

## FIRST READING

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

49:1-6

Islands, listen to me, pay attention, remotest peoples. The Lord called me before I was born, from my mother's womb he pronounced my name. He made my mouth a sharp sword, and hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me into a sharpened arrow, and concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, 'You are my servant Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; while I was thinking, 'I have toiled in vain, I have exhausted myself for nothing'; and all the while my cause was with the Lord, my reward with my God. I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ I praise you for I am wonderfully made.*

## SECOND READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

13:22-26

Paul said: 'God made David the king of our ancestors, of whom he approved in these words, "I have elected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal." 'My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you who fear God, this message of salvation is meant for you.'

**The Word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.

Alleluia!

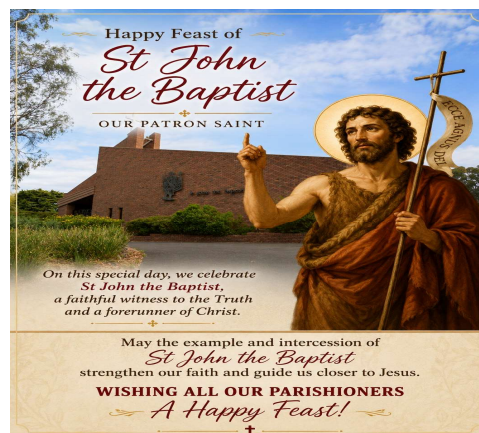
## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

1:57-66, 80

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son; and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy. Now on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother spoke up. 'No,' she said 'he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'But no one in your family has that name', and made signs to his father to find out what he wanted him called. The father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And they were all astonished. At that instant his power of speech returned and he spoke and praised God. All their neighbours were filled with awe and the whole affair was talked about throughout the hill country of Judaea. All those who heard of it treasured it in their hearts. 'What will this child turn out to be?' they wondered. And indeed the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew up and his spirit matured. And he lived out in the wilderness until the day he appeared openly to Israel.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



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**The Gospel of the Lord.**

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

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## FEAST CELEBRATION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time- YR A

27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026. - Year of St Francis



**FOCUS ON THE WORD** When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, the whole village was quite certain that the child would be called Zechariah after his father. But Elizabeth resisted and Zechariah had no hesitation in writing, 'His name is John' – *is* John. Present tense.

This caused great consternation in the village. This could only mean that more shocking breaks with tradition were to come. And in the last verse of today's Gospel, we learn that this now young man is not preparing for priestly service at the Temple!

He is out in the wilderness! He has adopted the lifestyle of the most marginal, living outside settled existence where tradition suffocates.

Pope Francis constantly urges us to be challenged by those existing on the margins. This encompasses not only those who are suffering exclusion, injustice or who are simply without the necessities of life. He is also concerned with those on the peripheries of world power. Perhaps this is best symbolised in the choosing of a Cardinal from Tonga which has only 15,000 Catholics! We could **pause for a moment to pray that we are sufficiently open to receive God's messengers, who may erupt from the margins, from 'the wilderness' of the peripheries, even from Argentina!**



## 16. Synodality and the margins

A synodal Church pays attention to voices often overlooked: the poor, the wounded, the disaffected, and those who feel distant from the Church. Their experiences matter, and their stories can teach us where renewal is most needed. 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)

**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.

<b>MEMORIALS/FEASTS</b>	<b>Mon 29<sup>th</sup> June</b> Sts Peter & Paul, apostles - <b>Solemnity</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> June</b> First Martyrs Rome
	<b>Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b> St Thomas, apostle - <b>Feast</b>	<b>Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July</b> St Elizabeth of Portugal

*I have come that you may have life and have it to the full*

(John 10:10)

**PARISH PRIEST:**  
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**ASSISTANT PRIEST:**  
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**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@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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** 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 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](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au).

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

**PERSECUTION & FAITH: A WITNESS OF COURAGE AND FORGIVENESS FROM PAKISTAN** 20-year-old Akash Bashir was serving as a volunteer security guard at his parish in Lahore, Pakistan, when a terrorist with explosives tried to enter the church. Akash said, "I would rather die than let you in," and then gave his life to prevent a massacre. In the years since, his parents have offered an extraordinary witness of Christian faith. **Read more testimonies of faith from Aid to the Church in Need at:** [aidtochurch.org/welcome](http://aidtochurch.org/welcome)

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A**  
**27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 - Year of St Francis**

**PRAYING FOR...**

**All who have died recently:**

**Those who we remember at this time**

Federico, Angelo, Giuseppina and Andy Zarro, Margherita, Damiano, Luigi, Cosimo & Gilda Coviello, Norma Guinane, Beverly O'Connor, Anne Daelmans, John Greene, Mary VandenBoogard, Peter Halliday, Innocenzo Abbatangelo.

