

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55.10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now

the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

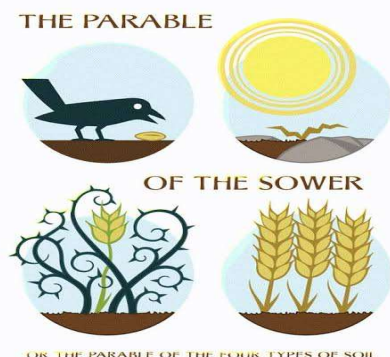
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:1-9

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis
11th /12th July 2026. SEAFARER'S SUNDAY

FOCUS ON THE WORD Today's readings are about the transforming power of the word of God when read, preached, and lived. They also warn us not to be disappointed at the absence of immediate results. We must take a positive and optimistic view of our missionary efforts, as we keep on bearing witness to Christ's Gospel. The parable of the sower in today's Gospel challenges us to listen intently to God's Word, to be open to it, and to allow our lives to be shaped by its power. The parable reminds us that man's reception of God's Word is determined by the condition of his heart.

We need to keep our spiritual soil free from weeds, fertile, and well-prepared for the word of God: **First, we need to keep our hearts open to the word of God** instead of closing it with pride, prejudice, fear, or laziness. **Second, we also need to ask God's special grace to remove all types of blocks** which harden our hearts, like laziness, anxiety, worries, hatred, jealousy, prejudice and the burden of un-repented/unconfessed sins, any of which can prevent the word of God from influencing and transforming our lives. **Third, we have to remove from our hearts the weeds like evil habits and addictions**, evil tendencies, hatred, jealousy, fear, and greed. **Fourth, we should not allow the trials and tribulations of this world (the cares of this world, our ambitions, or our desires for worldly success and happiness), to choke out the messages that God gives through His word.** Last, **we have to keep the soil of our hearts fertile** by our prayer life, repenting daily of our sins receiving the sacrament of reconciliation when necessary, and receiving the spiritual food of the Holy Eucharist by participating in the Holy Mass. **Jesus also invites his followers to embrace the Faith of the sower:** to trust and believe that our simplest acts of kindness and forgiveness, our humblest offers of help to anyone in need, may be the seeds that fall "on good soil" and yield an abundant harvest. <https://frtonyshomilies.com/blog/>



18. Is synodality slow?

Synodality may seem slower than top-down decision-making, but it often leads to deeper, more lasting renewal. What is discerned together is more likely to be embraced together.

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	Sun 12 th July	Seafarers Sunday	Mon 13 th July	St Henry
	Tue 14 th July	St Camillus de Lellis	Wed 15 th July	St Bonaventure
			Thur 16 th	Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruvila 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
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.



Save for a Greater Reward

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



15th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
11th / 12th June, 2026 - Year of St Francis
SEAFARER'S SUNDAY

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:
Denis Danker-Gios, Paul Pepi, Deana McGregor

Those who we remember at this time
Godfrey Guneratne, June Caton, Patrick Stewart, Richard Makarucha, Margharita Capozzi, Leonie Ricchetti, Terry Whelan, Frank Sainato Porzia Mazzei, Alba Sasso, Monica Youngson

The sick: Angela Lorusso, Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hoefer, 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 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 of school term** in the Parish Community Centre. Email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com.

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

POWER RETREAT: YOUNG MEN OF GOD MOVEMENT CONFERENCE 2026 a three day weekend getaway to power up mid year, deepen in faith, strengthen brotherhood and grow in leadership. A power-packed line-up of inspiring speakers, fellowship and food. For men aged 18yrs and above. Belgrave Heights Convention Centre **17-19 July**, Fri 6pm – Sun 3pm Cost \$250 YMGMOVEMENT.ORG.AU Ph Jensen 0416 319 387

LECTOR AND MINSTER 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.

ARCHBISHOP WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF Mgr STUART HALL AS BISHOP OF MILITARY ORDINARIATE The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne warmly welcomes the appointment by Pope Leo XIV of Mgr Stuart Hall, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral Melb, as Bishop of the Military Ordinariate of Australia. 'The appointment to oversee the pastoral care of military chaplains is a recognition of the vital ministry they provide to the men and women who serve our nation,' Archbishop Costelloe said. Read [more here](#).

 **A warm welcome to Bishop Les Tomlinson DD** who will be celebrating Mass with us at St John's on Sunday 12th July at 10.30am.

