

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of the Kings

1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) **Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

9:1-5

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord,

I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

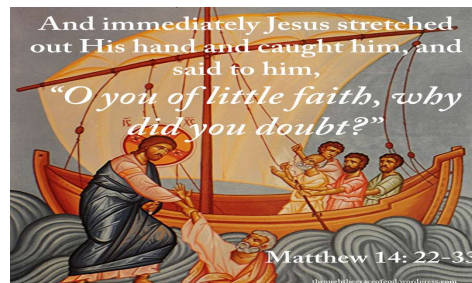
GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water

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.

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



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis

8th / 9th August 2026.

FOCUS ON THE WORD: The readings for this week speak of **God's saving presence among His people, our need for trusting Faith in our loving and providing God**, who always keeps us company, and **our need for prayer in storms of life**. Jesus' walking on the water follows the miraculous feeding in Matthew, Mark, and John. However, the account of Peter's walking on the water is found only in Matthew. Thus, Matthew's retelling of this event also says something about Peter and his Faith. While we might emphasize Peter's fear, his sinking and his "little" Faith, **we need to look also at his leap of Faith**. Peter represents all who dare to believe that Jesus is Saviour, take their first steps in confidence that Jesus is able to sustain them, and then forget to keep their gaze fixed on him when they face storms of temptations. From the depth of crisis, however, they remember to call on the saviour, and they experience the total sufficiency of his grace to meet their needs. **It is this type of the "little Faith" of Peter, which Jesus later identifies as the rock on which he will build his Church**. The only Faith Jesus expects of his followers is a Faith which concentrates solely on Him. In other words, **when we simply heed Our Lord, we can do great things**. So, with His grace, we have to raise our awareness of God's presence in our lives. As we become more aware, we will step out and proclaim that presence, even in surprising places. <https://frtonyshomilies.com/>



23. Synodality and leadership

Leadership in a synodal Church is not about control but about service. Leaders create spaces where gifts can emerge and flourish.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December 2026, more information is available at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026

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.

The Archbishop's Campaign invites us to proclaim the Good News by supporting ministries that serve those in need across our Archdiocese. Your generous gift helps bring this mission to life – not only in word, but in action. Thank you.



THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN
2026



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

MEMORIALS/FEASTS VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Mon 10 th Aug	St Lawrence	Tues 11 th Aug	St Clare	Wed 12 th Aug	St Jane Frances de Chantal
Thur 13 th Aug	Sts Pontian and Hippolytus	Fri 14 th Aug	St Maximilian Mary Kolbe		
Sat 15 th Aug	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary				

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: **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](#)

19th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A

8th / 9th August 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

John O'Connor

Those who we remember at this time

Patrocino Sason, Antonio Brotto, Clara Coviello, Nikhil Lobo, Adriana Wamerdam, Maria Velti, Jan Motteram, Brian Hayman, Stanley De Silva & Monica Malasekera.

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



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 @sjby.youth or email us at sjbyouth@gmail.com if you would like to know more or if you have any questions

TEMPORARY CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Date	Day	Mass
11Aug	Til	14th Aug NO weekday Masses Clergy Conference.
15 Aug	Sat	9am St Thomas Belgrave -Fr Peter 6pm Emerald -Salesians 6pm FTG – Salesians
16 Aug	Sun	8.30 Belg Salesians 10.30am FTG - Salesians 9am Gembrook Fr Peter 11am Monbulk Fr Peter

BISHOP RENE RAMIREZ INSTALLED as Sandhurst's 9th Bishop on Thursday 30 July 2026. You can view the installation here https://www.youtube.com/live/hoxyv-CaUpM?si=IkNZs_D78Su1CI

ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN 2026 The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese, including: the Priests Retirement Foundation, Corpus Christi College Building Fund, CatholicCare Victoria Chaplaincy programme, Melb Overseas Mission , John Pierce Centre for the Blind and more... Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donation and can be made via the QRcode. You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends

Your generous gift supports ministries across the Archdiocese — bringing the Good News to life not only in word, but in action. Thank you.



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

YOUTH MASS - SUNDAY 9TH AUG AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FERNTREE GULLY All are welcome to come along and show solidarity for the Parish Youth Group. This Mass marks that we are one year away from World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul! To celebrate, our youth will be participating in the celebration of Mass as Lectors, musicians & choir members. We would love to see you there!

YOU ARE INVITED TO

A very pleasant Sunday afternoon

Come along with friends and family for an enjoyable afternoon supporting the important work of the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project.

Sunday 16 August - 2pm

St John the Baptist School Hall Forest Road, Ferntree Gully

Lovely afternoon tea

Music by Irish music group BRIAN

Silent Auction

A talk on the work of the The Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project

Bring a plate to share

\$10 donation

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Call or text Erica

0423 615 662

basp
Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project
"I was a stranger and you made me welcome..."

BAPTISMS Congratulations to Paisley Hughes, Tatum McMahon, Sunday McPhie, Matteo Taylor who are to be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

FUNERAL MASS of Late John O'Connor will be celebrated on Tues 18th August at 11am at St John's Ferntree Gully

CHILDREN'S LITURGY PRAYER BOX Dear Parents, the children's liturgy team have acquired a prayer box which has been placed in the back room of the church. During the children's liturgy session the children will have the opportunity to write a prayer and place it in the box. All prayers will be kept confidential. At a later time they will be burnt and the ash will be placed in the garden. A big thank you to Tess who initiated this project and Laurie Umack who built the prayer box for us. Many Blessing to you all!

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 Starting Mon 7th September.

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](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

TRUST THE SLOW WORK OF GOD: young people gather for Vocations Expo. More than 100 people registered for last weekend's Vocations Expo event held at Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Melbourne. Co-hosted by ACU Campus Ministry and the Archdiocesan Vocations office. You can read more here: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/trust-the-slow-work-of-god-young-people-gather-for-vocations-expo>

ST MARY (MACKILLOP) OF THE CROSS FEAST 8TH AUGUST. As we celebrate the Feast of St Mary (MacKillop) of the Cross, Sr Josephine Dubiel invites us to reflect on Mary's words written to the sisters in 1899... "Find happiness in making others happy."



ROSTERS: Mon 10 Aug to Sun 16 Aug 2026	
Flowers	Sue N & Lynne K
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6.00pm Myra N, Wilma H, 10.30am Terry S, Neil R , Priya, Peter C
Lectors	6.00pm Queenie J 10.30am Christopher G
Counters	Genevieve & George, Bindu M, Connie B
Gardening	Patrick S, Harry R