**The sick:** Angela Lorusso, 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](mailto:jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com).

**YOUTH GROUP** Please dm us on Instagram @sjtb.youth or email us at [sjtb youth@gmail.com](mailto:sjtb youth@gmail.com) if you would like to know more or if you have any questions

**DARE TO PAUSE a day for youth 18 – 30yrs**

Event Address: Salesian Sisters 43 George St Scoresby 3179. Discover the Pearl of Great Price in Your Life.

When: Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026 10am -3.30pm

When: Saturday 11th July 2026  
Where: 43 George St. Scoresby  
Time: 10.00 am - 3.30 pm.  
Cost: Free -- bring a friend

Scan me

RSVP: 4<sup>th</sup> July <https://forms.gle/knz5Md3RurpJycBL8>

**SAVE THE DATE:** for our St John's Parish Social Lunch **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2026 from 12pm -4pm.**

**DIVINE AUSTRALIA HEALING MASSES & retreats**  
**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026**, Holy Family Church Doveton -contact Ralph 0425797355 / [www.divineaustralia.au](http://www.divineaustralia.au)

**OUR PEOPLE ARE OUR RICHES: SHERRY WEDDELL ON THE CHURCH'S UNTAPPED WEALTH**

**PROCLAIM 26** Join Sherry Weddell and Archbishop Peter A Comensoli for Proclaim26 at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne, on Friday 26 June and Saturday 27 June 2026. The event aims to equip and send Catholics to proclaim the Gospel in their local communities with formative talks, interactive workshops and real-life stories of renewal. Go to the [Proclaim26 webpage](http://Proclaim26 webpage).

**SACRAMENTAL CLASSES FOR FIRST EUCHARIST 2026** the Sacramental classes for children who do not attend catholic schools and are ready to make their First Eucharist, **will begin in July.** If you have a child who is in grade 4 or upwards and has made their First Reconciliation, please contact **Mary** at: [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au) or Phone 9758 1029.



**LECTOR AND MINISTER OF THE EUCHARIST ROSTER** Dear Lectors and Ministers we are at that time once again to renew our liturgy roster for the next term from weekend 2 August 2026 / 29 November 2026. Please let us know of your availability, no later than Monday 13th July, by contacting the parish office on Phone: 9758 1029 or [marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au). Thank you all for your ministry and service it is very much appreciated.

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL** Caritas Australia is urging the Australian community not to look away as the war in Ukraine continues for a fifth straight year. As violence escalates in other parts of the world, Ukraine is slipping from headlines, but for millions of people the suffering has not stopped.

Help bring hope to families caught in conflict.

DONATE NOW

Caritas agencies remain on the ground because the need remains immense. In 2026, an estimated 10.8 million people in Ukraine will require humanitarian assistance. As one Caritas Ukraine staff member shared: *"...The realisation of the exhaustion from the war and the necessity to keep living despite it all paralyses me. Before my eyes, night and dawn. Breakfast after the last Zircon missile explodes as if it is inside my head. Getting the child ready for daycare..On the way, I keep thinking about what phoenixes we are."* <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/ukraine/>

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

**PETERS PENCE APPEAL** On Sunday 29 June 2026 the traditional **Peter's Pence** collection takes place. *"Let us resolve*

**PETER'S PENCE**

"May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all." (1 Thess. 3:12)

to bring his love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all

Credit card

*in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering."* Pope Leo XIV. This is a concrete way to support the Holy Father in his mission of service to the universal Church. **Peter's Pence** is a gesture of communion and participation in the Pope's mission to proclaim the Gospel, promote peace, and spread Christian charity. **Visit: the official website at:** [www.obolodisanpietro.va](http://www.obolodisanpietro.va)

**St Johns Tennis Club** Closing  
As the Club prepares to close and the land transitions to St Joseph's College for future use, all past and present members, parishioners, and friends are **warmly invited to a FINAL BBQ at the courts - This Sunday 28 June 2026 at 12.30pm** Food and drinks will be provided. Everyone is welcome.



**PARISH FEAST OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST** Celebrated on **Sunday 28th June at 10:30am mass. EVERYONE IS INVITED!** Refreshments will follow in the School Hall. Bring a plate of food to share. Please join in on this day of our Patron Saint!

**ROSTERS: Mon 29<sup>th</sup> to Sun 5<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

Flowers	Marg H and Judy G
Linen	Sabrina Mc K
Welcomers	6.00pm Peter G & Wilma H 10.30am Joanna C, Thelma B, Anna M & Priya F-H
Lectors	6.00pm Alvi M 10.30am Pamela E
Counters	Tony B, Steph H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T