

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/ *Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one

Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 20:19-23

In the evening of 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



As the Father sent me, so I am sending You.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

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PENTECOST SUNDAY - YRA

23rd/24th May 2026. Year of St Francis



FOCUS on the WORD: Pentecost literally means 50th. It is a feast celebrated even now by Jews on the 50th day after the Passover feast and by Christians on the 50th day after the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus by Christians. The Jewish Pentecost was originally a post-harvest thanksgiving feast. Later, the Jews included in it the remembrance of God's Covenants with Noah after the Deluge and with Moses at Mt. Sinai. On the day of Pentecost: 1) **The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary** as tongues of fire. 2) **The frightened apostles were transformed into fiery preachers and evangelizers** and were given the gift of tongues by a special anointing of the Holy Spirit. 3) **The listeners experienced a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit** through the apostles' gift of tongues: they heard Peter speaking in their native languages. 4) **The early Christians became powerful witnesses and brave martyrs for their Faith in Jesus.** **The Holy Spirit Role:** 1. An indwelling God, **the Holy Spirit makes us His Living Temples (1Cor 3:16)** 2. **As a strengthening God, strengthening us in our fight against temptations and in our mission of bearing witness to Christ.** 3. **Sanctifying us through the Holy Sacraments.** The Holy spirit clarifies and constantly reminds us of Christ's Teachings. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church through the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian Faith. **Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church.**

11. What synodality is NOT

Synodality is not about changing doctrine according to popular opinion. The faith handed down through the centuries is not negotiable. What synodality seeks to renew is how we live, communicate, and embody that faith in changing times.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December 2026, more information is available at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 17TH – 24TH MAY, 2026

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." -

Ephesians 4:4.



Mary Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia and of the Military Ordinariate

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers and under her protection, may the light of Christ shine over our land. May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.



Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Bless especially the men and women of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.

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: Mon 25th May – Our Lady Help of Christians (Patron Saint of Australia)

Tues 26th May – St Philip Neri Wed 27th May St Augustine Fri 29th : St Paul VI

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

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

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 centers, 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.

The Janssen Spirituality Centre Spirituality Dinner
Friday 29th May, 2026, 5.30pm -8.30pm
Topic: Inter-religious dialogue in a predominantly Muslim society: challenges, benefits & lessons.
Booking: Fr Thien Ph: 0432261194

Pentecost Sunday - Yr A
23rd / 24th May, 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Ingrid Mills

Those who we remember at this time

Luigi Albicini, Brian Hender, Lucia & Giuseppe Varrasso, Angela & Giuseppe Iacune, Jacob Warmerdam, Antonio Franchi, Betty Cameron, Karen Stephens, John Bognar, Mollie Dennis

The sick: Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hoefler, Barbara Kenny.

ROSARY the Rosary will be recited 30 minutes prior to all **weekday Masses** in the Church. All welcome to join in.

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE

When: **First Saturday of the Month** Please contact Joan Ryan on 0408 411 096 for details.

CHILDREN' LITURGY Our children's liturgy sessions are held in the room at the rear of the church.

ST. JOHN'S CHARISMATIC PRAYER on Tuesday Mornings in the Parish Community Centre , 10.15am for a 10.30am start. All welcome

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 **Every First & Third Sunday of the Month** in the Parish Community Centre. Email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com.

YOUTH GROUP Please dm us on Instagram @sjtb.youth or email us at sjbyouth@gmail.com if you would like to know more or if you have any questions

The National Count Taking place throughout May, 2026

FRANCISCUS: CELEBRATING 800 YEARS OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI! The Capuchin Franciscan Friars are hosting a 2-day Conference at St Anthony's, Hawthorn on the weekend of **30th-31st May** For more details, and to Register: : <https://www.trybooking.com/DMBUF>

PRAY FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS in Nigeria

Christians in Nigeria continue to suffer greatly for their faith, yet many persevere with deep trust in Christ and devotion to Our Lady. *Aid to the Church in Need* invites you to join with John, a Catholic farmer in Nigeria, in praying a decade of the Rosary this week for persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their faith. **Watch John's moving testimony** and **download a free Red Rosary Prayer Card** to unite your prayers with the suffering Church throughout the world. visit www.rebrand.ly/RedRosary26

