

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,
and planted choice vines in it.

In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.

He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah, I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.

What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done? I expected it to yield
grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead?
Very well, I will tell you what I am going to
do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge
for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall
for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste,
unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and
the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain
no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of
hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of
Judah that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*R./ The vineyard of the Lord
is the House of Israel.*

SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians 4:6-9*

There is no need to worry; but if there is
anything you need, pray for it, asking God for
it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace
of God, which is so much greater than we can
understand, will guard your hearts and your
thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill
your minds with everything that is true,
everything that is noble, everything that is
good and pure, everything that we love and
honour, and everything that can be thought
virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the

things that you learnt from me and have been taught
by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the
God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 21:33-43*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the
people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a
man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he
fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a
tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad.
When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to
the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants
seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and
stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants,
this time a larger number, and they dealt with them
in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them.
"They will respect my son," he said. But when the
tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This
is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over
his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him
out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the
owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to
those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those
wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard
to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him
when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have
you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders
that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be
taken from you and given to a people who will
produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



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



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time- YRA - Year of St Francis
3rd / 4th October, 2026

FOCUS ON THE WORD: The common theme of today's readings is the necessity of bearing fruit in the Christian life. The readings warn us of the punishment for spiritual sterility, ingratitude, and wickedness. In today's first reading, called, *Isaiah's Song of the Vineyard*, the prophet describes God's care of, and expectations for, His Chosen People. God's Chosen People failed to bear fruit, in spite of the blessings lavished upon them by a loving and forgiving God. Further, they were poor tenants in the Lord's vineyard. Hence, God laments: "*I expected My vineyard to yield good grapes. Why did it yield sour ones instead?*" In today's Gospel, Jesus tells an allegorical parable in which the landowner is God, the vineyard is Israel as God's special people, and the tenants are the political and religious leaders of Israel. The story emphasizes the failure of the tenants, the Chosen People of God and their leaders, to produce fruits of righteousness, justice, and mercy. Giving a theological explanation of Israel's history of gross ingratitude through the parable, **Jesus reminds us Christians that, since we are the "new" Israel, enriched with additional blessings and provisions in the Church, we are expected to show our gratitude to God by bearing fruits of the kingdom**, fruits of the Holy Spirit, in our lives, giving Him all the Glory.

Life messages: 1) **Are we good fruit-producers in the vineyard of the Church?**

2) **Are we fruit-producers in the vineyard of the family?**

3) **Are we ready to face these hard questions?** Have we come close to fulfilling God's dream about us? What kind of grapes do we as a parish community produce? Are they sweet or sour? What is our attitude toward everything God has given to us? © <https://frtonyshomilies.com/>



31. Synodality and young people

Young people long to be heard and taken seriously. Synodality invites the Church to listen attentively to their questions and hopes.

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 – MONTH OF THE ROSARY

SEASON OF CREATION: Ends on 4th October, 2026

Sun 4th Oct **Feast of St Francis Assisi**

Mon 5th Oct **St Faustina Kowalska**

Tues 6th Oct **St Bruno**

Wed 7th Oct **Our Lady of the Rosary**

Fri 9th Oct **St Denis martyr & companions, and St John Leonardi.**

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: 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.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISH RAFFLE.
please continue selling our raffle tickets. See our friendly ticket sellers in the foyer after Mass. **1st Prize is a \$12,000 Coles/ Myer Gift card.** Drawn 5th December, 2026. Good luck everyone

27th Sunday in Ordinary - Yr A
3rd / 4th October 2026 - Year of St Francis

PRAYING FOR...
All who have died recently:
Those who we remember at this time Ludmila Quero, Aiden Lepore, Jacqueline De Ferranti, Leonilda Parrella, Rosario Tudisca, Pamela Bentham, Nicola Mazzei, Angelina Fumo.
The sick: Angela Lorusso, Rosa Lisle, Lyle & Bonnie Hoefer, Barbara Kenny, Lucy Hosenmans.

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, 10.30am start. Praise & Worship, intercessory prayer and a shared lunch.
CCR Melbourne invites you to encounter the healing power of Jesus Christ at a **healing Mass** celebrated by Fr Isaac Zaki Sun 4th Oct from 3pm-6pm **St Brigid's Nicholson St Fitzroy.**
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 WYD 2027 INFORMATION SESSIONS Fri 9th Oct at St Catherine of Siena Church Caroline Springs or Wed 4th November 7pm-9pm St Christopher's Syndal. Where we will unpack the three pilgrimage options (direct to Seoul, via Incheon, via Japan) along with costs, what to expect, past pilgrims stories and opportunity to ask questions. <https://melbourne.catholic.org/wyd27> E: sjtbbyouth@gmail.com

SEASON OF CREATION -1st Sept to 4th Oct.
There are key stages in the Season of Creation.
1. Receive Living Water – contemplating water as a sacred gift, focusing on prayer, gratitude and recognising our deep spiritual & physical thirst.
2. Encounter Christ: Gaining awareness of ecological damage and standing in solidarity with frontline communities and regions suffering from water scarcity or injustice.
3. Become Living Water: Committing to concrete ecological conversion, lifestyle, simplicity and local actions to protect water sources and restore our common home.

SPRING FORWARD
This weekend, on **Sunday 4th October, DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 2026** in Victoria will begin at 2:00am . **Don't forget to change your clocks.**

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.

PARISH CENSUS Our parish is currently undertaking a Parish Census to help us better understand our parish community and support its ongoing life and mission. By completing the census form available at Mass, we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also assist the parish to plan effectively for ministries, important events, and future parish initiatives. Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality. Thank you for your Participation.

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)

PARISH WALK a GREAT DAY was had by those who braved the weather, and took part in the Parish Walk on 26th Sept., at Birdland Reserve. Thank you all for coming along.



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. **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.**

TENNIS COURT SALE UPDATES I am very happy to share with you that the process of selling the tennis court and club room to the college has now been completed. The sale price was **\$1.7 million**. According to Archdiocesan guidelines, 15% of the proceeds from each property sale is contributed to the Archdiocese to support the building of new churches and the renovation of presbyteries throughout the Archdiocese. After deducting this 15% contribution, the Archdiocese transferred **\$1,445,000.00** into our parish account. I would like to sincerely thank everyone for your great support throughout this process. It was not an easy journey, and there were many challenges along the way. However, with the help, encouragement, and support of so many people, we were able to achieve this very positive outcome for our parish. I would also like to thank all our parish staff for their support, especially Maree Wilson, for her valuable assistance in searching our archives and locating the supporting documents that were needed during this process. We now look forward to making wise and responsible use of these funds for the benefit of both our present parish community and future generations. One of our important plans is to build a suitable, welcoming, and functional parish office. Please continue to keep our parish in your prayers, asking God to guide us in making good decisions and to bless all the future plans and developments of our parish community. Thank you once again for your support, encouragement, and prayers. Fr Thomas



ROSTERS: Mon 5th Oct to Sun 11th October 2026	
Flowers	Margaret & Judy
Linen	Carole D
Welcomers	6.00pm Myra N, Lia U 10.30am Peter C, Joanna C, Neil R
Lectors	6.00pm Rosena L 10.30am Terry S
Counters	George & Genevive, Bindu M & Connie B
Gardening	Roger K & Henner T