

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him, to our God who is rich in
forgiving; for my thoughts are not your
thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the
Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R./ The Lord is near to all who call him.

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians 1:20-24.27*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by
my life or by my death. Life to me, of course,
is Christ, but then death would bring me
something more; but then again, if living in this
body means doing work which is having good
results – I do not know what I should choose.
I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone
and be with Christ, which would be very much
the better, but for me to stay alive in this body
is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that
would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 20:1-16*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven
is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire
workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement
with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent
them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third
hour he saw others standing idle in the market place
and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I
will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about
the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he
went out and did the same. Then at about the
eleventh hour he went out and found more men
standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you
been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one
has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You
go into my vineyard too”. In the evening, the owner
of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers
and pay them their wages, starting with the last
arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who
were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward
and received one denarius each. When the first
came, they expected to get more, but they too
received one denarius each. They took it, but
grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came
last” they said “have done only one hour, and you
have treated them the same as us, though we have
done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He
answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am
not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one
denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to
pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no
right to do what I like with my own? Why be
envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will
be first, and the first, last.’

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156

Phone: 9758 1029

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Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis

19th/20th September 2026

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY

FOCUS ON THE WORD: Our attention shifts slightly in these last Sundays of Ordinary Time. We turn from concentration on the character and responsibilities of discipleship to reflection on the import of the end of time. As we move toward the close of the liturgical year, we are invited to consider the final coming of Christ and the last judgment. The thought of judgment is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. We sometimes experience tension between the idea of divine justice, which requires that the good be adequately rewarded and the evil be appropriately punished, and that of the mercy of God, which we hope will be generously extended to us. As seen in the readings for this Sunday, the justice of God does not conform to the standards of human justice. It is incomprehensible, because its foundation is mercy. While we might find consolation in this view of divine judgment when it is directed toward us, our hearts do not always seem to be generous enough to rejoice in the mercy extended to others. It is almost as if we feel that we have been cheated in some way, if God is merciful to others. However, divine mercy can work in us to abolish our pettiness and indignation and replace it with generosity of heart. We are called to conduct ourselves with this kind of generosity, this kind of love, this kind of mercy. © Dianne Bergant CSA

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - Key Messages

- 1• **Social Services Sunday** is an opportunity to recognise and thank the staff, volunteers and organisations who support people experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation.
- 2• **Catholic social service organisations in Victoria support more than 300,000 Victorians across over 388 sites, drawing on the expertise and commitment of over 7,510 staff and more than 15,000 volunteers.**
- 3• **Catholic social service organisations accompany people through many different circumstances, including homelessness and housing insecurity, family and domestic violence, disability, poverty, displacement, and challenges experienced by young people and families.**



29. Synodality is not uniformity

Different cultures, communities and parishes will live synodality in different ways. Unity does not require sameness.

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

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 –
Mon 21st Sept St Matthew

SEASON OF CREATION: 1st Sept to 4th October, 2026
Wed 23rd Sept St Pius of Pietrelcina

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 Kuruville 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

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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE The Parish office will be closed on Wednesday 23rd Sept until Fri 25th September, owing to staff leave. Thank you for your understanding.

25th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
19th/20th September 2026 - Year of St Francis
Observance: Social Services Sunday

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:

Those who we remember at this time Valentina Parente, Flora Feleppa, Bev McNamara, Maria Scardillo, Bill Kelly

The sick: Angela Lorusso, Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hoefel, 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/wvd27>

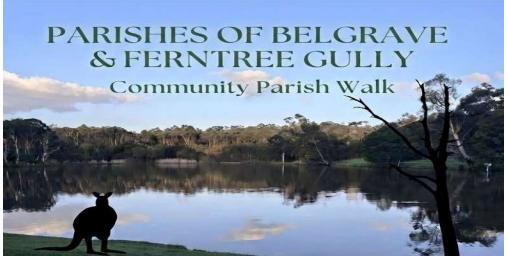
CHOSEN 2026, is a four day Catholic conference for young Australians (16-35yrs) seeking a deeper encounter with Christ. Hosted by Jesus Youth Australia, Chosen brings together hundred of young people from across the nation for inspiring talks, powerful worship, daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, practical workshops and authentic community. Thurs 19th Nov – Sunday 22nd Nov 2026 at La Trobe University Bundoora. Find out [more here](https://www.chosen.org.au).



SEASON OF CREATION -1st Sept to 4th Oct. A Season of Wonder: 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>

LITURGY†	† NEWS	Sept /Oct 2026
Social Services Sunday	20.09.26	How can we walk with you?
Permanent Diaconate - Zoom	22.09.2026	Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au
Parish Walk	26.09.26	Birdlands Reserve
World refugee & Migrants day	27.09.26	Holy See Link here
October	01.10.26 31.10.26	Month of the Rosary
SJB Parish Social Lunch	11.10.26	SJB School Hall.

SEASON OF CREATION: Parish Walk- Sat 26th Sept.



Theme: "Care for Creation"
DATE: Saturday, 26 September 2026
TIME: 10:00AM (After Morning Mass)
GATHERING POINT: Birdsland Reserve (271 Mount Morton Road, Melbourne VIC)
What to Bring & Do
• Comfortable walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothing
• A reusable water bottle
• Open heart for fellowship and reflection
• Join us for morning coffee and fellowship after the walk
All parishioners, families, and friends are warmly welcome! Come walk, pray, and care for creation together.
REFLECTION AND PRAYER:
Let us ponder how we can care for our common home together, strengthening our community spirit and shared responsibility. Through reflection and action, may our care for Creation express our faith and respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Engaging Your Faith online presentations in October 2026 From \$25 per session. 13th October, 7pm-8.30 Synodality in the life of the church. For more information: ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

MONDAY IS THE UNITED NATIONS-DESIGNATED INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE. With ongoing wars in the Middle East, Ukraine and Africa, it is another opportunity to pray for a resolution in these areas. However, peace is not only about the absence of war but is about justice, respect, understanding and hope. Celebrated each year on September 21, people of different cultures and religions globally are asked to reflect on how they can help build a more peaceful world. Everyone, everywhere can do their part for peace. Take one small step for peace every day: Find out more at: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY Social Services Sunday is observed in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne on the third Sunday of September. It is an opportunity to give thanks, pray for and stand with the thousands of dedicated staff and volunteers who serve those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalised in our communities. It also provides us with the opportunity to reflect on what our role might be in this work of service and justice. Watch the [video here](#)



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. Preparations are well underway, and we are inviting any one who could offer a Raffle prize for this day to make a donation to the Parish Office – these donated items will be made up into hampers for the raffle prizes. Maybe you could donate a box of chocolates, or some special biscuits or preserves, or perhaps a craft item that you have made... the options are endless, and all items will be gratefully received. Many thanks everyone!

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. Held during School Term next session TBA. Come at 6pm with a plate of food to share for conversation and hospitality. More information please email: Escobar.carlos.juan@gmail.com

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE. please continue selling our raffle tickets. See our friendly ticket sellers in the foyer after Mass.

ROSTERS: Mon 21 st Sept to Sun 27 Sept 2026	
Flowers	Margaret & Judy
Linen	Sue O'H
Welcomers	6.00pm Lia U, Help needed 10.30am Florence J, Shami & Chamal A
Lectors	6.00pm Queenie J 10.30am Peter F
Counters	Joan R, Peter, C, Ruben P
Gardening	Theresa N