

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

10:34.37-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians

3:1-4

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he

is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

The Word of the Lord.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

20:1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156 Phone: 9758 1029
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION - YEAR A- 5TH APRIL 2026



FOCUS ON THE WORD 'Jesus reveals God to us', says Pope Leo XIV, 'with his own true and integral humanity.' This mystery underpins our Christian calling, and makes the Resurrection an invitation.

'In order to know God in Christ,' the Pope suggests, 'we must welcome his integral humanity.' This means recognising Christ's humanness as well as his divinity. Hard as it might be to understand, this is the ancient mystery we profess. The implications of this are profound. 'It is not only the death and resurrection of Jesus that saves us and calls us together,' the Pope explains, 'but his very person: the Lord who becomes incarnate, is born, heals, teaches, suffers, dies, rises again and remains among us.'

'Therefore,' the Pope continues, 'to honour the greatness of the Incarnation, it is not enough to consider Jesus as the channel of transmission of intellectual truths.' Certainly, Jesus is our truest teacher, but he is so much more than a teacher from the past. As the Pope points out, 'Jesus himself invites us to share his perception of reality.' Seeing the world through human eyes, Our Risen Lord invites us to see it through his. [Quotes from General Audience, 21 January 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260121-udienza-generale.html>] © Nick Brodie

PARISH SYNOD

4. A Synod is not a parliament. The Church is not a democracy where truth is decided by majority vote. A Synod is not about winning arguments or pushing agendas. Instead, it is a spiritual process of listening deeply—to God, to Scripture, to tradition, and to one another—so that decisions are shaped by faith and mission, not ideology.



The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December 2026, more information is available at melbourncatholic.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 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 Sun 12TH April: *Divine Mercy* 10.30am Mass

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:
Fr Peter Nguyen 9758 1029
Email: Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au

DEACON:
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

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: csembekkesjb@gmail.com

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 :No week day Mass at St Johbs
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

Sunday of the Resurrection Yr A
4th/5th 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 there is **NO Prayer group this Tuesday 7th April** – we will **return on Tuesday 14th April, at 10.30am** to continue the Alpha Course.

FRIENDSHIP GATHERING Will have a week off over Easter, and **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!

Lebanon Emergency Relief Appeal

Over 780,000 people are displaced due to conflict. Your support can help provide essential support.

DONATE NOW
caritas.org.au/Lebanon

Caritas Australia Lebanon Emergency Appeal
Lebanon is facing one of its most severe humanitarian crises in years, as a sudden surge in violence and mass evacuation orders force families to flee with nothing. Within 24 hours, Caritas Lebanon reported 667,831 newly displaced people seeking safety. Despite the volatile environment, Caritas Lebanon teams are operating across seven governorates, delivering food, essential items, healthcare, psychosocial support, water and hygiene assistance, and protection services. Let us stand in solidarity with our partners in Lebanon. Learn more or make a donation today at www.caritas.org.au/lebanon

FR THOMAS' EASTER MESSAGE: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

As we celebrate the joy and hope of Easter, we are reminded that the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the heart of our faith. Through His victory over sin and death, we are given new life, renewed hope, and the promise of eternal salvation.

In this sacred season, may we open our hearts to the grace of the Risen Lord. Let His light shine in our lives, guiding us to be people of compassion, forgiveness, and love. Just as the stone was rolled away from the tomb, may any burdens or doubts in our hearts be lifted so that we may live fully in the freedom and joy of Christ.

Let us carry the message of Easter into our homes, our parish, and our community—sharing peace with those in need, offering kindness to all, and witnessing to the power of God's love in our daily lives.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all who helped in any way during Holy Week and our Easter celebrations. To our liturgical ministers, choir, readers, altar servers, sacristans, decorators, cleaners, flower arrangers, and all the many volunteers who worked quietly behind the scenes — thank you for your generosity, dedication, and loving service to our parish community. Your efforts have helped make these sacred days truly prayerful and beautiful for all.

I also wish to express my sincere gratitude for the many prayers, emails, cards, messages, and phone calls I received during the difficult time of my father's passing. Your kindness, support, and prayers have been a great source of comfort and strength to me and my family, and they are deeply appreciated.

May the Risen Christ bless you and your families with peace, joy, and abundant grace this Easter season. Happy Easter!

NO WEEKDAY MASS FROM TUES 7TH April until Thursday 9th April, 2026 in Ferntree Gully. Those who would like to go to weekday mass, please go to St Thomas More in Belgrave at 9am.

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.

ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI'S EASTER MESSAGE To listen, click on this link. <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/2026-easter-message>

CONGRATULATIONS Justin, Macaulay and Shannon and our candidate, Brodie received full reception into the Catholic Church at our Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil mass. We joyfully welcome you into full Communion with the Church.

FUNERAL SERVICE for the late **Denis Ring** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Wednesday 8th April at 11am.**

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

LITURGY †	NEWS †	EVENTS
7 th -9 th April	No weekday Mass FTG	Please go to St Thomas More Belgrave
Thurs	23 rd April	CONFIRMATION Family Evening 7pm
Sat	25 th April	ANZAC DAY Dawn Watch 5.45am at Quarry Park FTG

ROSTERS: Mon 6th Apr to Sun 12th April 2026

Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Sabrina M
Welcomers	6pm Peter G, Wilma H 10.30am Joanna C, Thelma B, Anna M, Priya
Lectors	6.00pm Gab C 10.30am Christopher G
Counters	Joan R, Peter C, Ruben P
Gardening	Patrick S & Harry R

