

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord,
and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me:
you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and
proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me insult,
derision, all day long.
I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my
heart, imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/...My soul is thirsting for You,
O Lord my God.*

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the
Romans*

12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and
worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy
of thinking beings, by offering your living
bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to
God. Do not model yourselves on the
behaviour of the world around you, but let your

behaviour change, modelled by your new mind.
This is the only way to discover the will of God and
know what is good, what it is that God wants, what
is the perfect thing to do.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

*May the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see
how great is the hope
to which we are called.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

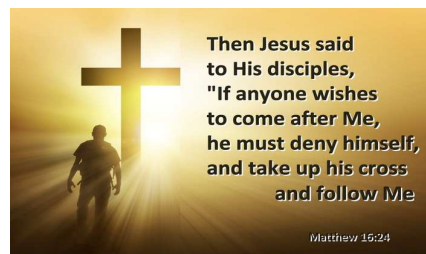
*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew*

16 : 21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he
was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer
grievously at the hands of the elders and chief
priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be
raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside,
Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven
preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen
to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind
me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because
the way you think is not God's way but man's.'
Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to
be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and
take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who
wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who
loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then,
will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins
his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for
his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory
of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he
will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis
29th / 30th August 2026. - Social Justice Sunday

FOCUS ON THE WORD: The readings for this Sunday remind us that Christians are called to live their lives in a different way from others around them. Christian discipleship demands honesty, the willingness to suffer ("take up your cross"), generosity ("to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God"), and readiness to follow Jesus by obeying his commandment of love. Today's readings explain how this Christian mission should be accomplished, specifically that we should know and live the will of God and accept the suffering involved in doing so. These readings tell us as well, that while suffering is an integral part of our earthly life, it is also our road to glory. There is no crown without a cross. <https://fitonyshomilies.com>
This passage immediately follows the passage of last week's gospel which featured Peter's confession of faith – his inspired revelation that 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.' The reader might think, 'Aha, the disciples have finally got it!' But in a very clever piece of writing, the author of Matthew's gospel follows this revelation of faith immediately with an example of the lack of clarity that the disciples, including Peter, still possess. This happens throughout the gospels. **Whenever the disciples have a bit of an insight, they are almost immediately shown to only have a partial understanding of the truth.** The full revelation of Jesus' mission and ministry is not easy to grasp and even the disciples were not quite there until they had seen the 'full story' played out before and within them. For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. **This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian.** Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option. © Greg Sunter



26. Synodality and the Holy Spirit

At the heart of synodality is trust in the Holy Spirit. Without prayer, synodality becomes mere strategy. With prayer, it becomes a path of grace.

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.

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 – 30th Social Justice Sunday Tues 1st Sept **World Day of Prayer for Creation (Holy See)**
Thur 3rd Sept **St Gregory the Great.** Fri 4th Sept **Spring Ember day** Sat 5th Sept **St Teresa of Calcutta**
SEASON OF CREATION: 1st Sept to 4th October, 2026

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
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ASSISTANT PRIEST:
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DEACON:
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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](#)

22nd Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
29th / 30th August 2026 - Year of St Francis
Observance: SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time Ken Collins, Ronald Morris, Angelo Rech, Conrad Mc Keverne, Tim Wilson, Felicia Jayawardena, Michael Jones, Jeffrey Harris, Robyn Elliott. Brian Stackpole.

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 30th August, 2026.

YOUTH GROUP We're only one year away from World Youth Day 2027 If you are interested in becoming a

World Youth Day Pilgrim please let us know: Instagram @sjby.youth or email us at sjbyyouth@gmail.com if you have any questions. **WORLD YOUTH DAY**

2027 World Youth Day Seoul 2027

TEMP CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASS TIMES			
31Aug - 4th Sept Weekday Masses At St Thomas More Belgrave			
4 Sep	Fri	9am St Thomas' Belgrave 11am St John's Ferntree Gully	
5 Sep	Sat	9am St Thomas Belgrave - Fr Peter 6pm Emerald - Fr Peter 6pm FTG - Fr Thomas	
6 Sep	Sun	8.30 Belgrave Fr Thomas 10.30am FTG Fr Thomas 9am Gembrook - Fr Peter 11am Monbulk - Fr Peter	

