

## FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘You object, “What the Lord does is unjust.” Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.’

**The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

3. The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

## SECOND READING

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

2:1-5

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own

interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

**The word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;*

*I know them, and they follow me.*

*Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to*

*Matthew*

21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, “My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today.” He answered, “I will not go,” but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, “Certainly, sir,” but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?’ ‘The first’ they said. Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.’

**The Gospel of the Lord.**



## Thank You from the Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Youth Group's Father's Day BBQ weekend! Despite the unfortunate weather on Saturday night, we had a great turnout on Sunday and raised \$733.85. All proceeds will help fund the Youth Group's pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea.

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH



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Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au)



## 26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME- YEAR A

*Year of St Francis*

26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026



## FOCUS ON THE WORD

**Reflection by Nick Brodie**

In today's parable where a son said yes but did nothing, Jesus offers a striking indictment of empty lip-service. In our age, one of the Church's most insistent calls has been for people to work for the protection of the vineyard of the earth.

Speaking of climate change, deforestation and chemical pollution, Pope Saint John Paul II declared in 1990 ‘that the ecological crisis is a moral issue’ and called on all people to ‘recognise their obligation to contribute to the restoration of a healthy environment’. In 2009 Pope Benedict XVI insisted that ‘technologically advanced societies can and must lower their domestic energy consumption’. In 2015 Pope Francis called on all of humanity ‘to recognise the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming’ of the world's climate which we are currently facing. Successive Popes have therefore called us all to work for the protection of our planet and its people. But it is up to every Christian to ensure that these words are not just empty rhetoric.



**30. Synodality and hope:** A synodal Church believes that renewal is possible, even in difficult times. Hope is not naïve optimism—it is trust in God's faithfulness. The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4-6 December 2026. More information is available at [melbournecatholic.org/synod2026](http://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](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention) safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

**MEMORIALS/FEASTS –**

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

SUN 27<sup>th</sup> Sept St Vincent DePaul, Mon 28<sup>th</sup> St Wenceslaus, St Lawrence Ruiz,

Tue 29<sup>th</sup> Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels, Wed 30<sup>th</sup> St Jerome,

Thu 1<sup>st</sup> October St Therese of the Child Jesus, Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> The Holy Guardian angels

*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](mailto:thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

### ASSISTANT PRIEST:

Fr Peter (Doan Ngoc) Nguyen 9758 1029  
Email: [Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au](mailto:Peter.Nguyen@cam.org.au)

### DEACON:

Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029  
Email: [Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au)

**PPG CHAIR** Carolyn Sombekke

Email: [csombekesjb@gmail.com](mailto:csombekesjb@gmail.com)

### OUR PARISH SCHOOLS:

**St John the Baptist** 9758 1013

Principal: Kelli Johnston

Email: [kjohnston@sjferntreegully.catholic.edu.au](mailto: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** Belgrave 9:45am FTG 5.15 pm

**GLENGOLLAN VILLAGE MASS** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 2pm  
**WILLOWBROOK MASS** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:marymakarucha@stjohnthebaptist.net.au).**

**WEDDINGS:** By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A  
26<sup>th</sup> /27<sup>th</sup> 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 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](mailto: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 [sjtbvouth@gmail.com](mailto:sjtbvouth@gmail.com) if you have any questions. World youth day 2027 <https://melbournecatholic.org/wyd27>

**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 hundreds of young people from across the nation for inspiring talks, powerful worship, daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, practical workshops and authentic community. Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Nov – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2026 at La Trobe University Bundoora. Find out [more here](https://www.chosen.org.au).



**SEASON OF CREATION -1<sup>st</sup> Sept to 4<sup>th</sup> 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                     |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Parish Walk                  | 26.09.26                                 | Birdland Reserve                   |
| Parish census                | Weekend of 3/4, 10/11 and 17/18 October. | During Mass                        |
| World refugee & Migrants day | 27.09.26                                 | Holy See <a href="#">Link here</a> |
| October                      | 01.10.26<br>31.10.26                     | Month of the Rosary                |
| SJB Parish Social Lunch      | 11.10.26                                 | SJB School Hall.                   |



### OCTOBER THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

Our parish will be reciting the rosary on the weekends before the masses on, Saturday, at 5:30pm (before the 6pm mass. A great opportunity to arrive early receive the sacrament of reconciliation and pray the rosary) and Sunday at 10am before the 10:30am mass. I am requesting for parishioners to lead the rosary throughout the four weekends of October. Please take the opportunity to accept this special grace of leading the rosary.

May I ask that all parishioners take the opportunity of this special blessing of joining in the Rosary to draw closer to Jesus and Mary by meditating on the great mysteries of our salvation. Please let Mary know if you can assist with the leadership of reciting the rosary.

### LECTOR AND EUCHARIST MINISTER FORMATION - ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Dear Parishioners, Fr Thomas will conduct a formation session for all our Lectors and Eucharist Ministers. This is an opportunity for all to refresh their skills and gifts in these special liturgical ministries. All current lectors and ministers are invited! It also gives the opportunity for any parishioners who are considering to join these ministries, to join, at this time, and to take advantage of this training. Please note the dates below:

**Lector formation will take place on Tuesday 20th October at 7:30pm (after mass)**

**Eucharist Minister formation will take place on Tuesday 27th October at 7:30pm (after mass)**

### COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE

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



## Parish Census Begins Next Weekend

Dear parishioners, next weekend we begin our Parish Census, an important moment for us to understand who makes up our parish community and how we can best support one another. Census cards will be available at every Mass over the next three weeks. We invite each household to complete a card during Mass or take it home and return it the following week. Your participation helps us plan effectively for ministries, events, and the future life of our parish. All information provided will remain confidential. Thank you for helping us strengthen our parish community.

**ST JOHN'S PARISH SOCIAL LUNCH** the SJB Parish Community are coming together for a social gathering on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 anyone 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!

### TENNIS CLUB CLOSURE

Dear Parishioners, as many of you know, our parish is in the process of selling the tennis court to St Joseph's College. To allow this process to proceed smoothly, St John's Tennis Club has officially closed. For many years, the parish provided the club with the use of the tennis court free of charge. We are grateful to the club's members for the part they have played in our parish community. Following the club's closure, its remaining funds of \$14,859.13 have been transferred to the parish account. On behalf of the parish, I sincerely thank the club and all its members for this generous contribution.

**Thank you to everyone who has been involved with St John's Tennis Club over the years.**

**ROSTERS: Mon 28<sup>th</sup> September to Sun 4<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

|           |                                                                   |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Flowers   | Ann Pearson & Connie Balu                                         |
| Linen     | Carole D'Souza                                                    |
| Welcomers | 6.00pm Lia U, Help needed<br>10.30am Florence J, Shami & Chamal A |
| Lectors   | 6.00pm Queenie J<br>10.30am Peter F                               |
| Counters  | George & Genevieve W, Bindu M, Connie B                           |
| Gardening | Theresa N                                                         |