

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Kings 1 Kgs 3:7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.

The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. (R.)

2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.

Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. (R.)

3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold.

That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. (R.)

4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.

The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called

according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-52

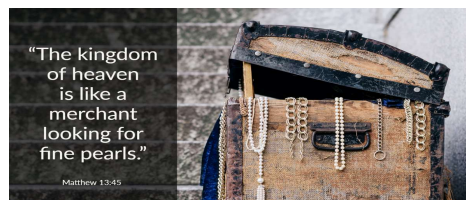
Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

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



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis
25th /26th July 2026. Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne.

FOCUS ON THE WORD Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: **treasure and delight.** The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. **A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.**

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. **All we have to do is accept it.**

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. **What we have been given, we must now give to others.** In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God. © Dianne Bergant CSA



21. Why the Church is embracing synodality now

The call to synodality is a response to the signs of the times. In a fragmented world, God calls the Church to witness communion, dialogue, and hope.

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 Sun 26th July World Day for Grandparents (Holy See) Sts Joachim & Anne.

Wed 29th Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus Thurs 31st July St Ignatius of Loyola Sat 1 Aug St Alphonsus Liguori

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.

COMING SOON – ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN...



17th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
25th /26th July, 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Louiza Concesso

Those who we remember at this time

Ada Arnold, Margaret Concetta Sainato, Giuseppina Dascoli, Primo Scapin, Pvt. Benjamin Ranaldo, Clara Coviello, Edgar Silva.

The sick: Peter Lane, 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'S 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. Praise & Worship, intercessory prayer and a shared lunch. 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. KOGO KNITTERS** Thank you to all who took wool for K.O.G.O charity, Please return items to the striped bag in the church foyer or Parish Office. Donations of yarn are welcome to the same places.

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 3rd August, 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

Cordis – A Night for Young Adults Join young adults from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne for and evening of good food, meaningful conversation with a guest speaker, prayer and community. Sunday 26th July, 6.30pm - 9.30pm at St Christopher's Parish Syndal. For **18yrs and over:** Register here: [Cordis - A Night for Young Adults | Melbourne Catholic Youth](https://www.cordis.org.au) Enquires: proclaim@cam.org.au
Following on there will be a Cordis: Retreat on 22nd August.



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	Day	Mass
27 Jul	Mon	Nil
28 Jul	Tues	7pm FTG
29 Jul	Wed	9.15am FTG
30 Jul	Thur	9.15am FTG
31st Jul	Fri	Belgrave 9am & FTG 11am
1 Aug	Sat	9am Belgrave 6pm Emerald 6pm FTG
2 Aug	Sun	8.30 Belg & 10.30am FTG Fr Peter 9am Gembrook (Salesians) 11am Monbulk (Ssalesians)

BISHOP LES TOMLINSON will be joining us for the 10.30am Mass this Sunday 26th July.

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.



THE FIRST EUCHARIST FAMILY EVENING will take place on **Wednesday 29th July in the School Hall** from 7-8pm for all those preparing for the sacrament of 1st Eucharist..

SAVE THE DATE: SEOULFEST one year to go until

World Youth Day 2027 Thursday 20th August, 2026, 6.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral. The Young Church of Melbourne is going to World Youth Day in Seoul in 2027. Join Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and hundreds of young people from across the Archdiocese as we launch our pilgrimage to South Korea.

WE ARE CALLED – VOCATIONS EXPO ACU Campus Ministry and VOCATIONS Melbourne INVITE YOU to come and explore what life looks like in Catholic Religious Orders, Diocesan Priesthood and Married life. Hear from speakers who will share what answering a call looks like, what challenges lies ahead and the many joys you find along the way.
Saturday 1st August, 2026. 9am-1pm A Free event book at trybooking.com/DNKHK.



WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY – FEAST OF ST JOACHIM AND ANNE, 26TH JULY 2026 Today we are celebrating our grandparents and the elderly. An Opportunity to draw close to the Elderly; to celebrate their unique communities and to reach out to those who may feel lonely or forgotten. The theme that Pope Leo has chosen is "I will never forget you." Isaiah 49:15. A reminder to families to recognise them as a precious presence and a blessing.



ARCHBISHOP ANNOUNCES TWO KEY APPOINTMENTS FOR OUR ARCHDIOCESE. In a pastoral letter dated 16th July, Archbishop Peter Comensoli has announced that **Fr Luciano Toldo CS** has been appointed **Episcopal Vicar for the Northern region** effective 1 August and **Mgr Charles Portelli** will take up the role of **Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral** from September. You can read [more here](https://www.catholic.com.au) May they both be blessed in their new ministries.

Are You Interested In Becoming Catholic or Learning More About the Catholic Faith?



**RCIA 2026
RITE OF CHRISITAN INITIATION
OF ADULTS**



**Ferntree Gully and Belgrave Parish
RCIA program 2026**

RCIA is a formation program open to those considering becoming a Catholic, those who have been baptised in other traditions but would like to know about the Catholic faith, as well as Catholics who want to learn more about their faith. Please contact the Parish office if you have any questions or would like to register your interest Ph: 9758 1029 or marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

DID YOU LOSE A PAIR OF GLASSES? A pair of Red Framed glasses were found. If not collected they will be put into the donation box. Contact the Parish office asap.

CTC OPEN HOUSE On Saturday, 25 July, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Catholic Theological College at 278 Victoria Pde East Melbourne will open its doors to the public as part of the 2026 Open House Melbourne Weekend. View the bluestone building .This is free of charge, and no bookings required. Find out more here: [Catholic Theological College | Open House Melbourne](https://www.catholic.com.au)

ROSTERS: Mon 27th July to Sun 2nd Aug 2026

Flowers	Marg H & Judy G
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6.00pm Peter G, Wilma H 10.30am Joanna C, Thelma, Anna M, Priya
Lectors	6.00pm Gab C 10.30am Carolyn S
Counters	Joan R, Peter C, Ruben P
Gardening	Carlos E