YOUTH GROUP SAUSAGE SIZZLE Celebrate the Father's Day weekend by coming along to the Youth Group's sausage sizzle! It will be held after the 6pm Mass on Saturday September 5th and after the 10:30am Mass on Sunday September 6th. Sausages will be \$4 and soft drinks will be \$2 (eftpos and cash accepted). All proceeds will go towards funding registrations for St John the Baptist youth group members to attend World Youth Day next year. Your support would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Vicente (0420450604) if you are interested in helping out.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY This Sunday is Social Justice Sunday which is fundamental to Catholic social teachings. In their statement, *Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division*, the Bishops have asked for a renewed focus on ways to make Australia a more cohesive society. In the statement's preface, Conference President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said, "This statement invites us to see our current social climate as an opportunity to witness to the Gospel. "We offer Jesus and the hope born of his death and resurrection. When we choose forgiveness over enmity, hospitality over isolation and solidarity over vilification, we help to create the conditions in which a more peaceful society can prosper." Sourced from www.majellan.media You can find out more [Here](#) ACBC- Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

HUNDREDS GATHER AT SeoulFest to launch World Youth Day 2027 Thursday's launch event ('SeoulFest') began with an hour of prayer with the Blessed Sacrament, led by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli. Festivities then spilled out onto the Cathedral grounds with a Korean food truck, music and a special badge-making station for would-be pilgrims. The Archdiocese is offering three pilgrimage options to the 2027 World Youth Day—via Japan, via the Diocese of Incheon for an experience of the local church (Days in the Diocese), and a pilgrimage direct to Seoul. register your interest at <https://melbourne.catholic.org/wwd27>.

BIBLE STUDY SHORT COURSE Led by Carlos Escobar (Master of Education and Theology.) this course will run across six

evening sessions to take a deeper dive into the themes of the Bible. The theme for this year's course is the Sabbath Rest, which links across many books of the Bible and has great wisdom to offer about how we think about the rhythms of our own lives. Whether you are a beginner at understanding the Bible, or a studied hand, this course offers an opportunity for everyone to learn and make new friendships. Starting Monday 7th September in the Parish Community Centre 6.30pm-8pm. Come at 6pm with a plate of food to share for conversation and hospitality. More information please email: Escobar.carlos.juan@gmail.com

SEASON OF CREATION ONLINE GATHERING the gathering is endorsed by Caritas Aust, and aims to bring together more than 300 participants. Link to register: [Season of Creation Gathering 2026 - Online Catholic Ecology Event | Catholic Earthcare](#) 3-4th Sept, 2026 10am-4.30pm

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.

Our course is starting soon, if you are thinking of joining, you must contct the Parish Office now to register please email: marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au



BAPTISMS Congratulations to *Elsy Wise, daughter of Simon & Cecile*, who will be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS Friday 4 Sept at 11am. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 10 am. Please stay for a cup of tea/coffee after Mass.

ALPHA MASTERCLASS (Catholic Context)
Sat 5 September, 10am-4.30pm, Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne Hosted by Alpha Australia in partnership with Proclaim, this one-day training will equip new and existing Alpha teams in hospitality, small-group facilitation, handling big questions and prayer ministry. If you have an Alpha team or are looking to form one, we ask you to please encourage your leaders to join us for this value packed day of practical learning. \$25 covers morning tea and lunch. Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/alpha-masterclass-melbourne>

SEASON OF CREATION -1st Sept to 4th Oct. SEPT 1st prayer service for Creation Day- Living Water [Link here](#)

LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE IN LOVE. A Marriage Encounter weekend is a gift for every married couple and priest. Every married couple and priest deserves to experience this very special weekend. **Time-out to focus on your most precious relationships.** You will come away feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep it alive. **No group sharing is required.** The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome. We have just one weekend remaining for 2026 - don't miss this opportunity to nurture your most precious relationship. Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend: **November 6-8th, 2026 at St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantima South.** Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm Information/Bookings: Please ph Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

ROSTERS: Mon 31 Aug to Sun 6 Sept 2026

Flowers	Genevieve / Tess	31.08.26
Linen	Sue N	
Welcomers	6.00pm Peter G, Wilma H 10.30am Johanna C, Thelma B, Priya H	
Lectors	6.00pm Gab C 10.30am Henner C	
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W	
Gardening	Theresa N	