

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(R.) **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

1. O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)

2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. (R.)

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy

eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.



*I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.
Woman of great faith, Let your wish be granted.*

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



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis
15th / 16th August 2026.

FOCUS ON THE WORD: This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern-day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but **this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.** © Greg Sunter

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/archbishopscaipaig



24. Synodality and trust

Trust grows when people know their voices matter. Synodality helps rebuild trust within the Church and between the Church and society.

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.

MEMORIALS/FEASTS VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Wed 19th Aug

St Jude Eudes

Thur 20th Aug St Bernard

Fri 21st Aug

St Pius X

Sat 22nd Aug The Queenship 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](#)

20th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
15th /16th August 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:
Flora Feleppa

Those who we remember at this time Trevor & Joan Faragher, Sophie Hovens, Louiza Concessio, Michael McMahon, Tiburcio Lobo, Wanda Fumo, Veronica Fox, Waldemar Leos, Mary Gottwald.

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

GROUP ROSARY SESSION FOR PEACE
When: **First Saturday of the Month** Please contact Joan Ryan on 0408 411 096 for information.

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 16th August, 2026.

YOUTH GROUP Join the Parish Youth Group at **SeoulFest** We're only one year away from World Youth Day 2027 and to celebrate, the Archdiocese is hosting SeoulFest next **Thursday 20th August!** Join the parish youth group from **6:30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral** as we participate in Adoration, followed by music and celebrations on the grounds of the Cathedral. Instagram @sjtb.youth or email us at sjtb youth@gmail.com if you have any questions.

TEMP CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASS TIMES			
17Aug	Til	20th Aug	weekday Masses At St Thomas' Belgrave
21st Aug	Fri	9am St Thomas' Belgrave 11am St John's Ferntree Gully	
22nd Aug	Sat	9am St Thomas Belgrave –Fr Peter 6pm Emerald -Salesians 6pm FTG – Fr Peter	
23rd Aug	Sun	8.30 Belgrave Fr Peter 10.30am FTG Fr Peter 9am Gembrook - Salesians 11am Monbulk - Salesians	

ARCHBISHOPS CAMPAIGN 2026 GIVING WEEKEND: 15-16 Aug. 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 **this weekend.**

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

 **THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2026**

melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

YOUTH MASS THANK YOU a huge thank you to all our youth who participated in the Mass in a special way last weekend. Your presence, gifts and your talents were much appreciated.

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 folk music group BRIAN**
 **Silent Auction**
 **A talk on the work of 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..."

WHAT ABOUT ME? HOW INDIVIDUAL VOICES WILL BE HEARD AT THE MELBOURNE SYNOD it's not an uncommon question. The answer: we can participate in local consultation groups, **we can submit the fruits of these discussions before 21st August, 2026.** and we can help facilitate conversations and encourage others to contribute. Find out more at: [What about me? How individual voices will be...](#) [\[Melbourne Catholic](#)

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

FUNERAL MASS for the late **Flora Feleppa** will be celebrated on **Thurs 20th August, 2026 at 11.30am** - rosary prior at 11am.

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

RCIA 2026
RITE OF CHRISTIAN 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 contact: marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 IN SEOUL SOUTH KOREA Preparations are in full swing for World Youth Day 2027, where Pope Leo XIV is expected to join young Catholics from around the world for the second World Youth Day ever held in Asia. Pilgrimage is an invitation to receive what is unfamiliar with an open heart and a spirit of gratitude. Across the world, parishes and diocese have already started preparing young people to participate in the pilgrimage to South Korea. There will be a **special event called: SEOULFest:** marking one year to go until WYD 2027.

Join Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and the young people of Melbourne as we launch our Archdiocese's pilgrimage to World Youth Day Seoul 2027.

 **SeoulFEST**

Thursday 20 August 2026, 6-30pm
St Patrick's Cathedral

To find out more, scan the QR code or go to melbournecatholic.org/seoulfest

PARENT WORKSHOP MACs invites you to an online parent workshop with Fr Stephen Wang, a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Westminster (UK). He is the creator of the Sycamore Programme, **Wed 19th at Aug, 7pm** Join by this online: link: <https://shorturl.at/02j66> More information in the [flyer here](#)

ROSTERS: Mon 17 Aug to Sun 23 Aug 2026	
Flowers	Genevieve & Tess
Linen	Carole D'S
Welcomers	6.00pm Lia U 10.30am Florence J, Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6.00pm Rosina L 10.30am Eduardo M
Counters	Tony B, Setphanie H, Peter F, Rosina L
Gardening	Patrick S, Harry R