BRING HOPE TO THE "INVISIBLE" ON SEA SUNDAY Australian Catholics are being encouraged to reflect on the lives and experiences of mariners on Sea Sunday (12th July 2026). The National director of Stella Maris Australia Fr Tony Cox SSC says mariners live on the margins of society, and most of their working life is spent beyond the reach of land. One visiting seafarer said to me, "People do not see us, and because of our invisibility, they think we are not human. They do not see what we do and forget that we too have needs," Fr Tony says.

He points to the experience of the COVID pandemic, when seafarers were unable to set foot on dry land for a year and a half, and now the war-torn seas of the Straits of Hormuz as examples of how dangerous the work is. Sea Sunday is a time when we reflect on the lives and work of all the seafarers of our world. The official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church is Stella Maris – formerly known as the Apostleship of the sea. It operates in more than 300 ports around the world.

To support this important ministry, donations can be made to 'The Apostleship of the Sea Current Account', BSB 062 784, Account Number 100 012 583, or by clicking the 'Donate' link on the [Stella Maris, Australia](#) website

MASS FOR MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES
Married couples and their families are cordially invited to join us as we celebrate the gift of marriage and family. Couples who register and are celebrating the following anniversaries—5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years and above—will receive a commemorative certificate. Please register for your spot by Tuesday 7 July. For any queries, please contact the Proclaim team on 9926 5761 or at proclaim@cam.org.au.

SACRAMENTAL CLASSES FOR FIRST EUCHARIST 2026 LAST CHANCE for children who do not attend Catholic schools and are ready (is in grade 4 or upwards and has made their First Reconciliation) to make their First Eucharist, **will begin in July. Please enrol now, call Mary on 9758 1029 . Application forms are available on the Parish Website <https://stjohnthebaptist.net.au/> under the Liturgy Tab.**

BAPTISMS Congratulations to *Charlie Banks, son of Elspeth & Holly, and Alana Snooks daughter of Benjamin & Jingwen* who are to be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Paul Pepi** will be celebrated at St Joseph's Church in Emerald on **Wednesday 15th July at 11.30am - Rosary 11.00am prior to the 11.00am Funeral Mass**

GOOD CONVERSATIONS • GREAT PEOPLE • CATHOLIC FAITH

GOD & BEER

FAITH • FRIENDSHIP • FELLOWSHIP

CREATIVE CATHOLICISM

DATE: TUESDAY 14TH JULY
TIME: 6:30PM FOR A 7:00PM START
VENUE: DUNLOP PAVILION AT DW LUCAS OVAL EAST MALVERN

YOU: DINNER AVAILABLE BY PRE-PURCHASE ONLY

FR JAMES GRANT
Parish Priest, Author & Speaker

WHAT IS GOD AND BEER?
A relaxed, supporting space where men and women explore their faith and life through the lens of beer and the big questions. Come for the beer, stay for the conversation.

Supported by: [GodandBeer.com.au](#) and [CDF](#)

God & Beer: When: **Tues 14 July 2026 - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**
Location: Dunlop Pavilion (DW Lucas Oval), **Dunlop St, East Malvern** . Fr James will speak about what he calls "Creative Catholicism" — a practical and hopeful vision for renewing Catholic life in Australia. To book: <https://app.tickets.org.au/GodandBeer/GABJul2026>

YOUTH LEADERS TRAINING WITH QWAYNE GUEVERA Youth and young adult leaders are invited to explore synodality and accompaniment, leaving with practical tools to take back to their own communities. **Qwayne Guevara** is the facilitator for formation and young people at the National Centre for Evangelisation of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. She has worked in ministry and formation across greater Sydney for over a decade, following earlier roles in community organising, advocacy and corporate immigration law. This is a great opportunity for leaders, both emerging and experienced, to grow in confidence, connect with other leaders and be renewed in their mission. **Saturday 18th July, 2026 9am-3pm** at the Cathedral Room, **Cardinal Knox Centre** 383 Albert St Est Melb. The day begins with optional 8am Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. Morning tea and lunch are provided. <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1604255>

ROSTERS: Mon 13 th July to Sun 19 th July 2026	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Laurel S
Welcomers	6.00pm Myra N, Wilma H 10.30am Terry S, Neil R, Priya H
Lectors	6.00pm Gab C 10.30am Gordon V
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Carlos E