

## FIRST READING

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

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ *God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians  
1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that

you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The Word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Go and teach all people my gospel.*

*I am with you always, until the end of the world.*

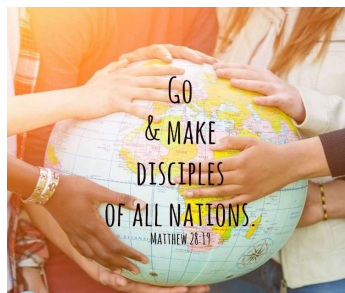
*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: [office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)



## The Ascension of the Lord - YRA

16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2026. Year of St Francis

**FOCUS on the WORD:** Today's readings describe the Ascension of the Lord Jesus into Heavenly glory, after promising to send the Holy Spirit as the source of Heavenly power for the apostles and commanding them to bear witness to him through their lives and preaching throughout the world. What we celebrate today is Jesus' exaltation and the end of his earthly existence, as a prelude to the gift of the Spirit. The ascended Jesus is still with us because of **his promise, "I am with you always; yes, to the end of time"** (Mt 28:20). He is with us at all times and in all places, releasing a new power upon the earth, the power of the Holy Spirit Who enables us to preach the Good News of salvation and to bear witness to Jesus in keeping and living out his word. Hence, today's feast is the celebration of Jesus' glory after his suffering and death – the glory in which we also hope to share. The Ascension and Pentecost, together, mark the beginning of the Church. **The feast of the Ascension tells us that the Church must be a community "in mission," guided by the Holy Spirit** and confident of God's protection, even amid suffering and in the face of death. Today's liturgy communicates the Ascension's significance for us: **"He ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before"** (Preface I of the Ascension of the Lord).

## 10. Synodality is about mission

The purpose of synodality is not internal reform for its own sake. Its goal is evangelisation—helping the Church become more faithful, more welcoming, and more effective in proclaiming the Gospel to today's world

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

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 17<sup>TH</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2026

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." - *Ephesians 4:4.*



## Prayer for the synod

*Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus*

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,  
As we gather together in your name

With you alone to guide us,  
Make yourself at home in our hearts.

Teach us the way we must go  
And how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote  
disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong  
path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in you our unity, so that we may  
journey together to eternal life and not stray  
from the way of truth, and what is right.

All this we ask of you,

Who are at work in every place and time,  
In the communion of the Father and the Son,  
Forever and ever. Amen.

Attributed to St Isidore of Seville (c. 560 – 4 April 636).

**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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention) safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

**MEMORIALS/FEASTS: Sun 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – World Communications Day – Holy See Wed 18<sup>th</sup> May – St John I  
Wed 20<sup>th</sup> May St Bernardine of Siena Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>: St Christopher Magallanes Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> St Rita of Cascia  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. 17<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May.**

*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](mailto:thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**ASSISTANT PRIEST:**  
Fr Peter Nguyen 9758 1029  
Email: [Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au](mailto:Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au)

**DEACON:**  
Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029  
Email: [Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)  
**PPG CHAIR** Carolyn Sombekke  
Email: [csombekkesjb@gmail.com](mailto:csombekkesjb@gmail.com)

**SCHOOLS:**  
**St John the Baptist** 9758 1013  
Principal: Kelli Johnston  
Email: [kjohnston@siferntreegully.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kjohnston@siferntreegully.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** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2pm  
**WILLOWBROOK MASS** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au).

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



**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 [cogtheatretroupe@gmail.com](mailto:cogtheatretroupe@gmail.com) OR 0413 398 528.

**The Ascension of the Lord- Yr A**  
16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 - Year of St Francis

**PRAYING FOR...**

**All who have died recently:**

Graeme Prince, Sofia Katharina Knur, Solange Duivenvoorden, Immaculata Tudisca

**Those who we remember at this time**

Laurie Nicholls, Angela Sawyer, Frances Masterson, Anna Masciarelli, Christopher Walter, Sasty Sastradipradja, Thomas Meehan; Harvey Mitchell, Elenora Discenza; Gil Asuncion, Margaret McCluskey. **The sick:** Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hofer, 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 Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 in the Parish Community Centre. Email [jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com](mailto:jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com).

