

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Zechariah
9: 9-10

The Lord says this:

‘Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.’

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**R./I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.**

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. (R.)
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans 8:9, 11-13

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but
in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has
made his home in you. In fact, unless you

possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not
belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised
Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who
raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your
own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in
you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us
to obey our unspiritual selves or to live
unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you
are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an
end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones
the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, ‘I bless you, Father, Lord of
heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from
the learned and the clever and revealing them to
mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it
pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted
to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son
except the Father, just as no one knows the Father
except the Son and those to whom the Son
chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are
overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder
my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and
humble in heart, and you will find rest for your
souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

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14th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA
4th / 5th July 2026. - Year of St Francis

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER SUNDAY



FOCUS ON THE WORD Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday is an invitation to pause, to listen, and to stand in solidarity - honouring the Faith, Culture, and ongoing presence of First Nations Peoples. Inviting communities to learn from, celebrate, and walk together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, as one in faith. Today’s gospel says “I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children” (Matthew 11:25) A little child is always open to the other person they encounter, especially their parents who have loved them into life. **Little Children remind us through their actions without judgment, of the Sacred Heart of Christ.** The second part of today’s Gospel connects us with the reality of life for many people living on the margins, peripheries of society and often excluded unintentionally because of culture and background. “Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. ... Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light”. (Matthew 11:28-29a, 30) **The journey through life does not follow straight lines with sealed footpaths.** On the journey, Matthew reminds all people we are not alone. **Jesus does walk beside us through life sharing his yoke to guide us with hope.** In our history, the First Australians did feel very alone, with few people walking with them through a history with little hope or light for a better way where they were separated from what gave meaning to their very existence. Great damage was done to families, culture and traditions where healing does not happen very easily. Again, Pope John Paul reminded us of the hidden history of displacement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples which impacted many generations even to today.’ Christian people of good will are saddened to realize – many of them only recently – for how long a time Aboriginal people were transported from their homelands into small areas or reserves where families were broken up, tribes split apart, children orphaned and people forced to live like exiles in a foreign country’. What if Christians can emulate the vision from the Prophet Zechariah in the first reading in walking besides, not ahead or behind, First Nations Peoples with humility and openness to their lives as they are to ours, Australia will be a beacon of hope and light for all the world to see. *Bishop Michael Morrissey Bishop of Geraldton*



17. Synodality requires humility

Walking together means recognising that no one has all the answers. Synodality invites humility—from leaders and from communities—so that the Spirit can guide us beyond our limitations.

. The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December 2026, more information is available at 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 safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.

MEMORIALS/FEASTS Mon 6th July St Maria Goretti - 7th July St Peter To Rot
Thurs 9th July St Augustine Zhao Rong Sat 11th July St Benedict

*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
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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
Email: csombekkesjb@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.

CDF Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account.

With competitive interest rates, it's a greater reward than money alone.

Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information



Save for a Greater Reward

14th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
4th / 5th June, 2026 - Year of St Francis
Observance: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:



Those who we remember at this time
Dr. Ken Bluett, David Waters, Margaret Hudson, Luigia Ferroni, Caterina Fratino, Antonio Pallotta, Carmine Porcaro.

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'S LITURGY will have a break over the school holidays, but we will be back next term. 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

PROCLAIM26 IGNITES LEADERS FOR MISSION
Evangelisation should take centre stage in the life of a parish, argues world renowned expert on discipleship Sherry Weddell. But it is not something that is automatic among Church members, rather a vocation that needs to be nurtured in order to bear real fruit. Ms Weddell was the guest speaker at the major Archdiocesan conference, Proclaim26, run by the Office for Mission Renewal. She started with the truth often missed: **the real wealth of the Church is found in it's people . Our institutions, as important as they are and valuable as they are, are trellises for the vine, and we are the branches of the vine can bear the fruit,** she said. The most essential thing that we can do to help, is actually to encounter Christ in a living way and to come to know him, love him, follow him and offer themselves as instruments of his healing purposes in the world. To Read more Click [here](#).



UNFOLDING CATASTROPHE IN VENEZUELA THREATENS TENS OF THOUSAND MORE LIVES

Caritas is warning that the humanitarian situation in Venezuela is rapidly deteriorating in the aftermath of the devastating double earthquake on 24th June. There are fears the true scale of the catastrophe is still emerging and could reach up to 100,000 casualties in the coming weeks as missing people are located. Current official figures confirm at least 1,700 people have died, more than 5,000 have been injured and tens of thousands remain trapped or missing. Caritas Venezuela has been working in the country since 1963 and is present in all states across the country through its diocesan network. Prior to the earthquake, the organisation was supporting more than 60,000 vulnerable households amid an economic crisis that saw 7.9mil people already requiring humanitarian assistance.

To support Caritas Australia's Venezuela Earthquake Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/venezuela or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY

On the first Sunday of July each year, the Catholic Church in Australia celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. On this day, we gather as one to honour and celebrate the rich cultural heritage and spirituality of our First Nations peoples, and the contributions they make the life of the Church. The Theme for this year is **"Walking together in Christ: 40 years on!"**

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to respect and value the cultures of our First Nations Peoples. Open our hearts to listen, learn and appreciate their stories, wisdom and traditions. Guid us to walk together with kindness, understanding and peace, building a future of hope and unity. Amen.



DIVINE AUSTRALIA HEALING MASSES & retreats Wed 1st July – 12th July 2026, with Fr Antony Parankimalil VC - contact Ralph 0425797355 <https://www.divineaustralia.au/> Some flyers are available at the back of the church with all the dates for the upcoming events.

Catholic Mission sincerely thanks the parish community of St John the Baptist for your generous support of this year's Propagation of the Faith Appeal., which will help bring education to the children in **Kampira Malawi.**

PETERS PENCE APPEAL Thank you for your donations to the Peters Pence appeal last week. **The amount raised was: \$723.45** If you would still like to contribute to this appeal, please **Visit: the official website at: www.obolodisanpietro.va**

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. Thank you all for your ministry and service it is very much appreciated.

POPE LEO APPOINTS ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI TO DICASTERY FOR EVANGELISATION Pope Leo XIV has appointed Archbishop Peter A Comensoli to the Dicastery for Evangelisation, Section for Fundamental



Questions regarding Evangelisation in the World. The appointment was announced on Saturday 27th June. Archbishop Peter thanked the Holy Father for the trust he has placed in him with the appointment, and committed to working diligently for the evangelising mission of the Church. According to its constitution, the dicastery "serves the work of evangelisation, so that Christ, the light of the nations may be known and witnessed to by word and deed, and the Church his mystical Body, may be built up." Read [more here](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESE TURNS 179yrs. Established on 25th June 1847, to become the biggest Archdiocese in Australia. Read more at [Melbourne Catholic](#)

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 or Phone 9758 1029.



ROSTERS: Mon 6th July^h to Sun 12th July 2026

Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6.00pm Rosina L, Lyn K, Myra N 10.30am Shami & Chamal A
Lectors	6.00pm Phuong B 10.30am Carolyn S
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Carlos E