

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:1-3
Thus says the Lord:
Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to
eat and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.**

SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans 8:35. 37-39**

Nothing can come between us and the love
of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried,
or being persecuted, or lacking food or
clothes, or being threatened or even
attacked. These are the trials through which
we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor
life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists,
nothing still to come, not any power, or
height or depth, nor any created thing, can
ever come between us and the love of God
made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of
God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 14:13-21**

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's
death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they
could be by themselves. But the people heard of this
and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he
stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity
on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said,
'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so
send the people away, and they can go to the villages to
buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no
need for them to go: give them something to eat
yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is
five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he
said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on
the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish,
raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And
breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who
gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they
wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve
baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five
thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.



They all ate as much as they wanted



ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN 2026 More than 600
Catholic Communities across the Archdiocese of Melbourne
are being invited to support the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign,
supporting seminarian formation, retired priests & key
ministries such as CatholicCare Centre for the deaf &
Melbourne Overseas Mission (MOM.) Archbishop Peter A
Comensoli emphasised that while the campaign aims to raise
substantial funds to ensure these ministries can continue to
serve the community, at its heart is stewardship of the Church's
mission.

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



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis
1st / 2nd August 2026. (Vocations Awareness Week)

FOCUS ON THE WORD Jesus nourishes us. In a world that is fraught with meaninglessness, he offers purpose; to a world that is stumbling in darkness and confusion, he provides direction. He satisfies the hungry heart; he enlivens the drooping spirit. Those who follow Jesus will never be left to languish in the desert. If we but open our eyes, we will be amazed at the bountifulness of the nourishment that is provided for us. We will discover that God is magnanimous, even prodigal in giving, that God's generosity exceeds all of our expectations and also our understanding.

Furthermore, we are nourished by God through the ministry of each other, through the simple things of life, (distributing bread and gathering up the fragments): visiting the sick and consoling the grieving; caring for a child and giving aid to an elder; bagging groceries and directing a choir. If we but open our eyes, we will be astounded at how ordinary actions can satisfy our hunger and the hunger of others.

Most amazing of all is that this nourishment is given freely; there was no thought of requiring payment. God simply invites: Come! All we have to do is reach out our hands to receive and we will never be sent away to find nourishment for ourselves. We will discover that a bond is established that endures. Jesus is filled with compassion, a compassion that is not a fleeting emotion, but an enduring attitude. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. © Dianne Bergant CSA



22. Synodality is a conversion.

True synodality requires conversion of hearts, attitudes, and sometimes structures. It asks us to let go of habits that no longer serve the mission.

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.

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 VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK Mon 3rd Aug **St Dominic**
Tues 4th Aug **St John Vianney** Wed 5th Aug **Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major**
Thur 6th Aug **The Transfiguration of the Lord** Fri 7th Aug **St Sixtus II & St Cajetan**
Sat 8th Aug **St Mary of the Cross (Mackillop)**

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruville 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: Week day Temporarily Changed
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.

GROWING GOOD MEN, FATHER SON WEEKEND. To encourage and equip fathers and sons to strengthen their relationship all while exploring important topics. Fri 11-13th Sept, 2026 Neerim East. This site is the perfect setting for adventures in bushwalking, river sledding, soaring down the dual flying fox, climbing the high ropes course, and many more camp favourites! Cost: \$280 . Find more [here](#)

18th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
1st / 2nd August 2026 - Year of St Francis
Vocations Awareness Week

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:
The Hon. Joseph Gerard Santamaria KC
Those who we remember at this time
Antonia Brotto, Francis Cassar, Pat Dillon, Elena Russo, Nora Ryan, Johanna Roelofs, Maria Teofilo.

The sick: Peter Lane, Angela Lorusso, Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hoefler, Barbara Kenny, Lucy Hosemans, Peter Lane.

 **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 info.

CHILDREN' LITURGY 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.