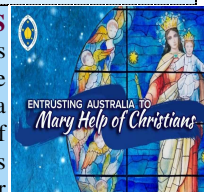


Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA



MAY – THE MONTH OF MARY

MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
Mary Help of Christians is the Patroness of Australia. The establishment of the feast has an interesting history, and a unique place in the Catholic history of Australia. The feast focusses on Mary's help to those in need through her intercession to confront sin and to stand against anti-Christian forces. *Pope Pius VII established the feast in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians in 1815. After being imprisoned by Napoleon Bonaparte, he established the feast in thanksgiving for his release. Australia, a new colony at that time, had no Catholic priests and therefore no Mass available. The faithful recited and relied on the Rosary to sustain the Catholic community. In 1844, Australia became the first country in the world to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness.* From the ACBC Resource *Entrusting Australia to Mary Help of Christians, 2020.*



PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL Thank you for your support of this appeal, the amount raised was **\$720.35.**

ADORATION FOR WORLD PEACE Thank you to all who came to be a part of the special day of Intercession to Mary our Mother for World Peace.

BISHOP TERRY CURTIN ON RETIREMENT AND ENCOUNTERING "QUIET HOLINESS" A thanksgiving Mass for Bishop Terence 'Terry' Curtin took place on Saturday 16 May 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral, with friends, family, colleagues, students and previous parishioners filling the Cathedral to offer their gratitude for the bishop's many years of service across academia, diocesan ministry and parish life. While he officially retired in January 2025, it wasn't the smooth transition that he'd hoped for, as six weeks later, he was diagnosed with cancer in his right lung. Read more about this and a deeply moving experience of 'quiet holiness' on a recent pilgrimage to Lourdes, [here](#).

ACU LAUNCHING NEW SCHOLARSHIP to honour one of Australia's most renowned theologians. The Anthony J Kelly CSsR PhD Scholarship honours the enduring contribution of Prof Kelly, who is also remembered as a poet, artist, philosopher and one of Australia's most influential Catholic thinkers. The **scholarship** is funded in partnership with the Redemptorists (Oceania), and will fund doctoral candidates to undertake a PhD or Doctor of Ministry in systematic theology. Find out more here: [Anthony J Kelly scholarship to shape future... | Melbourne Catholic](#)

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK May 27-31st June. Is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. Find out more at [What is National Reconciliation Week? - Reconciliation Australia](#)



COME ALONG TO SHARE PENTECOST Sunday – CELEBRATION MASS.



A Celebration of Gifts and Talents and Reunion of Newly Baptised, and a huge thank you to all our volunteers who assist in the Parish. We appreciate you, and the gifts you give, to strengthen our community.

When: **24th May 2026 Sunday Mass at 10:30am** (see flyer in church) Refreshments: will be served after Mass in the Parish Community Centre Please bring a plate of finger-food to share.

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Marion Elizabeth Brett** will be celebrated at St Paul's Monbulk Church on **Tuesday, 26th May, 2026 at 11am**.

PROCLAIM26 DAY ONE: This day is dedicated just for clergy and lay leaders. It is an inspiring two-day gathering to equip, form and send clergy, lay leaders and all who want to share Jesus Christ into their communities. **The Keynote Speaker is Sherry A Weddell**, co-founder and Executive Director of the Catherine of Siena Institute. She is the author of *Called & Gifted* charism discernment process and several books including *global best-seller, Forming Intentional Disciples*.



DAY TWO: For All – whether clergy, lay leader, or someone interested in sharing the Good News. Cost : \$30 per person per day, or 2 day ticket \$50 **Ticket includes lunch, refreshments, access to the keynote sessions and workshops.** Find out more [Proclaim26 | Melbourne Catholic](#) Register Now!



St. Francis of Assisi SHOWCASE

Calling all performers!

To celebrate the **Franciscan Jubilee Year**, COG Theatre is hosting a musical showcase highlighting the life of St Francis of Assisi.

Expressions of interest welcome!

If you are a performer, technician, administrator or are just eager to get involved, please contact cogtheatre@group@gmail.com OR 0413 398 528.

ROSTERS: Mon 25th May to Sun 31st May 2026

Flowers	Genevieve & Tess
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6.00 pm Kathryn C, Myra N, 10.30am Joanna C, Thelma, Anna M
Lectors	6.00pm Gab C 10.30am Peter J
Counters	Joan R, Peter C, Ruben P
Gardening	Theresa N