

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
8:5-8, 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them
and we will come to them.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



6th SUNDAY OF EASTER – YR A

9th /10th May, 2026. Year of St Francis

*Lord,
We pray in gratitude and with affection
for all our mothers.
We give thanks for their loving care,
attention and support.
We ask that You bless them and sustain them
in this very special vocation.
We pray too, that all mothers who have gone
before us in faith, will find eternal rest
in Your love and Your peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS on the WORD: Throughout the gospel of John, we are reminded of the enduring relationship between Jesus and the Father. A number of times, Jesus announces that he and the Father are one. In today's passage, Jesus also says to the disciples that they can share in this relationship of love. When Jesus speaks about anyone who 'loves' him, he speaks about anyone who lives by his message and seeks to be like him. Anyone who does that will share in the love that exists between the Father and the Son. That invitation is open for each of us today as well.

9. Synodality and the laity

Synodality affirms that the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of all the baptised. Lay people are not simply helpers of clergy; they are active disciples called to witness to Christ in families, workplaces, and society. A synodal Church takes this vocation seriously.

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:
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 12th May, 2026 – Sts Nereus & Achilleus, St Pancras
Wed 13th May – Our Lady of Fatima

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
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
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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 Hagggett

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.

TREAT YOURSELF TO A RETREAT. 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 between 27 April-13 May 2026 as well as other dates throughout 2026. A special rate of \$149/night (or \$125/night BYO linen) applies for a warm double bedroom, ensuite and meals. The Centre has a Chapel, small meditation room, beautiful grounds, shrine and other spiritual spaces in which to rest and pray call us on (03) 9846 6014 or hcc@passionists.com

6th Sunday of Easter Yr A
9th/10th May, 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:
Fr Peter Foley PE
Those who we remember at this time
Fr Jim Carroll, Carmel Weller, Catherine Cunningham, Alan Driver, Shirley Newbold, Leon Koelmeyer, Henry Brohier, Elena Francesca, Anna Bognar, Margaret Mackie, Ernest Royle, Jim Dale, John Fumo, Vincent Delaney.

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 17th 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. Whole pies will be \$25, Please dm us on Instagram @sjtb.youth or email us at sjtbyouth@gmail.com if you would like to know more or if you have any questions

The National Count is a simple but powerful way for parishes to contribute to a national picture of Catholic life in Australia. Counting over four Sundays in May, 2026 ensures that fortnightly and monthly Masses are not overlooked. This is particularly important for many country towns and migrant communities.

Palms International Volunteering GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING INFO SESSION: Special online webinar for parishioners to discern a global mission assisting our human family. **May Session: Live from Timor Leste! Scan here- Date: Thursday 21 May 2026 Time: 4 pm - 5:30 pm AEST 02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au**



MAY – THE MONTH OF MARY

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.

CONFIRMATION, Please include our parishioner, Sarah, in your prayers, who will be celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday at 11am on the 24th May at St Patrick's Cathedral. Sarah will be joined with other candidates throughout the diocese. If you wish to attend the ceremony you are most welcome.



LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2026 will be held from 17–24 May this year's theme **'From Hope to Action'** Each year, the global Church unites to celebrate **-an annual moment of prayer, reflection, and concrete action** inspired by Laudato Si' by Pope Francis. In 2026, Catholics across continents will once again respond together — not just with words, but with action. In a world facing ecological crisis and social fragmentation, **hope is not passive optimism — it is a decision to act.**

The invitation is intentionally simple: **Choose one action. Make it count during this week.**

- That action might be:
- Reducing energy use in your institution
 - Hosting a prayer service or dialogue
 - Reviewing purchasing practices
 - Beginning a long-term sustainability commitment
 - Caring for a local ecosystem
 - Engaging youth in ecological leadership

The power is not in perfection.. The power is in participation. Your effort can be counted on the Laudato Si Action Platform, A simple tool that gathers and visualizes the Church's shared response in 3 simple steps:

1. **Enrol** – join the Laudato Si' Action platform
2. **Choose one action** – discern a concrete step aligned with your reality.
3. **Make it count.** Carry it out between 17-24th May 2026. That's it! One action – multiplied globally. Ecological conversion is not abstract, it is lived through daily choices, community commitments and institutional courage. Enrol here: <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

BAPTISMS Congratulations to *Isaac and August, sons of Tristan & Georgia Howes* who are to be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.



MOTHERS DAY 10th MAY our mothers are a wonderful nurturing gift to us from God **HONOURING MARY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY** In Catholic tradition, the month of May is dedicated to Mary. Chosen by God above all other



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. **See the Youth team to collect your pies** for a perfect Mother's Day surprise! Whole pies will be \$25, please text Sofia on 0414264116 to place your order.



SAVE THE DATE & COME ALONG TO SHARE PENTECOST Sunday – A Celebration of Gifts and Talents and Reunion of Newly Baptised. When: **24th May 2026 Sunday** Mass at 10:30am Refreshments: will be served after Mass in the Parish Community Centre

OUR LADY OF FATIMA Feast is on the 13th May. The story begins in the village of Fatima, Portugal, on May 13, 1917. On that fateful day near that tiny village, The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, appeared to three young peasant children: Francisco, Jacinta, and Lucia; ages 10, 9 and 7. As was the custom, these youngsters were tending their family's sheep when "a Lady all in white, more brilliant than the sun indescribably beautiful," standing above a bush, appeared to the youngsters. When it became known the Lady would visit the children for the last time on October 13, 1917, and had promised a sign that would convince the world she had appeared, many pilgrims made plans to attend. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCQZz3BRwKc>

ROSTERS: Mon 11th May to Sun 17th May 2026

Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6.00 pm Myra N, Wilma H 10.30am Terry S, Priya H, Patrick S
Lectors	6.00pm Alvi M, 10.30am Joan R
Counters	Bryon, Ruby, Guil
Gardening	Theresa N