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 2nd 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

TEMPORARY CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASS TIMES: Fr Thomas will be away on leave. This will have a bearing on our Weekday Mass Times. Fr Peter will move alternately weekly between the Parishes

Date 2026	Day	Mass
3 Aug	Mon	Nil
4 Aug	Tues	9am Belgrave
5 Aug	Wed	9am Belgrave
6 Aug	Thur	9am Belgrave
7 Aug	Fri	Belgrave 9am & FTG 11am
8 Aug	Sat	9am Belgrave – Fr Peter 6pm Emerald -Salesians 6pm FTG – Fr Peter
9 Aug	Sun	8.30 Belg & 10.30am FTG Fr Peter 9am Gembrook (Salesians) 11am Monbulk (Ssalesians)

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

1st EUCHARIST COMMITMENT MASSES Are on this weekend 1st Aug & 2nd We welcome our candidates and their teachers. Please pray for them in their journey.

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.

LECTOR AND EUCHARIST MINISTER ROSTER The new lector roster for the period of August - November 2026 has been distributed electronically. Hardcopies are available in the sacristy, please ask Sue or pick one up from the office. If you are not available to attend the date you have been rostered please make changes with another lector/minister. Please contact the Parish Office for any further information you may need: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

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 Belgrave Parish 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. Let's make this a combined parishes event.

SAVE THE DATE: SEOULFEST 1 year to go until World Youth Day 2027 Thursday 20th August, 2026, 6.30pm St Patrick's Cathedral. World Youth Day is 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. 

THE HON. Joseph Gerard SANTAMARIA KC passed away on Thursday 23rd July at the age of 78. Judge Santamaria enjoyed a distinguished legal career and taught in Melb Uni. Law school. **A requiem Mass** for the repose of his soul will be celebrated **at St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday 31st July at 10.30am and livestreamed here** A **Vigil Rosary** will be recited at St Mary's Catholic Church St Kilda East on **Thurs 30 July, 2026 at 7.30pm**

MORE THAN 800 CATHOLIC EDUCATORS INSPIRED BY FAITH AT INAUGURAL RE SYMPOSIUM over two days 22-23 July, more than 800 Catholic educators, clergy and school leaders gathered at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre to reflect on the evolving role of religious education in contemporary learning environments . participants were reminded that 'to educate is to bring up, to rear, to nourish'. The R.E. classroom is central to the mission of educating the whole person in the light of the Gospel. [More BELGRAVE & FERNTEE GULLY YOUTH GATHERING Who Are We Becoming? Exploring Humanity, Faith and Technology:](#) Join us for an evening of conversation and reflection on how artificial intelligence, technology and social media are shaping our lives. Inspired by Pope Leo XIV's new Encyclical Magnifica Humanitas, we will explore human dignity, faith and our call to remain authentically human in a digital age. **Friday, 7 August | 6:30-8:30 pm. St Thomas More Parish Presbytery, Belgrave.** 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.

WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS is observed on 30th July, and brings global attention to human trafficking, urging vigilance and action to prevent this crime. This year ACRATH is driving prevention by promoting free access to health care screening tools and professional development modules. Modern slavery in Australia remains hidden in plain sight and often overlaps with family violence, homelessness, substance dependence, mental illness, or disability. Resources <https://acrath.org.au/resources/healthcare-education/>

MGL SISTERS CONSECRATED LIFE WEEKEND
Are you a single woman aged 18-35 wondering how God is calling you to respond to his love in your life? **Have you taken time to listen?** Come along to this weekend of prayer, talks & sharing; and a chance to learn more and ask about the MGL Sisters, to discern your vocation. **Sat 22nd -23rd August 2026** at 6 Dunstan St Balwyn Nth. [Enquiries: mgl sisters.melb@gmail.com](#) or call **0474 037 866**

ROSTERS: Mon 3rd Aug to Sun 9th Aug 2026	
Flowers	Ann P & Connie B
Linen	Sabrina McK
Welcomers	6.00pm Rosina L, Lyn K, Myra N 10.30am Shami & Chamal A
Lectors	6.00pm Phuong B 10.30am Vicente M
Counters	Genevieve & George, Bindu M, Connie B
Gardening	Patrick S, Harry R