

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/...O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 13:8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



CELEBRATING THE SEASON OF CREATION. This year's theme, "Living Water", draws direct inspiration from Ezekiel 47:9, 12. Set during a time of exile and collective loss, the biblical vision of living water flowing from God's sanctuary offers a beautiful promise of hope and ecological renewal. It serves as a reminder of God's divine healing for our land, ecosystems, and water resources, while reinvigorating our shared human responsibility toward the whole of creation.

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



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis
5th / 6th September 2026. – Father's Day

FOCUS ON THE WORD: The common theme of today's readings is God's command concerning our spiritual responsibility and individual accountability for others in our families, parishes, and community. This accountability arises from our identity as God's children. As brothers and sisters in Christ, then, we become each other's "keepers," and take on a painful, triple responsibility. We must lovingly and prudently correct each other when we err, forgive those who offend us, and ask forgiveness from those we have offended. ©<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>

FATHERS DAY MESSAGE: Fatherhood is a journey shaped by presence, patience and the everyday choices that build strong relationships. On this Father's Day, we express our deepest gratitude to all the fathers, grandfathers, and father figures in our parish family. Your guidance, sacrifices, and unconditional love reflect the protective care of our Heavenly Father. **We pray that God grants you abundant wisdom and strength as you continue to lead, nurture, and inspire your families. May your day be filled with joy, peace, and the warmth of those who look up to you**

. - Happy Father's Day!



27. Synodality and Scripture

From Abraham's journey to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Scripture is full of stories of God walking with His people. Synodality places us within that biblical story.

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 – 6th Sept - Father's Day **SEASON OF CREATION: 1st Sept to 4th October, 2026**
Tues 8th Sept **The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** Wed 9th Sept **St Peter Claver**
Sat 12th Sept **The Most Holy Name of Mary**

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

PARISH LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY TEAM

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Thomas Kuruwila 9758 1029
Email: thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

ASSISTANT PRIEST:

Fr Peter (Doan Ngoc) 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

OUR PARISH 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
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Wednesday-Belgrave 9am	FTG	9.15am
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& Thurs Belgrave 9am	FTG	9.15am
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Friday Belgrave 9am	FTG	11.00 am
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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.

WATCH A TRIBUTE TO DAD: Father's Love

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALrJ17qKpHg>

23rd Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
5th /6th September 2026 - Year of St Francis
Father's Day

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Peter Lane

Those who we remember at this time Paula Porcaro, Mary Niehof, Ngan Wu Faimasasa, Margaret Hill, John Brotto.

The sick: 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**, a great space to meet new people, or chat with old friends. 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. For fun, fellowship & cuppa. Email jacquiandcarlos@gmail.com.

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 @sjyb.youth or email us at sjbyouth@gmail.com if you have any questions. **WORLD YOUTH DAY**

2027 World Youth Day Seoul 2027



SEASON OF CREATION -1st Sept to 4th Oct. The Season of Creation 2026 invites us to do something essential: to pause, reflect, and understand

Laudato Si Movement, have prepared a document that explores the meaning of this year's theme, Living Water—a guide to connecting faith with action and responding to the call of our Common Home.

Read it, let it challenge you, and discover how to be part of the change. Because all transformation begins when we understand and decide to act. Link: <https://bit.ly/SOC226>
#SeasonOfCreation2026



WELCOME HOME FR THOMAS – WE MISSED YOU!
We hope that you had a safe and happy trip to India.

SAFEGUARDING National Child Protection Week runs from the 6th September until 12th September, 2026 with the theme **Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation**

to Action. National Child Protection Week is Australia's national campaign to prevent child abuse and neglect before it happens. Led by NAPCAN for over 30 years, it brings together individuals, families, communities, organisations and governments to build safe, supportive environments where children and young people can thrive. You can explore the free 2026 Webinar program, downloadable resources and community events via the [NAPCAN website](https://www.napcan.org.au)

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.

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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 from 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

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ROSTERS: Mon 7th Sept to Sun 13 Sept 2026

Flowers	Genevieve / Tess
Linen	Alvi M
Welcomers	6.00pm Lyn K, Myra N, Rosina L 10.30am Shamindri & Chamal A
Lectors	6.00pm Louise D 10.30am Joan R
Counters	Bryon M, Ruby S, Guil W
Gardening	Theresa N

Simplicity September This September, **simplify one thing in your life** and discover what truly matters. Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for Palms International Volunteering, Australia's only Catholic lay organisation that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering. Join *Australians across the country supporting Palms' work in the Asia-Pacific.* 02 9560 5333 www.simplicityseptember.org.au

ST JOHN'S PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH the SJB Parish Community are coming together for a social gathering on Sunday the 11th of October at 12 PM. Straight after the 10:30 AM Sunday mass. We would like to extend the invite to all the parishioners. To organise this, there will be a

PLANNING MEETING:
Friday 11th September 2026
PLACE: PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
TIME: 6.00P.M- 7.00P.M
If you would like to contribute to this event, **please come and join us to make the preparations.**

For the **SOCIAL LUNCH** - There is no **RSVP required or any admission tickets to purchase.** We simply ask to bring a plate of finger food to share. This will be a great opportunity to make new community connections and/or strengthen existing ones. There will be a dance performance, games, kids' activities and more

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE.
Dear Parishioners, we thank you for your continued support to the Combined Parish Raffle Ticket Sales. All proceeds from the sale of the 2026 tickets will go to the Ferntree Gully Society of St. Vincent de Paul for their outreach work in our community." Tickets will be available after Masses. Thank you, God bless, Connie

RITE OF CHRISITAN INITIATION OF ADULTS
Ferntree Gully and Belgrave Parish
RCIA program 2026 Starting Mon 7th September. -Parish Office
Contact: Mary Makarucha PH: 9758 1029