**YOUTH GROUP** Thank you to everyone who bought a pie last weekend! We hope you enjoyed the delicious treat and that all mums enjoyed a relaxing Mother's Day. Thanks to your support, the **Youth Group raised \$1069.06** to go towards World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul. Please keep an eye out for future Youth Group events!

**The National Count Taking** place throughout May, 2026



**LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2026** will be held from 17-24 May this year's theme 'From Hope to Action. Enrol here: <https://laudatosiweek.org/>



**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](http://www.rebrand.ly/RedRosary26)

**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>

**MAY – THE MONTH OF MARY**

**ADORATION FOR WORLD PEACE** on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

**PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL** for Yamikani, getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. But there is hope. Let by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built offering a safe place to learn, grow and look ahead. **You are invited to share in this mission by your offering to this worthy appeal.**

This year marks 100 years of World Mission Day, a time in which the global Church celebrates God's mission through prayer and generosity. Today, that mission continues in places like Malawi, where communities are rebuilding after devastating floods and families are striving to create a future for their children. In the coming weeks, we will share how the Church is walking alongside these communities, and how you can be part of this living mission of love. To learn more about Catholic Mission and our work, please go to [catholicmission.org.au/united](http://catholicmission.org.au/united).

**ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE SYNOD CONTINUES: A NEW SYNOD COMMISSION HAS BEEN APPOINTED.** Having already met twice, the synod Commission is calling on all the faithful to pray during the month of May for missionary leadership in our Archdiocese. **The members of the Synod Commission for Melbourne** are Bong Bernardo, Fr Cameron Forbes, Jacqui Giuliano, Silvana Scarfe, Fr Binh Le, Fr Dean Mathieson, Marcelle Mogg, Teresa Rhynehart, Sr Katherine Stone MGL, Jasmin Tavita and Judeline Wadhvani. The commission's second meeting was focused on the synod membership. Theme papers are in progress and will be released progressively in the last week of May, focusing on:

- young discipleship
- missionary leadership
- formation and participation.

**SAVE THE DATE & COME ALONG TO SHARE**

**PENTECOST Sunday – A** Celebration of Gifts and Talents and Reunion of Newly Baptised. When: **24<sup>th</sup> 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 food to share.

**FUNERAL MASS** for the late **Graeme Prince** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 at 11am** .

**FUNERAL MASS** for the late **Immaculata Tudisca** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2026 at 12.30pm rosary, 1pm Mass.**

**POPE LEO'S MESSAGE FOR THE 60TH WORLD DAY OF COMMUNICATION.** Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 60th World Day of Social Communications, entitled, **"Preserving Human Voices and Faces"**, is an important text. It is important for Catholics and non-Catholics, for believers and for non-believers. It is important because of its many implications — political, religious, moral, social, economic. His text published on 24<sup>th</sup> January, offers a stark warning: **AI and digital technologies are reshaping human communication, creativity and identity. And the greatest risks, the pope said, are not technical but deeply human.** If we fail in safeguarding and educating on how to use it, digital technology, Pope Leo said, "risks radically modifying some of the fundamental pillars of human civilization which we sometimes take for granted." By "simulating human voices and faces, wisdom and knowledge, awareness and responsibility, empathy and friendship, systems known as artificial intelligence not only interfere with information ecosystems, but also invade the deepest level of communication, that of relationships between human persons." **AI cannot replace human encounter.** The challenge, therefore, the pontiff said "is not technological, but anthropological. Safeguarding faces and voices ultimately means safeguarding ourselves." Read more [Vatican Messages](#)

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 18<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> May**  
We recognise and thank all our volunteers for giving their time and talents, and strengthening our community!

**ROSTERS: Mon 18<sup>th</sup> May to Sun 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Sabrina McK
Welcomers	6.00 pm Lia U , Help needed 10.30am Terry S, Neil R, Priya H
Lectors	6.00pm Phuong B 10.30am Gordon V
Counters	Bryon, Ruby, Guil
Gardening	Theresa N