

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. (R.)

2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. (R.)

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

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
Shorter Form: 13:24-30

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.



Listen anyone who has ears!

COG theatre group is preparing a musical showcase to commemorate the year of St Francis of Assisi so we are looking for those who'd like to use their skills to contribute or are simply curious, eager or interested to help front or backstage. Training is provided so beginners are welcome. All are welcome to join in. We are holding an orientation for this musical showcase on Sunday 26 of July, at 2.30pm Contact for further information: 0413 398 528 or book <https://www.trybooking.com/DNZZS>

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

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Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis
18th /19th July 2026.

FOCUS ON THE WORD The Gospel', Pope Leo says, 'resounds where peoples meet.' **Exclusion is not Christ's way – encounter is.** The Gospel 'falls silent,' the Pope warns, 'when each person makes him or herself an island, avoiding contact and cutting off exchange.' We must never presume another person to be daniel, unworthy to be counted among us.

Individuals and groups may exclude themselves from the Church, but we are not called to exclude them. **'There is no love of God without love of neighbour,'** the Pope reminds us, 'and there is no neighbour if I do not draw near.' **We are called to help the wayward and lost, not reject them.** This also applies at a societal level, regarding those with beliefs or cultures different from our own. 'It is time', the Pope states emphatically, 'to recognise and affirm that religious affiliation must never become a reason for discrimination.' The Pope implores us all to 'give spiritual, cultural, legal, political and economic expression to the civilisation of love.' We might not all be lawmakers, but we can take up this call. **'The parish, in particular,' the Pope added, 'should be a community where, guided by the Gospel, we learn to welcome, accompany and integrate one another in a spirit of communion.'** (Quotes from Homily at Lampedusa, 4 July 2026: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260704-lampedusa-messa.html>)



20. Synodality and the Eucharist

The Eucharist is the heart of synodality. Around one table, many are gathered as one Body. What we celebrate sacramentally must shape how we live communally. **The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December**

2026, more information is available at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

Melbourne synod 2026 – Theme Paper Release The Synod theme papers are an important step in our journey of listening and discernment as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to foster a spirit of hope and imagination—trusting that, as we walk together, God is calling us into a future marked by faithfulness, renewal, and deeper communion. The suggested reflection process is a 'Conversation in the Spirit' or a Spiritual Conversation. This method is based in prayer and allows people to come together to both speak and to listen. Different from a discussion, it is an attentive listening process that aims to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. At the conclusion of each theme paper, there are prompt questions for reflection. Responses to these prompt questions can be provided via the QR code which is at the end of each paper.

We pray for the Melbourne Synod: That our preparations will be marked by wisdom in decision-making, courage in leadership, and humility in listening to one another. May the Spirit guide our every conversation and action. Amen.

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 20 th July	St Apollinaris	Tues 21 st	St Lawrence of Brindisi	Wed 22 nd July	St Mary
Magdalene	Thur 23 rd July	St Bridget	Fri 24 th July	St Sharbet Makhluf	Sat 25 th July	St James

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.

DID YOU LOSE A PAIR OF GLASSES? A pair of Red Framed glasses were found after the 10.30am Mass last weekend. There has also been a glasses case on the organ for several weeks. If these belong to you – please see Sue in the Sacristy prior or after Mass. Thank you. 

16th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
18th / 19th July, 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time

Louiza Concesso, Maria Van Den Boogaard, Giulio Rech, Adriana Bekkers John Bekkers, John Caulfield, Jim Feeney, Robert Whittle, Martin Pelgrim, Elena Sgarbossa, Jack Turner, Carlo Rossi, Christine Beyer, Concetta Porcaro, John Addicott, Nellie Plunket, Clare Clarke Amy M. Judit, Alan Bennett, Anthony Dalanwatte & Krissantha DeSilva.

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 Is back for term 3 Our children's liturgy sessions are held in the room at the rear of the church. All welcome 

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. See you on 19th July, 2026

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

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign will officially launch this August. the Campaign continues to provide an opportunity for Catholics across Melbourne to support the charitable, pastoral and evangelisation work of our Archdiocese through a single annual appeal. **Further information will be shared in the coming weeks; in the meantime, I encourage you to begin prayerfully discerning your support.**

WORKING AT THE VATICAN – New website to apply for a Job at the Vatican. Up to now, lay staff to be hired at various levels of the Holy See were selected based on available CV's (curriculum vitae). From now on it will be possible to directly apply for vacant or soon-to-be vacant positions. This is the main innovation of the **new website of the Secretariat for the Economy**, let by the Prefect, Maximino Caballero Ledo, which came online on Tuesday. Job Opportunities [here](http://www.vatican.va)



RECENT SCHISMATIC ACTIONS OF THE PRIESTLY SOCIETY OF SAINT PIUS x (SSPX) We have received Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Comensoli, and an English translation of the Decree and Explanatory Notes issued by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF), regarding the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X. Some copies of this letter, will be distributed on the bulletin trolley, for those who would like to know more, or, you can read a copy of the letter on our Parish Website.

