

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/ Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me;
so that where I am
you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.'

'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him
'and you still do not know me?'

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,
so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?''

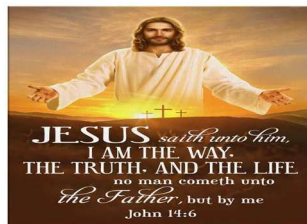
Do you not believe
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?'

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:
it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say
that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;
believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,
whoever believes in me
will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works,
because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

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5th SUNDAY OF EASTER – YR A
2nd/3rd May, 2026. Year of St Francis

FOCUS ON THE WORD: The gospel readings for this week and next week shift the focus away from the resurrection and begin to set us up for the departure of Jesus from the earth – the Ascension – and the sending of the Holy Spirit – the Pentecost event. By the time of the writing of this gospel the early Christians were starting to come to terms with the fact that Jesus probably wasn't going to return in their lifetime. They had seen the devastating destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans in 70CE which they thought had signalled the end of all time. However, here they were, still alive and still no sign of Jesus' return. © Greg Sunter

Jesus is risen and lives precisely to be always by our side. We can thus say to him, "Jesus, I believe that you rose again and are beside me. I believe that you listen to me. I bring to you what upsets me, my troubles. ... "My Father's house has many rooms ... I am going there to prepare a place for you." ... **he reserved a place in Heaven for us.** He took our humanity upon himself to carry it beyond death, to a new place, to Heaven, so that we might also be where he is. ... God is in love with us; we are his children. ... We are in transit here. We are made for Heaven, for eternal life, to live forever. ... But how can we reach heaven? ... **He says to us today: "I am the Way" ... to have a living relationship with him, to imitate him in love, to follow in his footsteps ... of service to others.** Pope Francis Angelus, 5th Sunday of Easter 2020 <https://www.slu.edu/mission-identity/initiatives/slu-liturgy.php#may1>

8. Synodality and priests

For priests, synodality is not an added burden but a way of exercising ministry in communion. When priests foster listening and participation, parishes become more alive, missionary, and joyful. The priest presides at the Eucharist, but the whole community contributes to the Church's mission.

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: Friday 8th May, 2026 – Anniversary of election of Pope Leo XIV, 2025
MAY – the Month of Mary.

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 10.00am-4.00pm
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: csombekesjb@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: are celebrated either during the weekend Masses on the second Sunday at any of the Mass center's, or at 12:00 pm on the second Sunday of the month at St John's, Ferntree Gully. A six weeks' notice is required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism on the Parish website. **Contact the Parish Office on 97581029 or via email at marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au.**

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

Jesuit Mission Maytime Fair Sat 2nd May, 2026 9am -4pm a Joyful day of fundraising and empowerment. Xavier College Senior Campus, 135 Barkers Rd Kew. a packed day of delicious food, live music, rides, games, face painting, raffles, showbags, a wine auction and much more.
Win a \$6,000 shopping spree [Win a \\$6,000 Shopping Spree!](#)

5th Sunday of Easter Yr A
2nd / 3rd May, 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time

Matteo Parente, Monica D'Elia, Brendan Chapman, Thomas Fennelly, John Burgess, Luigi De Cristo, Josef Knur, Agnes Russell.

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

Come and Join us on Tuesday Mornings in the Parish Community Centre, 10.15am for a 10.30am start.

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 Mothers Day Nutella Pie Sale: Our Parish Youth Group will be raising funds for the 2027 World Youth Day by selling nutella pies on the 9th/10th of May. Please pre-order your pie for a perfect Mother's Day surprise! Whole pies will be \$25, please text Sofia on 0414264116 to place your order.

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

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. 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. Speak to the Proclaim team on 03)9926 5761 or email: proclaim@cam.org.au

LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2026 will be held from 17-24 May with the theme 'From Hope to Action' focusing on turning ecological concern into practical care for our common home. Marking the anniversary of Pope Francis's Laudato Si'.



MAY – THE MONTH OF MARY During May, Catholics all over the world offer up to Mary the Queen of Heaven fervent and loving prayer and veneration. This custom of dedicating the Month of May to the blessed virgin, arose at the end of the 13th Century. **For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner.** It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it a real tribute to her beauty and virtue..

FAMILIES:

- Plant some flowers in a Mary garden
- Decorate your prayer table with fresh flowers
- Read the story of Fatima on May 13
- Pray the rosary on Mother's Day (all or part)
- Learn a Marian song like Hail Holy Queen
- Pray the Angelus this month
- Make a dessert with blue icing



ADORATION FOR WORLD PEACE on Saturday 23rd 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

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). This year, the Appeal aims to give hope and support to people experiencing homelessness. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those most in need. Your compassion ensures individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives.

Your generosity helps open the door to safety, dignity and hope.

Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

You can donate:

- Using the appeal envelope available in our parish
- Online - www.catholiccarevic.org.au
- Phone - (03) 9967 2515
- Scan the QR Code

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

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

This weekend, we welcome our **Confirmation Candidates and their families** who will be attending this weekend's Masses, as the children make their **Commitment promises** for the upcoming sacrament of confirmation. Please keep them in your prayers.

PATRON SAINTS NAMED FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 in SEOUL Organisers in Seoul, South Korea, announced five patron saints for World Youth Day (WYD) 2027 that reflect the themes of truth, peace and love that are at the heart of the youth gathering. The five saints selected by the WYD Organising Committee include: **St John Paul II**, who founded the WYD celebration; **St Andrew Kim Taegon**, the first Korean Catholic priest, and companions who were martyred; **St Frances Xavier Cabrini**, patron saint of immigrants; **St Josephine Bakhita**, patron saint of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery; and **St Carlo Acutis**, the millennial saint known for using technology to evangelise. **Cardinal Farrell** expressed his hope that the lives and witness of the five patron saints would 'inspire young people around the world, especially in contexts marked by difficulties and persecution, to see that holiness is not a distant ideal, to fix their gaze on Christ and to respond generously to his call.' The official website for World Youth Day 2027 was updated with biographical information on each saint. Read more here: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/patron-saints-named-for-world-youth-day-2027>

MOTHERS DAY NUTELLA PIE SALE: Our Parish Youth Group will be raising funds for the 2027 World Youth Day by selling nutella pies on the 9th/10th of May. **Please pre-order your pie** for a perfect Mother's Day surprise! Whole pies will be \$25, please text Sofia on 0414264116 to place your order.

SAVE THE DATE: Sun 7th June, 2026 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. Enquires, please contact Proclaim at: proclaim@cam.org.au or call (03) 9926 5761.

ROSTERS: Mon 4th May to Sun 10th May 2026

Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6.00 pm Lyn K; Rosina , Myra 10.30am Lia U, Shamindri& Chamal A
Lectors	6.00pm Tess De L 10.30am Henna C
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Theresa N