loving compassion for all humanity. The practice of Divine Mercy Sunday often includes attending Mass, going to confession, receiving Holy Communion, and praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Many believers also begin the Divine Mercy Novena on Good Friday, continuing it for nine days until the feast. At 3:00 PM, known as the Hour of Mercy, people pause to pray and reflect on the passion and death of Jesus Christ. These practices help strengthen faith and remind us to place our trust in God's mercy.

Praying on Divine Mercy Sunday is important because it reminds us that no sin is too great for God's forgiveness. It is a powerful invitation to repent, seek healing, and renew our relationship with God. This prayer not only asks mercy for ourselves but also for the whole world. It teaches us to become merciful toward others by showing kindness, forgiveness, and compassion in daily life. Divine Mercy Sunday inspires us to reflect on how deeply God loves us despite our weaknesses and failures. It gives hope that every person can begin again through faith and trust in Him. It is a reminder that mercy is at the heart of Christian life and that through prayer, we open our hearts to peace, grace, and spiritual renewal.

PROJECT COMPASSION Unite against Poverty

Caritas Australia sincerely thanks you for your generous support of Project Compassion this Lent. Please bring back any donation boxes or you can donate **online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate** Or by calling: 1800 024 413



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.

Congratulations to Dani and Laura

Congratulations to Daniel Wallace and Laura Hall on their marriage. We extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes as you begin this wonderful journey together. May your life be filled with love, joy, and lasting happiness.

Congratulations and Welcome!

We warmly congratulate and welcome Flynne Isaac Marquez, Patricia Daniel Lee, Elsie Rose Lee, London Claire Pedler, Aria Reese Pedler, and Hudson William Pedler, who will be baptised this weekend.

May this special occasion be the beginning of a life filled with God's love and blessings. We keep these children and their families in our prayers as they begin their journey in faith.

Building the Synodal Way Together



As we enter the Easter season, we are invited to continue growing as a Church that listens, learns, and walks together. The Synodal Way calls each of us—clergy, religious, and lay—to participate actively in discernment and dialogue, guided by the Holy Spirit.

In the coming weeks, we will focus on deepening our commitment to:

- Listening with an open heart to the experiences, hopes, and concerns of others.
- Engaging in meaningful conversation, grounded in respect, humility, and prayer.
- Strengthening our sense of communion, recognising Christ at the centre of our shared mission.

Discerning pathways forward, so that our parish and wider Church can respond more faithfully to the needs of our time. Reflection question: How can we deepen our understanding of synodality in our parish life?

The first meeting of the Diocesan Synod Commission will be held on Thursday 9 April. We ask for your prayers as we gather to discern and plan for the work of the Synod. If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod please email: Synod2026@cam.org.au