TEMPORARY CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASS

TIMES: From Monday 27th July, Fr Thomas will be away on leave. **We wish Fr Thomas a safe and happy holiday. This will have a bearing on our Weekday Mass Times.** Fr Peter will move alternately weekly between the Parishes

Date 2026	Day	No Mass	Mass
27 Jul	Mon	No mass	Nil
28 Jul	Tues	Belgrave	7pm FTG
29 Jul	Wed	Belgrave	9.15am FTG
30 Jul	Thur	Belgrave	9.15am FTG
31 st Jul	Fri	-----	Belgrave 9am & FTG 11am
1 Aug	Sat	-----	9am Belgrave 6pm Emerald 6pm FTG
2 Aug	Sun	-----	10.30am FTG 9am Gembrook (S) 11am Monbulk (S)

A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT. Save the Date for

A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

A fundraising event for the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project.

On 16th August. 2026 At 2:00pm

In St John The Baptist School Hall, Forest Rd Ferntree Gully.

Enjoy conversation, entertainment and silent auction.

Bring a plate to share and \$10 donation.

The organisers would welcome assistance with serving coffee and tea. If you can help, please ring, leave a message or text your details to Marilyn Huber: 0447683218.



GOOD SAMARITAN "SAM PROGRAM" OPENS DOORS FOR WOMEN IN THEOLOGICAL STUDY

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan are offering Financial Support to Catholic Women undertaking tertiary study at a recognised theological institution who are aged over 30 yrs and who live in Australia, Kiribati, the Philippines or Japan –The program supports the education and formation of women leaders. Also helping cover tuition or other study-related costs. The SAM Program also includes spiritual accompaniment, mentoring and the chance to connect with other women in similar work and study. **Applications for the 2027 SAM Program close on 31st July 2026.** For further information, or to request an application pack, contact samleadership@goodsams.org.au

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE Since the earthquakes on June 24th, rescue efforts are slow, hampered by damaged infrastructure and limited resources. More than 3,300 people are confirmed dead, with thousands still missing. Thousands of families continue to sleep in parks, plazas and open spaces. **The situation is urgent.** Caritas Venezuela is operating 24hrs a day to support communities. Caritas has mobilised approx 30,000 volunteers across the country. **Please donate to the Caritas Australia Appeal** <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/venezuela-earthquake/> All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

MELBOURNE SYNOD there will be a **Regional Synod meeting** for the Eastern region on **Saturday 8th Aug, 2026** at the Manningham Hotel, 1 Thompsons Rd Bulleen 1.30pm Registration and Morning tea, 2pm Session. **2 people will be representing our Parish** at this meeting.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY – FEAST OF ST JOACHIM AND ANNE, 26TH JULY 2026 **Next weekend on 25th/26th July,** we will be celebrating our grandparents and the elderly. The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. So please, **invite your grandchildren to come along to Mass next weekend and celebrate with you.** 

COME AND REST – Jesuits and Ignation Retreat Days Kew Journey through a day of contemplative prayer guided by the timeless wisdom of Christian monks and mystics. Each day offers space for reflection, solitude and encounter with God through the voices of those who devoted their lives to sacred contemplation. **Saturday 8 August – BOOK BY 6 AUG.** Each day begins at 9.30am and concludes at 3pm Come as You Are. **Price:** \$65 including tea and coffee, prayer materials, retreat input and facilitation, and take-home resources **BYO:** Lunch, tea and coffee provided **Where:** Campion, 99 Studley Park Road, Kew, **Enter by Hodgson Street** **Facilitated by:** JISA Campion Spiritual Directors Apryl Huglin and Julie Mitchell. To Book click here: [2026 Come and Rest Retreat Days - Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia](http://2026.Come and Rest Retreat Days - Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia)

ROSTERS: Mon 20th July to Sun 26th July 2026

Flowers	Genevieve & Tess D
Linen	Sue N
Welcomers	6.00pm Lia U, Help needed 10.30am Florence J, Shamindri & Chamal
Lectors	6.00pm Louise Di B 10.30am Christopher G
Counters	Joan R, Peter C, Ruben P
Gardening	Carlos E