

FIRST READING

*A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
Sirach: 27:30-28:7*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R/...The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

*I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



How often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times? Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

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



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis

12th /13th September – Safeguarding Sunday

FOCUS ON THE WORD: What are the limits of love? Can love be measured? These questions lie behind Peter's query about forgiveness. He obviously considers seven a most generous number since it echoes God's words through the prophet Amos, 'For three transgressions and for four, I will not revoke the punishment.' (2:1). Jesus replies with an incalculable number 'seventy times seven'. **Forgiveness, like love, has no limits.** Since 11 September 2001, I have thought a lot about forgiveness. It seems to me there are just two choices we can make. We can go the way of ever-spiralling vengeance, forever 'paying back' the wrongs we experience, **or we can reach into the depths of our God-given and Spirit-gifted lives and forgive** – impossible though that might sound. Left to ourselves, perhaps forgiveness is not possible, but given the Spirit of Jesus we may be able to access his power and 'turn the other cheek'. This is the almost crazy demand placed on Christians. The parable sets up the measuring stick for Christian love and this measure is that of the generous, forgiving master. From the experience of God's extraordinary generosity, we ought to be able to be generous in our turn. The servant in the parable forgot his experience of being forgiven and focussed only on his being wronged. **Christians need to be people with long memories, able to recall the times they have failed and been forgiven, and from this place reach out in forgiveness of others.** ©Mary Coloe PBVM



28. Why participation matters

Participation helps people move from being passive recipients to active disciples. This deepens faith and strengthens mission.

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 –

SEASON OF CREATION: 1st Sept to 4th October, 2026

Mon 14 th Sept	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Tues 15 th Sept	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wed 16 th Sept	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	Thur 17 th	St Hildegard of Bingen, St Robert Bellarmine
Sat 19 th Sept	St Januarius		

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 Kuruvila 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:

Monday Tuesday 9758 1029 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@sferntreegully.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

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.

CALLED AND GIFTED DISCERNMENT PROCESS

Begins with the [Called and Gifted Workshop](#), Fri 11 Sept 6pm-9pm and Saturday 12 September, 9am-4pm, Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melb \$95ea.. Find out more here. Applicants must have Parish Priest Endorsement.

24th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A 12th /13th September 2026 - Year of St Francis Observance: SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time Lesina Maio, Faustino Cadavona, Camine Mazzone, Maureen Addicott, Emmanuel Deidun, Rosa Lotrionte, Peter Atkinson, Patricia Gallus

The sick: Angela Lorusso, Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hoefer, 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/ YOUNG ADULTS If you are interested in becoming a World Youth Day Pilgrim please



let us know: Instagram @sjtb.youth or email us at sjtb youth@gmail.com if you have any questions. World youth day 2027 <https://melbournecatholic.org/wyd27>



SEASON OF CREATION -1st Sept to 4th Oct. A Season of Wonder: As we enter spring and the Season of Creation,

we are invited to pause and rediscover the beauty of God's creation. A *Season of Wonder* offers inspiring resources, stories, films and poetry to help us reflect on our call to care for our common home. Visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-season-of-wonder-five-sources-of-inspiration-this-spring>

PRAYER SERVICE OF LAMENT FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

The Archdiocese of Melbourne invites parishioners to the annual Prayer Service of Lament for Survivors of Abuse on Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 4pm in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne. Held on the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows to stand in solidarity with survivors and their families, and all affected by abuse. All welcome.



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

Catholics around Australia will mark Safeguarding Sunday on 13th September. The 2026 theme, "Love Protects", recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love. This year's theme reminds us that 'genuine love is demonstrated through action,' said chair of the Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and Safeguarding, Bishop Greg Bennet. When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel. 'Safeguarding is an essential part of our mission and ministry. It calls each of us to be attentive, accountable and committed to ensuring that every person can participate in the life of the Church safely and with confidence.' May this parish be a true sanctuary, safe for the smallest among us, attentive to the most vulnerable, honest with the truth, and faithful to the God whose love always protects. **Parents, please pick up a flyer with your bulletin, from the trolley to read.**

CHILDRENS LITURGY NEWS. Dear Parents, As mentioned last week, at mass, the Parish is having a Parish Social Lunch on Sunday 11th October. All are welcome! There will be Dance and Song and Music and Lots More! We are asking that the children learn a special song with some actions. The song is "This Little Light of Mine". The children's Liturgy will be handing out a flyer today which will include the words and the actions to the song. Please let your children have a practice over the holidays. Contact Mary if you have any questions.

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. Each Monday Evenings 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

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Engaging Your Faith online presentations in October 2026 From \$25 per session. For more information: ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/



ONLINE INFORMATION Via ZOOM-THE

PERMANENT DIACONATE 22 SEP 2026 The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate, including the spouses of any inquirers. If you attended any previous session, you are also welcome to join the September gathering, 22nd Sept, 2026 from 7.00- 8.00pm Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au for more info: [click here](#)

BAPTISMS Congratulations to *Mila Menere daughter of Ryan & Jacinta, Evangeline Smith, daughter of Dominic & Veronica & Millie Triz, daughter of Scott & Lucy* who are to be baptised this weekend. The Church of God welcomes you with great joy.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST

COMMUNICANTS: A special blessing to all our First Communicants' who will be celebrating their First Communion this afternoon here at St John the Baptist. On this very special day, we hope they can feel the light of the Lord shining down upon them. May they take the opportunity to return often to receive this special blessing upon them each time they receive the Eucharist.

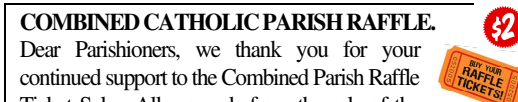


ST JOHN'S PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH the SJB

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. 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



ADULT CONFIRMATIONS The Sacrament of Adult Confirmation will be held on **SUNDAY 22ND November, 2026** at the 11am Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral. Candidates must be prepared by the local parish priest. There will be an **info session on Wed 11th November, 2026** at 6.30pm. More Information: Contact Julie Allan 9662 2233

ROSTERS: Mon 14 Sept to Sun 20 Sept 2026

Flowers	Margaret & Judy
Linen	Sabrina M
Welcomers	6.00pm Myra N, Wilma H 10.30am Terry S, Neil R, Peter C, Priya H
Lectors	6.00pm Phuong B 10.30am Pamela E
Counters	Joan R, Peter, C, Ruben P
Gardening	Theresa N